

Appleseed This Week

eNewsletter - November 25, 2009



A nonprofit network of 16 public interest justice centers in the U.S. and Mexico, Appleseed is dedicated to building a society in which opportunities are genuine, access to justice is universal and equal, and government advances the public interest.

New Ways to Contribute!

Redeem your unused credit card rewards points for a cash donation to Appleseed! [Click here to learn more.](#)

And don't forget, Appleseed is a member of the United Way of the National Capital Area and the Combined Federal Campaign. Please note the

Happy Thanksgiving from Appleseed!

Volunteer Appreciation Event Honors Pro Bono Service

This season is a time for reflection and thankfulness, and in that spirit, Appleseed would like to extend its deepest gratitude to all its supporters. Without your generosity and commitment to social justice, our work would not be possible!

The country's ongoing economic turmoil has been nearly as hard on nonprofits as the vulnerable communities they serve. Financial pressure is being felt at all levels of society, but for people already on the margins, who enjoy so little opportunity and prosperity even in the best of times, the past year has been especially difficult.

We are thankful that our pro bono partners have been so eager to help us reach out to at-risk populations. Indeed, during the past fiscal year, our volunteers contributed nearly \$8.1 million in donated services!

To honor these dedicated individuals, Appleseed last week hosted a volunteer appreciation event at the DC offices of DLA Piper. Speakers included Congresswoman Donna Edwards and Brian Brooks, managing partner at the DC office of O'Melveny and Myers, both of whom highlighted the importance of public service. While only a fraction of Appleseed's many, many volunteers were able to attend, we are grateful to all who help advance our mission. Happy Holidays!

[View photos of the event here!](#)

Local Honor for NJ Appleseed Director

In recognition of Renee Steinhagen's longstanding dedication to

**Appleseed designation
numbers below.**

**UNWCA: 9369
CFC: 10758**

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the defense of local activists, the Hoboken Quality of Life Commission's annual public advocacy award has been renamed in her honor.

During the QLC's recent presentation of the Renee Steinhagen Public Advocacy Award, representatives of the organization pointed specifically to her pro bono representation in cases relating to open government. Under Steinhagen's leadership, New Jersey Appleseed has for years helped local advocates defend the political process from corruption, particularly with respect to the unfair influence of unscrupulous developers and campaign contributors.

This year's award was presented to Ron Hine, a prominent local activist defended by NJ Appleseed in a spurious defamation lawsuit. Please join us in congratulating Renee on this tremendous honor!