

Making a DIFFERENCE

A newsletter for friends and donors of Cumberland County Education Foundation

Summer 2026

Foundation Scholarship Reception

The Cumberland County Education Foundation held its annual scholarship reception on May 7, 2026. The scholarship reception honored over 400 donors, scholarship recipients and their families. The event memorialized the legacies of the Cumberland County community members who have given to the foundation since 1967. The Foundation awards \$600,000 per year on average in scholarships to Cumberland County residents and the reception was a testament to the Foundation's dedication and work to make Cumberland County a strong community.



Over 150 scholarship recipients pictured together in appreciation and gratitude with Foundation Board of Directors at the annual Foundation Scholarship Reception.

Ribbon Cutting With Greater Vineland Chamber of Commerce

The Foundation held its ribbon cutting event with the Greater Vineland Chamber of Commerce on May 18 with board members and the Vineland community to celebrate our new location and our new mission. The Foundation has expanded its mission to helping all Cumberland County residents attending a publicly funded college or university in the state of New Jersey.



The Vineland Chamber of Commerce, community members, and Foundation Board of Directors pictured with Dr. Maria LeBlanc, Executive Director, Foundation, for a ribbon cutting event celebrating the Foundation's new office space.

MEET OUR FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION BOARD OFFICERS



Bob DeSanto, *Chair*

Christine Ward Garrison, *Ph.D., Vice Chair*

David Hemple, *Treasurer*

Mary Gruccio, *Ed.D., Secretary*

Sharon Daiuto Baxter

Donna Carolla

Anthony Carter

Mark D'Onofrio

Keith Figgs, *Ed.D.*

Nicholas Fiocchi

Gary Galloway

Thomas Isekenegbe, *Ph.D.*

Lilly Kejzman

Antonio Mancini

Jill Mortensen, *D.O.*

Deborah Morton

Shelly Schneider, *Ed.D.*

Sherry Kejzman Soutiere

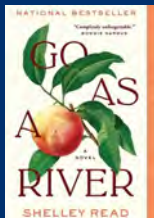
Upcoming Foundation Events



**Queens of the Greens
Ladies Golf Event
September 10, 2026**



**Designer Handbag Bingo
October 2, 2026**



**One Book Author Visit
October 14, 2026**

**Designer Handbag Bingo
February 5, 2027**



**School Counts!
Scholarship Reception
March 10, 2027**

Foundation Contact Information

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1450 E. Chestnut Ave., Building 2, Suite 2B,
Vineland, NJ 08361

**Cumberland County
Education Foundation**
1450 E. Chestnut Ave., Building 2, Suite 2B, Vineland, NJ 08361
www.CumberlandFoundation.org

Spotlight on Scholarship Giving

On June 1, the BOYD Scholarship awarded \$43,318.04 for the spring 2026 semester. The scholarship was award to 15 deserving Cumberland County residents pursuing a degree in Nursing. Thank you to the generous contributions each semester from the BOYD endowment.



BOYD Scholarship recipients show appreciation and gratitude for the spring 2026 semester scholarships.

Newfield National Bank Gifts \$15,000 to the *School Counts!* Scholarship Program

On April 29, Mr. John Borelli, Jr., President & CEO of Newfield National Bank and Mrs. Kathy Valla, Senior Executive Vice President of Newfield National Bank presented a \$15,000 gift to the Cumberland County Education Foundation for the Presenting Sponsor of the Foundation's 26th annual *School Counts!* Golf Classic supporting the *School Counts!* Scholarship Program in Cumberland County. The scholarships program has awarded scholarships to over 3,000 students at 10 participating county high schools. The Foundation has awarded more than four million dollars in scholarships from the *School Counts!* Program.

Pictured left to right: Mr. John Borelli, Jr., President & CEO of Newfield National Bank, Mr. Bob DeSanto, Foundation Chairman, Dr. Maria LeBlanc, Foundation Executive Director, and Mrs. Kathy Valla, Senior Executive Vice President of Newfield National Bank



26th Annual School Counts! Golf Classic Held on June 4, 2026

Event Presenting Sponsor

Newfield National Bank



2026 School Counts! Golf Classic Winners

Pictured left to right: Maria LeBlanc, Ed.D., Foundation Executive Director; Ed Santiago, Newfield National Bank team player; Paul Janetta, Newfield National Bank team player; Pete Capizola, Senior Vice President, Newfield National Bank and team player; Dennis Ingrassia, Newfield National Bank team player, and Bob DeSanto, Foundation Chairman



The 26th *School Counts!* Golf Classic took place at the Renault Winery Vineyard National in Egg Harbor City, NJ on June 4, 2026. The event raised over \$70,000. The beautiful day was enjoyed by more than 300 golfers, dinner guests, volunteers and sponsors! Through the generosity of our participants and sponsors, Cumberland students benefit from scholarship opportunities for the Cumberland County campus. The *School Counts!* program has provided more than \$3 million in scholarships to Cumberland residents assisting over 3,000 students since the programs inception.

The Cumberland County Education Foundation thanks all of the sponsors:

<p>PRESENTING SPONSOR</p>  <p>DIRECTOR OF GOLF</p>  <p>19TH HOLE SPONSOR</p>  <p>REGISTRATION SPONSORS</p>   <p>Sponsored by Advisors</p> 	<p>FOURSOME + HOLE AD SPONSORS</p> <p>ARC International BNY Mellon Bridgeton Onized FCU Eastlyn & The Greenview Inn Frank Burton and Sons, Inc. Industrial Packaging, Inc. Mints Insurance Trane Technologies Scalfo Electric</p> <p>LUNCH SPONSORS</p> <p>Cumberland Mutual Ogren Construction Sir Speedy</p> <p>DINNER SPONSORS</p> <p>Garton's Rigging Inspira Health J. Byrne Agency Stanker & Galetto</p> <p>BEVERAGE CART SPONSORS</p> <p>B & B Poultry Casper's Carts Chemglass Life Sciences Cumberland County Improvement Authority Eastern Pacific Development George and Donna Perez Kejzman Hospitality and Realty, LLC</p> <p>HOLE AD SPONSORS</p> <p>Advanced Cabinetry B & B Poultry Beacon Title Services Bob DeSanto Eflin Good Pizza Fitness & Strength Training - Karen Milam Gary and Betty Galloway Leslie Jones Nardelli Bros. O'Rourke Custom Homes The LaTorre Corp. Southern New Jersey Steel Wheat Road Golf</p>	<p>TEE AD SPONSOR</p> <p>ACE Ackerman Real Estate Allen Associates Bridor Carmen D'Augustine Painting & Wallpapering D'Amato Plumbing, Heating and Cooling David & Cheryl Schad DeMarco-Luisi Funeral Home Dondero's Jewelry Dr. Shelly Schneider Dr. Stephen Soloway Dr. Keith Figgs F & S Produce Fabiotti, Hale, Hammerstedt & Powers, PA Harry & Helen Kejzman Foundation La Hacienda Bakery Loyle Limos Manders, Merighi, Portadin, Farrell Architects Merighi's Savoy Inn Mid-Atlantic Landscaping M. Jay Einstein - New York Life Nick Fioocchi Ooh La La Sweets & Treats Print Solutions Plus Richland Flooring Sherry & William Soutiere Susan and Mitchell Kizner Testa, Heck, Testa, and White, P.A. The Freshwave Tower Hospitality Tom and Ro Brady Whibco, Inc.</p> <p>TOURNAMENT PATRONS</p> <p>Angela and Raymond Tamburro Anthony Carter Arjorie's Photo Quik Bailey's Superior Restoration Bob and Diane Sacco Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce DNS Solutions Diamonds and Design</p>	<p>TOURNAMENT PATRONS Cont.</p> <p>Dennis Labo & Carol DeSanto Donna & Dennis Carolla Dr. Michael Sarnoff Eric Macon Eva Rosenberg F. Neill Ensslen Frank Conroy Insurance Services Forbidden Farm & Cafe Forest Grove Auto Body Ginger Chase Goodnight Music Herb's Shamrock Joe's Poultry Kutting Edge Cleaning, LLC Lilly Kejzman Mary Ann Zucal Middleman Insurance Muzzarelli Farms Phoenix Business Forms Rosario's Salon Sharon & David Baxter Tony Mancini Trabuchi & Trabuchi, D.D.S., P.A.</p> <p>HOLE IN ONE SPONSORS</p> <p>Lilliston Ford Dondero's Jewelry Toyota of Vineland</p> <p>SPECIAL RECOGNITION</p> <p>Bridgeton Onized FCU Burt Schubert City of Vineland Garton's Rigging Carl Kirstein Doug Smithson Dr. Christine Ward Garrison & Bill Garrison Habitat for Humanity John McCarty John Pedersen Larry Berman Muzzarelli Farms Norm Neill Susan and David Fenili The Daily Journal Tommy Serra</p>
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* Indicates a Foundation Board of Director

Save the Date for next year's *School Counts!* Golf Classic Thursday, June 3, 2027

Fall Foundation Events


Presents the Inaugural
Queens of the Greens



*Ladies Nine and Dine
Golf Tournament*

- Thursdays, September 10, 2026 Running Deer Golf Course
- 3:00 pm Registration
- 4:00 pm Shotgun Start
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 6:30 pm Crowning of the Queens of the Greens
- \$150/player or \$600/foursome

Scan the QR code for registration and sponsor information
Proceeds Benefit the Educational Assistance Scholarship Program




1450 E. Chestnut Ave., Building 2, Suite 2B, Vineland, NJ 08361
www.CumberlandFoundation.org

Scan QR Code to Buy Tickets!



Designer Bag Bingo

Friday, October 2, 2026
Millville Elks Lodge #580
1815 E Broad St.
Millville, NJ 08332
Doors Open at 6p.m.

The proceeds from this event will benefit the School Counts! Scholarship Program and the Educational Assistance Fund which helps students in need pay for lab kits, bus passes, technology, books, and other educational materials.



Bingo License Numbers: 512-5-38104*BL-26-2025*RL-64-2025*RL-65-2025

Speakeasy Event Raises Over \$10,000 for School Counts! Scholarship Program

The Foundation held its first Speakeasy fundraising event on April 15, 2026 at Restaurant 1920 in Richland, NJ. Patrons dressed in speakeasy attire with the ladies dressed in flapper dresses and men in pin striped suits. This fun, memorable event raised over \$10,000 for the *School Counts!* Program. School Counts! Scholarship student, Sophie Sacco, expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the Foundation and its donors for providing the scholarship opportunity to Cumberland County residents.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Keith Figs, Tony Mancini, Mark D'Onofrio, Gary Galloway, Debbie Morton, Sophie Sacco, *School Counts! Scholarship Recipient*, Dr. Maria LeBlanc, *Executive Director*, Bob DeSanto, *Chairman*, Lilly Kejzman, *Past Chair*, Sherry Kejzman Soutiere, Dr. Christine Ward Garrison, *Vice-Chair*, David Hemple, *Treasurer*



School Counts! Scholarship recipient, Sophie Sacco, spoke about her experience in the program.



Speakeasy patrons enjoyed the themed event in style.



Foundation Sponsored Programs

One Book Author Visit to be
Held On
October 14, 2026



Shelley Read's debut novel, *Go as a River*, is an international bestseller that has been translated into thirty-four languages and is in development for film with the Mazur Kaplan Company. Winner of the High Plains Book Award for Fiction and the Reading the West Book Award for Debut Fiction, *Go as a River* is also a *Sunday Times* bestseller, a Goodreads Choice Award finalist, an Amazon Editors' Pick for Best Debut Fiction, an Indie Next Pick, and a Colorado Public Radio Books We Love selection.

Part historical and environmental fiction, but largely coming of age, *Go as a River* grips readers from its first few pages and resonates long after its last. The novel is full of contrasts: beauty in the face of ugliness, gentleness juxtaposed with brutality, help and hinderance found in family, nature's resilience in the face of peril, hearts wide open and bigoted, and hope amidst despair. Put Shelley Read's debut novel at the top of your summer reading list. You won't regret it!

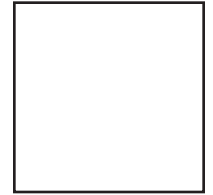
About the Author

Shelley was an award-winning senior lecturer at Western Colorado University for nearly three decades, where she taught writing, literature, environmental studies, and honors. She is a mom, a mountaineer, a world traveler, and a fifth-generation Coloradan who lives with her family in the Elk Mountains of Colorado's Western Slope.

The novel is easily relatable to the sociology, psychology, women's studies, environmental science, history, and English classrooms. Instructors planning to incorporate the novel into their curricula should email Judy (jcirucci@rcsj.edu) to request an instructor copy (first-come, first served).

Mark Your Calendars

Shelley Read visits RCSJ-Cumberland's Luciano Theatre on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 7 pm. The event is free and open to the public.



Thank you

*to everyone who made
this season memorable!*

Making a DIFFERENCE

