

## **PRESS RELEASE**

September 15, 2017

### **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR THE MONTCLAIR GRASS ROOTS CAMP FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE**



Essex County Freeholder Vice President Freeholder At-Large Brendan W. Gill (front row, left) shakes the hand of Mrs. Celine Choice and Mr. Wallace Choice (seated center, from left to right) during a special presentation honoring the Montclair Grass Roots Camp on September 13, 2017, at Montclair Town Hall. Co-sponsor Freeholder Cynthia D. Toro of District 5, Montclair Mayor Robert D. Jackson, and Fourth Ward Councilor Renée E. Baskerville, M.D., (second row, from left to right), also joined Freeholder Gill in honoring the camp. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Montclair, NJ) – During a special presentation at the Montclair Town Hall on September 13, 2017, Essex County Freeholder Vice President Freeholder At-Large Brendan W. Gill and District 5 Freeholder Cynthia D. Toro honored the Montclair Grass Roots Camp, commemorating 50 years of service to youth in Essex County.

In 1968, Wallace Choice, Jr., and his wife, Celine Choice, stewarded the program, starting with a group of 35 children and growing into a vast program servicing as many as 800 young people throughout the course of the summer. The summer program caters to children ages three to eighteen and has hosted more than 15,000 campers over the course of 50 years. The camp enables students to partake in a host of programs, including: swimming, bowling, basketball, tennis, baseball, computer activities, and more. To this day, the organization tries to maintain an affordable and quality summer experience for Essex County youth.

During the presentation, Freeholder Toro and Vice President Gill commended Mr. and Mrs. Choice for their service, citing the camp as a staple in the Montclair community. Freeholder Gill highly praised the Grass Roots Camp for serving students in Essex, especially youth from his hometown of Montclair. The

Freeholders congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Choice and wished them 50 more years of success. Mr. and Mrs. Choice thanked the Board, the members of the camp's Board of Trustees, and the community for their support throughout the years.

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