



Dana Johnston  
Community Affairs Officer  
302-366-7020  
djohnston@newark.de.us

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 4, 2013**

## **City of Newark's Jefferson Awards Committee Announces Its Nominees For the Jefferson Awards for Public Service**

**Newark, DE** (February 4, 2013) – At Newark City Council's meeting on **Monday, February 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.**, Mayor Vance Funk, III, will present the Jefferson Awards nominees their awards. "Every year, I am so proud to be able to nominate such amazing individuals," says Mayor Funk. "Newark has so many special people who make not only our community a better place, but give hope to others around the world." The nominees include:

**Mathias Stephen Fallis** – Mr. Fallis works with Students for Haiti, an organization that assists in the reconstruction of sustainable healthcare facilities destroyed in the 2010 earthquake and has recently expanded its outreach to include scholarships for children to attend school. He has met with service organizations, spoken at churches and organized events and concerts to raise funds necessary to finance the rebuilding and outfitting of these clinics and hospitals.

**Diana Advani** – Ms. Advani founded the Global Perspective Club in 2012 to make a difference in the world and has changed the world for Nasei, a young orphaned girl by sponsoring her to allow her to go to high school. Ms. Advani spearheaded the campaign by selling bracelets made by Kenyans and holding several other fundraisers while spreading word about the cause. She traveled to Kenya to make a documentary about charity and meet Nasei.

**Polly Seirer** – As president of the Newark Area Welfare Committee, Ms. Seirer spearheads efforts to assemble holiday food boxes for families in need of assistance during the holidays. She motivates the committee, coordinates food and monetary donations, and leads and energizes hundreds of volunteers. She also networks with local businesses and organizations to gain support for the holiday food box program. Through her tireless efforts and dedication, she has touched the lives of hundreds of Newark residents by ensuring that no family knows hunger during the holidays.

**Gail Chickersky** – A member of the Board of Directors at the Newark Senior Center since 2007, Ms. Chickersky is very active on several Board Committees: Human Resources, Finance, Facilities, and Fund Development. She is well-informed, engaged, and always seeking new knowledge and experience that may help advance the Newark Senior Center. She is an avid volunteer at fundraising events and does jobs big and small without an ego. She is always having fun while generously giving of her time, talent and treasure.

**Elena Delle Donne** – An All-American basketball player, Ms. Delle Donne has had an extremely successful college career. Through her play, she has brought her team to national acclaim, attracted record crowds to the Bob Carpenter Center, and brought positive national media attention to herself and University of Delaware for academic work, community service, and devotion to her family. She is active in numerous team community service activities including Special Olympics, Mary Campbell Center and A.I. DuPont Children's Hospital. Her play helped attract the University of Delaware to become the first and second round site for the 2013 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament.

**Sharon Bruen** – A community event organizer in Newark, Ms. Bruen has helped to make the events community traditions. In 2012, she helped make the transition from Newark Nite to Newark Day a smooth and successful one helping it become even more family friendly. She coordinated fourteen community events that included Community Day, Liberty Day and fireworks, Winterfest, and the Memorial Day Parade. The events involve over 100,000 participants each year along with hundreds of volunteers. Through her dedication and leadership, these events continue to be a success.

***Photograph and video opportunities will be available the night of the award nominations.***

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