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## **Hoboken Library Hosts Two Important Events to Mark National Social Work Month**

**Hoboken, NJ, March 21, 2023** – To drive home the importance of social services in the community, the Hoboken Public Library is hosting two events -- a resource fair and a panel discussion -- during March's National Social Work Month to connect residents with services, and to promote opportunities to get involved and give back to our community.

“These events are so important to us, and to the community. As Hoboken’s Public Library, our responsibility is to establish sustainable and impactful services, programs, and collections tailored to meet our community’s needs,” said Jennie Pu, the library’s director. “That’s why we now have a Community Service Worker on staff, and why we are holding the fair: To serve everyone in the community.”

The Community Resource Fair, on Saturday, March 25, in the Library at 500 Park Avenue, starts at 12 pm, and features displays and information on the free services offered by more than 10 community partner organizations, including

- City of Hoboken Social Workers
- City of Hoboken Early Childhood Education Program
- Hoboken Community Center
- Hoboken Housing Authority
- Hoboken Rainbow Family
- HOPES CAP Inc.
- Hudson Pride Center
- Hudson SPEAKS
- Literacy New Jersey
- Northeast New Jersey Legal Services
- Partners in Prevention

Attendees can also meet the Library’s Community Service Worker and the two City of Hoboken’s Social Workers. This is an ideal networking opportunity for social workers and social service providers local to Hoboken and Hudson County.

There will be giveaways from partners as well as National Social Work Month items, and a raffle prize. Light refreshments will be provided. All ages are welcome.

The second event -- a Panel Discussion on the importance of social work – will be held on Thursday, March 30, at 6:30 pm, in the Library. It will be moderated by Hoboken City Council President and social worker Emily Jabbour. After the discussion, attendees will have an opportunity to speak with the panelists individually to address any specific issues. The panelists include:

- Nora Martínez DeBenedetto, Head of Constituent Services, City of Hoboken
- Ken Ferrante, Director of Public Safety, City of Hoboken
- Jennie Pu, Director, Hoboken Public Library
- Emily Dalton, Community Service Worker, Hoboken Public Library
- Bianca Hoffer, Social Worker, City of Hoboken
- Lori Hetzel, Social Worker, City of Hoboken

All are invited to speak with Emily Dalton, the Library's Community Service Worker who was recently honored by the City of Hoboken for her extraordinary efforts to help residents in need. Bianca Hoffer and Lori Hetzel, the city's two new Social Workers, are looking forward to sharing how their initiatives are helping the community. Questions are welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

Both events will take place in the Large Program Room on the lower level of the Hoboken Public Library at 500 Park Avenue in Hoboken.

**About the Hoboken Public Library:** Founded in 1890, the Library is a cultural and educational centerpiece of the City of Hoboken, NJ. Its mission is to connect people with each other, ideas, and opportunities, and to support lifelong learning, personal growth, and community development. Full details on the Library, its programs and services, and collections are available at [www.HobokenLibrary.org](http://www.HobokenLibrary.org). The Library building is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

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