



2009 New Jersey State Jefferson Awards



Sam Beard, co-founder of the Jefferson Awards, honoree Debbie Wortalik and Daria Placitella, Executive Vice President, Eastern Region, PNC Wealth Management

Honoree Debbie Wortalik (center)

“Do you know someone who makes a difference in your community?”

If you do, then nominate them for the prestigious Jefferson Award by visiting www.nj.com/jeffersonawards

Jefferson Awards honor ordinary people who, through public service and volunteerism efforts, do extraordinary things for other people, their community, their nation, or the environment.



Linda Bowden, President
PNC Northern New Jersey

Honoree Debbie Wortalik

Debbie Wortalik of North Arlington was nominated by Jessica Zacche for her tireless work in support of special needs children. Inspired by her autistic grandson, Tyler, Debbie and her daughter started a support group called Putting the Pieces Together, for families of children with special needs. Debbie also established Special Angels Recreation, so that every child with special needs could play sports like T-Ball, soccer, basketball, bowling, cheerleading, and dance. She works around the clock to support Special Angels, organizing fundraisers and activities. “Debbie goes above and beyond her own family to make things possible for other kids.”

To read the full essay and to learn more about this year’s honorees, please visit www.nj.com/helpinghands/jeffersonawards

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