

FAMILIES FIRST 21st ANNUAL 5K RACE & 1 MILE FUN WALK

By Frank Jones

SLATE BELT - Please join Families First as we celebrate our 21st year serving residents in the Pen Argyl Area School District and participate in our annual 5K Race & 1 Mile Fun Walk on Saturday, September 9, 2023. The Race and

Walk will start at 9 am in the Wind Gap Borough Park. Registration the day of the Race will begin at 7:30 am.

The Race Coordinator for our race is none other than the Great Mr. Phil Giaquinto, retired Plainfield School Principal, celebrating his 21st year as our Race Coordinator.

This event is for the entire family. All proceeds will go to support the Adopt-A-Family Holiday program and activities provided by Families First. "PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE" in the Pen Argyl Area School District!

A copy of our official registration form can be downloaded from the Families First website: www.familiesfirstofpenargyl.org.



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NCC Student Veteran Featured on Austin Dillon Car

By Mia Rossi-Marino

BETHLEHEM, PA - Northampton Community College (NCC) student and veteran, Christopher (Topher) Daniel, says service doesn't stop once you leave the armed forces. A retired Marine, his work in community service landed him among other honorable veterans and active-duty military members featured on the Austin Dillon car during a NASCAR race held this July.

NASCAR wanted to recognize service members and veterans for their dedication and sacrifice. The No. 3 Dow Salutes Veterans Chevrolet was driven by Austin Dillon at the Atlanta Motor Speedway on July 9, and Daniel's work with Team Rubicon, a veteran-led, non-profit humanitarian disaster relief organization, is what gave way to his being honored. "NASCAR donates to Team Rubicon's organization, which helps us help others," said Daniel. Approximately 2,000 names were displayed on the vehicle.

Team Rubicon became a huge part of Daniel's life in 2016 when he first joined. He has completed service projects and disaster relief initiatives in places everywhere from Nebraska to Puerto Rico with his other fellow members, now 145,000 strong. In 2017, he became the city administrative lead, the point of contact responsible for overseeing the efforts of Team Rubicon in 13 counties in Pennsylvania.

With Team Rubicon, Daniel has been able to do many service projects in the Lehigh Valley. He has assisted with food donation at New Bethany Ministries in Bethlehem, and he has been a big part of helping individuals in the Lehigh Valley. "One of the residents of Bethlehem, who was also a veteran, was alone after his wife passed away. His basement flooded, and we came in to work on the damage and repair the home through Operation Christmas City Clean-Up."

When asked what his next step is, Daniel said, "I'd like to establish a club within the community college (NCC) under the same umbrella as Team Rubicon. NCC has allowed us to use their facilities for Team Rubicon training classes and introductory courses to help people see who we are and what we do."

On September 23, a community enrichment event will be held on NCC's Bethlehem campus. The event will be full of personal enrichment activities, resources and more, and Daniel, along with Team Rubicon, will be there to discuss resources students and others can use to help the community and beyond.

To find more information about NCC's resources for military-affiliated students, visit northampton.edu/military-affiliated. For any questions about joining Team Rubicon, contact Topher Daniel at topher.daniel@teamrubiconusa.org.



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