

## BARNEGAT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COME TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Freshman Friends are Cleaning Up the Township One Road at a Time with Adopt-A-Street Program



*Skylar Dasti, Nora Hansen and Jenna Marcy volunteer at Barnegat High School*

**(Barnegat, NJ)** - Three Barnegat High School freshman are making a big impact on their community through the Adopt-A-Street Program they put in motion. Nora Hansen, Jenna Marcy, and Skylar Dasti have helped lead more than a dozen cleanups in the township since they started the program last year, and they hope involvement expands not just within their school, but also within their neighborhoods.

“We would love to see this continue to grow,” said 15 year-old Marcy, “the more people we have, the more trash we can get off the streets.”

The girls say the idea came about after an Earth Day cleanup they had planned to participate in was canceled. They decided to do their own cleanup and couldn’t believe how much trash they picked up. They wanted to get more people involved, so they enlisted the help of Michele Cucinotta, a counselor at the Lillian M Dunfee School, and presented their idea for the Adopt-A-Street Program to the Township Committee and school administrators.

“We always try to instill the idea of Barnegat Pride, and that’s exactly what this is all about,” said Dr. Brian Latwis, superintendent of Barnegat School District. “These young ladies had an awesome idea and took action to make happen. It’s a program that continues to grow and we support them 100 percent.”

Since the Adopt-A-Street program started last year, Girl Scout troops, church groups and softball teams have joined in to help with cleanups. There are now 14 streets in the township that have been adopted by different groups, who tend to their respective areas either through organized cleanups or through regular maintenance.

“It feels really good to make even a small difference,” said 14 year-old Hansen. “It’s surprising how many people want to get involved. We want people to know there’s pride in Barnegat.”

"I live right next to the bay area beaches," said Dasti, who is 15. "It's amazing to see how much trash and recyclables we pick up along that area. All of that trash would wind up in the ocean eventually and it's nice to know that we are helping stop at least a little bit of that."

The next cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 7. Those who want to participate must first fill out an application, which can be found at <https://www.barnegatschools.com/domain/2189>. Volunteers are asked to participate in at least three cleanups a year, separating trash from recyclables. Minors are welcome to participate, but they must be supervised an adult. The starting point for Saturday's cleanup is the Dunfee School, where gloves and trash bags will be handed out from 10:30-11 a.m., with the cleanup happening from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

For more information about future cleanups, join the Adopt-A-Street Program Facebook Page, ["Barnegat Adopt a Street."](#)

[\\*\\*For photos from past cleanups, please click here.](#)

##