

May 2016

## **WT CERT serves at Relay for Life**

Members of the first Washington Township Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) have completed their first assignment: Assist at the Pascack Valley Relay for Life.

The event, held May 14 and 15 at Westwood Regional Jr./Sr. High School, drew approximately 1,800 people. Township CERT members on duty at the Relay were Lenny Sabino, Karla Williams, Brendan O'Sullivan, Jack Murphy, Danika Wertalik and Emily Kratzer.

The CERT volunteers assisted both the Township of Washington Police Department and the Relay for Life staff. The CERT volunteers helped with pedestrian safety, traffic flow and monitoring the event as the "eyes and ears" of Relay staff and the police department. They were joined by CERT volunteers from River Vale, Maywood and Bergenfield. The CERT volunteers worked closely with Relay volunteer Karim Bousleiman. Bergen County CERT Liaison Meredith Martin was on the scene helping and coordinating CERT volunteers.

Each CERT is run by local police departments. Volunteers are welcome to take the training by contacting their police department's Office of Emergency Management.

In Washington Township, volunteers can join the team by contacting Cpl. Saverio Fasciano at 201-664-1140, Ext. 125, or by going to the [www.twpofwashington.us](http://www.twpofwashington.us), and clicking on "Community Emergency Response Team Program flier" and "CERT application." After a background check, volunteers are scheduled for 12 training sessions. Participants learn how to identify and anticipate hazards, extinguish small fires, apply basic medical techniques, assist emergency responders, conduct light search and rescue, set up medical treatment areas and help reduce survivor stress.