



# THE FIRST OCCUPATIONAL CENTER OF NEW JERSEY INC.

*To the Community, Our Friends, and Our Supporters*

*We Need Your Help! Please Give To Our Disaster Relief Fund...*

On Saturday, September 6th, The First Occupational Center of New Jersey (OCNJ) suffered a devastating fire that destroyed the interior of one whole side of our training facility at 391 Lakeside Avenue in Orange. Fortunately, the building was vacant at the time and there were no injuries.

For more than 50 years, The First Occupational Center of New Jersey (OCNJ) has been a part of the fabric of the lives of the disabled and disadvantaged throughout communities in New Jersey. We have given voice to those who cannot stand up for themselves; we have restored the dignity of those on public assistance; we have given ex-offenders a second chance at life; we have paved the way for those with mental disabilities to live in the community and hold a job; we have taught seniors, who are blind, the skills to allow them to remain independent and live in their own homes, close to cherished neighborhood friends, their hometown church, the familiar sites.

Over the years, The First Occupational Center of New Jersey has truly been a community builder. Our business divisions are designed to provide individuals with the opportunity to learn a trade and be placed in a job within the community, contributing to the economic development of the region. First Community Development Corp., our Building Services arm, and FORWI Recycling and Solid Waste division, employ more than 350 community residents. In the past ten years alone, OCNJ has placed 1,800 individuals into jobs in the community, benefiting all of us:

- \$25 million in total salaries earned by our clients
- \$5 million in taxes paid by our clients
- \$54 million saved in welfare benefits

Now, we ask **your** help as we rebuild. Insurance monies alone will not cover our



Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

Fire lines stretched on ladders send water into a building at the First Occupational Center on Saturday. Firefighters from Orange and four other municipalities fought the three-alarm fire.

losses. Won't you please consider a gift to The First Occupational Center of New Jersey's Disaster Relief Fund? Your generosity will help us reach our goal of raising \$200,000 by the end of the year. With your support, we can ensure programs and services for today and the next generation as we open our doors to so many others in need. Together, we can change lives, give them hope for the future, and the promise of tomorrow as we uphold our Mission of moving individuals *from dependence to independence*.

Checks can be made payable and sent to: The First Occupational Center of New Jersey, 391 Lakeside Avenue, Orange, NJ 07050 Attn: Disaster Relief Fund. Credit cards are also accepted by calling Francine Faragi at 973-672-5800 Ext. 266.

Very truly yours,  
**Rocco J. Meola**  
Rocco J. Meola  
President and CEO

The First Occupational Center of New Jersey is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency.  
Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent permissible by law.