

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Kingwood Township volunteers plant over 1,000 trees to improve the Lockatong Creek**

Kingwood Township – On Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, volunteers from the Kingwood Township School District joined forces with Kingwood Township, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority and the AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program to plant 1,200 dogwood and willow trees along the Lockatong Creek in Kingwood Park. The Lockatong Creek is recognized for its exceptional ecological value. The stream feeds the Delaware and Raritan Canal which is used for recreation as well as a source of drinking water for over 1.5 million people in central New Jersey. The project will help protect and maintain the stream's water quality, aesthetic beauty, and ecological integrity by stabilizing its banks. The wet-chilly weather didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm of the twenty-four volunteers and staff that completed the job in a little less than 3 hours. Deputy Mayor Richard Dodds gave up his Saturday to lend a hand and



Giovanni Marinelli, Tylor Blake and Logan Blake

boasted, "We

planted 400 ourselves!" The planting is part of a larger water quality improvement project being carried out by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority with funding provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to control nonpoint source pollutants (like stream bank erosion). Learn more at [www.raritanbasin.org](http://www.raritanbasin.org).

Volunteers included: Imelda Calello with daughters Cristina and Serafina, Scott Blanton, Stacy Blake with sons Taylor and Logan and their friend Giovanni Marinelli, Kadie McNally, Frank Floyd with son Nick, Dana Beaton, Debbie Kratzer with son Samuel, Darren Roman, Rob Nickolus with daughter Caroline, Sandy McNicol, Joanne Hlinka with son Matt, Ed Kralovich and Deputy Mayor Richard Dodds.

