

# Annual Camden Community Investment 2022 Report



## COMMITTED TO CAMDEN



DONATED TO SUPPORT  
LOCAL CAMDEN EFFORTS



EMPLOYEE  
VOLUNTEER HOURS



COMMUNITY AND  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
EVENTS



CAMDEN RESIDENT  
EMPLOYEES

American Water is proud to call Camden, N.J. home. We have long believed in the importance of being a good corporate citizen, neighbor and steward of the environment. Since 2018, we have cultivated and maintained meaningful relationships with Camden residents, elected officials and Camden-based nonprofit organizations. Camden's vibrancy, resilience and promise are evident, and American Water is delighted to do its part, in partnership with the City. As a proud corporate partner, American Water continues to strengthen, support and enhance the City of Camden – where our employees live and work.





## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**Camden Water Equity Taskforce:** American Water and New Jersey American Water remain active participants in the Camden Water Equity Taskforce as part of the U.S. Water Alliance, a collaboration between utilities, community-based organizations, and stakeholders across the country. This network provides increased education and understanding of challenges, opportunities and promising interventions and best practices to promote equitable water management.

**Camden Community Partnership (CCP):** American Water and New Jersey American Water continue their involvement with the CCP. CCP is a solutions-oriented partnership between governmental, nonprofit, private and community-based agencies that formed to plan and implement innovative strategies to improve the environment and quality of life of Camden's residents.

**Hopeworks:** American Water's Contract Services Group partnered with Hopeworks to conduct a Geographic Information System (GIS) pilot program, providing training to young professionals in the area of GIS. Starting with orientation and extensive safety training, the team went out into the field and conducted data mapping to help gather GIS database information to verify and update the physical location of approximately 18,000 assets (water & sewer). The data collected helps improve the accuracy of information in the current GIS system within the City of Camden.

Since 2015, New Jersey American Water has invested more than \$1 million directly into GIS internships at Hopeworks providing real-world work experience in one of the most in-demand and growing fields in the utility industry.



### Award-Winning

American Water and New Jersey American Water were recognized by the Philadelphia Business Journal as one of the **2022 Faces of Philanthropy** for making a difference through its unique and successful partnership with Camden-based Hopeworks.

### Camden Lutheran Housing Inc. "My North Camden" Community Project

New Jersey American Water awarded \$950,000 in Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program (NRTC) funding to Camden Lutheran Housing Inc. of Camden. The funding will be used for "My North Camden," a diverse and highly collaborative project promoting and supporting activities to increase homeownership, employment opportunities and spark economic development in North Camden. The NRTC Program, administered by DCA's Division of Housing and Community Resources, is designed to spur the renewal of distressed neighborhoods through strategies developed by residents and the community-based nonprofit organizations that assist them.



## AMERICAN WATER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Giving back is as essential as water. We believe in the importance of being a good corporate citizen, neighbor and steward of the environment.

The American Water Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established by American Water. Through the Foundation's signature grant programs, we continually give back to the Camden community by way of donations. We invest in programs that benefit the city and its residents, focusing on community sustainability, education, environmental initiatives, inclusion diversity and equity, health and wellness, and public safety.

In 2022, the Foundation was proud to award \$218,000 to support programs and projects in Camden, including:

- Center for Aquatic Sciences' Community and Urban Science Enrichment (CAUSE) Program
- Center for Family Services
- Girls Inc. of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey
- Hispanic Family Center of Southern NJ Inc.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

American Water takes pride in connecting with the Camden community. During the spring and summer months, employees had the opportunity to engage with residents and stakeholders at over 48 community and workforce development events across the city.

### The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation's Get Ready Fest®

The American Water Charitable Foundation and New Jersey American Water donated \$30,000 to the Malcolm Jenkins Foundation's Get Ready Fest® to help raise awareness of food insecurities within vulnerable communities. This team effort provided 1,000 pre-identified families in the City of Camden with a week's worth of groceries.



### AmerICANs in Action!

American Water honors its commitment to give back to the communities it serves through its AmerICANs in Action! Month of Service. Every September, employees are encouraged to take the lead on managing team-based volunteer efforts in their respective communities across the country. American Water kicked off the month with its annual tradition; honoring the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001 by installing 2,977 American flags on the Camden Waterfront. Throughout the rest of the month, over 100 employees, based out of American Water's headquarters, volunteered for more than 10 service projects throughout Camden. Projects included meal services with Cathedral Kitchen; food distributions with Mighty Writers; shoreline and waterway cleanups along the Delaware River backchannel; cleaning and organization at the Heart of Camden; and garden cleanup and planting at the Salvation Army Kroc Center.

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

American Water employees hosted a Drive-thru Donation Jam at its Camden headquarters, collecting items for local organizations, including craft materials, personal care items and winter clothing.

### STEM Education

American Water partnered with Girls Inc. of Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey and hosted two STEM workshops. Dr. Lauren Weinrich, Principal Scientist and Michelle Martz, Engineering Project Manager shared information about the water industry, careers in water and the water filtration process.

### Camden Strong Community Cleanups

On Earth Day, American Water and New Jersey American Water joined the City of Camden Mayor's office for the kick-off of the Clean Camden Campaign. Each year, during the spring and summer months, the city organizes bi-weekly community cleanups consisting of removing trash, weeding, and clearing storm drains in different neighborhoods and parks across the city. As active participants in the cleanups, American Water was proud to collaborate with the city by bringing volunteers and making appearances with the H2O-On-The-Go van to help keep people hydrated.



### Spreading Holiday Cheer!

For the past four years, American Water has supported the Camden Special Services District (CSSD) ambassadors and their families for the holidays. The CSSD, commonly known as the "Yellow-jackets" crew, are Camden residents who provide enhanced cleaning and hospitality services. The Ambassadors work each day to create a welcoming community by cleaning up trash and debris around the neighborhood, removing graffiti, clearing storm drains and many other beautification efforts. In 2022, through the generosity of its employees, American Water proudly collected more than 400 toys to gift each ambassador and their families. The CSSD team and their families were invited to the American Water headquarters for a holiday dinner recognizing their dedication to making Camden a cleaner and safer city.





## KEEPING YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES HEALTHY AND HYDRATED



### Haason Reddick Youth Football Camp

American Water was proud to be a part of the first Haason Reddick Youth Football Camp hosted on the Camden Waterfront athletic fields. Youth between the ages of 7-16 ran drills and learned tips and tricks from professional football players and coaches. In between exercises, groups of youth players came to the American Water tent to rehydrate!

### Camden Peace Games - A Slam Dunk!

New Jersey American Water was the proud Water Sponsor for the Camden Peace Games, keeping youth athletes and their families hydrated by providing approximately 200 gallons of fresh tap water with its H2O-On-The-Go mobile hydration van. The Camden Peace Games is a friendly, co-ed basketball tournament for youth 12-17 years old.

## AMERICAN WATER EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS



### Rasheed Pollard Sr., Supervisor of Operations

Rasheed was born and raised in Camden, spending most of his time in Parkside. He started his career five years ago as a Utilities Laborer for American Water's Contract Services Group, transferred to Virginia American Water, and landed back in his home state as a Supervisor of Operations. Rasheed is a huge advocate for giving back and that commitment is reflected in his nine years of coaching football for the Camden High Panthers, as well as volunteering around the city any chance he gets.



### Dr. Lauren Weinrich, Principal Scientist

Lauren, a current Camden resident, is part of a strong team of Research and Development scientists and engineers at American Water who are constantly investigating and solving for new threats to drinking water safety and quality. Her primary role focuses on research and development as well as water quality. She has been with the company for over 17 years and has a passion for getting involved with the local community.

## MORE THAN A CENTURY OF SERVICE

American Water has a long standing partnership with the City of Camden that dates back to the 19th century and continues to this day. Our teams deliver an essential service to our Camden customers. **New Jersey American Water** serves the Cramer Hill and East Camden sections of Camden. **American Water Contract Services** operates and maintains the water supply and distribution system assets owned by the City of Camden Division of Utilities.

Together, we seek to educate and engage stakeholders, the community and residents to better understand their concerns, needs and expectations. Valuable feedback helps inform policies, practices and programs. We also value and promote diversity within our workforce in a way that reflects the local communities we are privileged to serve.



**WATER SERVICE  
IN THE CITY OF  
CAMDEN**

### For More Information

- **American Water:** [amwater.com](http://amwater.com)
- **New Jersey American Water:** [newjerseyamwater.com](http://newjerseyamwater.com)
- **American Water Charitable Foundation:** [amwater.com/awcf](http://amwater.com/awcf)
- **American Water's Inclusion, Diversity & Equity Strategy:** [diversityataw.com](http://diversityataw.com)

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