

December 2021  
Year 19  
Issue 192

# Passaic Valley UNICO

## Our December 2021 Monthly Newsletter



**Passaic Valley UNICO**  
**PO Box 341**  
**Little Falls, NJ 07424**

*Serving*  
*Little Falls Totowa Woodland Park*

### **Page Highlights:**

About UNICO	9
Be a Sponsor	9
Birthday's	2
Board of Directors	3
Christmas Traditions	3
ComUNICO Link	3
Committees	3
Committee & Comments	4
District IV Pasta Dinner	6
District IV Special Needs	5
Food Pantry	2
Hockey Night	7
It is Never Too Late	8
Map of Italy	8
Photos Album Links	2
President's Message	1
Sponsor Pages	11 - 14
Thank You	10
UNICO Charities	9
UNICO Core Values	2
Upcoming Events	2
Who's Who	3

Chapter Website	<a href="http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org">www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org</a>
Chapter Website	<a href="http://www.UNICOmembers.com">www.UNICOmembers.com</a>
Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO">www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO</a>
Instagram Page	<a href="https://www.Instagram.com/PassaicValleyUNICO">www.Instagram.com/PassaicValleyUNICO</a>
District Website	<a href="http://www.UNICONJIV.yolasite.com">www.UNICONJIV.yolasite.com</a>
National Website	<a href="http://www.UNICO.org">www.UNICO.org</a>
Chapter Email	<a href="mailto:PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com">PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com</a>

## ***A Message from our Chapter President***

*A Most Joyous Christmas Greeting to you All.*

*The Season is upon us! We will certainly have a Healthy and Happy Holiday this year. Hopefully this pandemic is starting to be behind us and we can go forward with our lives as before.*

*We will be starting this Holiday Season with the celebration for our Special Needs Children Party on December 6 at the Brownstone. I sincerely hope you can all support our District and all that they do.*

*Our Christmas Cheer Committee will be spreading their usual Holiday Donations to families in need. Thank you to all the members for your contributions. Our organization quote, "Service Above Self" holds true during this time of the year.*

*See you at our Christmas Cheer Party Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, with our chapter member and who is also our UNICO National President Steve Pelonero and First Lady Pat! ~ Please see Steve's personal invite for a Holiday Get-Together in an email that is soon to follow*

*Buon Natale to you and your families*

*Eileen Wood, Chapter President*

*Passaic Valley UNICO*





## December Birthdays

12-5 Jean Chomko

## Photo Albums

All our chapter event pictures can be seen on our website ... Additional pictures from our "NJ IV District" and also a lot from our "UNICO National" events can also be seen on their websites.

[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

[www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org)

[www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.com](http://www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.com)

## Food Pantry

Please do not forget about our UNICO Phil Arena and our many other Food Pantries ... Your non-perishable donation will help restock them.

Please contact our Food Pantry Chair, Roni Corrado, on how you can help.

## Upcoming Events – Local and National

December 7 ~ Tuesday ~ **Our NJ District IV Dinner for our Special Need Friends** ~ The flier is on Page 5 of this newsletter

December 11 ~ Saturday ~ **Our NJ District IV Christmas Bus Ride to Little Italy and Bryant Park** ~ \$105.00 includes the bus ride, a dinner, a side trip to Bryant Park after dinner, and the bus ride back to NJ ~ SOLD OUT

December 15 ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday ~ **Special Meeting / Dinner** ~ More information will follow ~ Sorry, this is for members only due to certain restrictions ~ **This is also a must respond RSVP event which is to be replied to Steve after you get his email**

January 7, 2022 ~ Friday ~ **NJ District IV Pasta Dinner** ~ Raising Funds for our December of 2022 Christmas Party for our Special Need Friends

January 25, 2022 ~ Tuesday evening @ 7 pm ~ **UNICO Hockey Night** ~ The Devils vs the Dallas Stars

Also ~ You can always visit the UNICO National Website Calendar for even more dates of something that may be of interest to you ~ [www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org) ~ When there just click on the "Calendar" tab that is all the way to the right



## Below are our UNICO's CORE VALUES

If you know of someone who has them or  
If you know of someone who would like to help us make a difference  
Please invite them to a meeting and possibly have them  
join our chapter as a new member.

**U – Unity**  
**N – Neighborliness**  
**I – Integrity**  
**C – Charity**  
**O – Opportunity**

**“Service Above Self”**



## Some Christmas Traditions in Italy

Christmas in Italy is celebrated much longer than in other countries ~ from Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, the Immaculate Conception ... Until January 6<sup>th</sup>, which marks the end of the holiday season, the “Befana” ~ who is the good witch. She visits many of the children bringing them candy and gifts

No meat on Christmas Eve

If and when in Rome, many residents go to the midnight mass at the Vatican

If not in Rome, many go skiing in Northern Italy on Christmas Eve

In many of the piazzas in Rome you will see bagpipe players (zampognari) dressed up as shepherds

## ComUNICO

You can now read the Com-UNICO magazine online, just click on the photo below.



## Who's Who

### Our 2021-2022 Executive Board

President .....	Eileen Wood
1st Vice President .....	Pat Ligouri
2nd Vice President .....	Dominick Bucci
Treasurer .....	Bruce Ponchak
Secretary .....	Chuck Russo
Sgt. At-Arms .....	Jim Minnella
Corresponding Secretary .....	John Morano

### Our 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Carmen Gaita	Past Chapter President	2018 & 2019
Bruce Ponchak	Past Chapter President	2016 & 2017
John Barbieri	Past Chapter President	2014 & 2015
Robert Appaluccio	Past Chapter President	2012 & 2013
Steve Pelonero	Past Chapter President	2010 & 2011
Carmen Criscione	Past Chapter President	2008 & 2009

### Our 2021-2022 Chapter Delegates

President Eileen Wood ... 58 Members (President +3)  
 Delegate: James Minnella  
 Delegate: Dominick Bucci  
 Alternate Delegate: Joyce O'Hara  
 Alternate Delegate:  
 Delegates represent our chapter vote at regional and national meetings.

### Fundraising Committee Heads

Christmas Family Gifts .....	Bob Appaluccio
Food Pantry .....	Roni Corrado
Overseas Armed Service Care Packages .....	Pasquale Corrado
Chapter Raffle .....	Carmen Gaita / Joe Benvenuti

### Non-Fundraising Committee Heads

50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee .....	Cav. PNP Joe Agresti, Joe Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita, Chuck Russo, Angelo Verrone
Community Service Day (April) .....	Pat Ligouri
Good and Welfare .....	Sal Nocella
Italian Flag Raising .....	Steve Pelonero
Membership .....	John Barbieri
Newsletter .....	Steve Pelonero
Scholarship / Brian Piccolo .....	Carmen Gaita, Charles Russo
Study Abroad College Grants .....	Cav./ Joseph Agresti PNP
Website .....	Steven Pelonero / John Barbieri

## Committee & Comments

### *Chapter Dues*

*Our chapter thanks everyone for staying on.*

*Our final payment was made to UNICO National and we currently are at 60 chapter members  
All of our chapter members information is accessible if you log in to the member section of our website  
Thank you again for celebrating our heritage and for your Service Above Self*

### *50/50 Raffle*

*You can support our chapter in our efforts to help others*

*Please purchase a ticket from our chair members, Carmen Gaita & Joe Benvenuti  
Tickets are available at our chapter meetings (places are announced on a monthly basis)  
“They will make excellent Christmas Stocking Stuffers & Birthday Presents for the Holidays”*

### *From our Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> VP ~ Dominick Bucci*

*Wishing everyone and all of your families a safe and a great Holiday Season an also a Happy 2022 Year ahead*





**UNICO NEW JERSEY DISTRICT IV**  
**Cordially Invites You To Our**  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**“A SPECIAL PARTY FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE”**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021 ~ 6:30 PM – 10:30 PM**  
**The Brownstone**  
**351 West Broadway**  
**Paterson, NJ**

**\$55.00 per person**  
**( free to special needs friends and chaperones)**

**RSVP PLEASE BY NOVEMBER 30, 2021 to:**  
**NJ IV District Governor – Gary D’Uva – 862-432-2141**  
**Eastern Reg’l District Governor Chair - Steve Calantone – 862-668-8682**  
**Cav. Joe Agresti, Past National President – 201-874-0546**

**This year’s invited guests are:**  
**The Circle Of Friends**

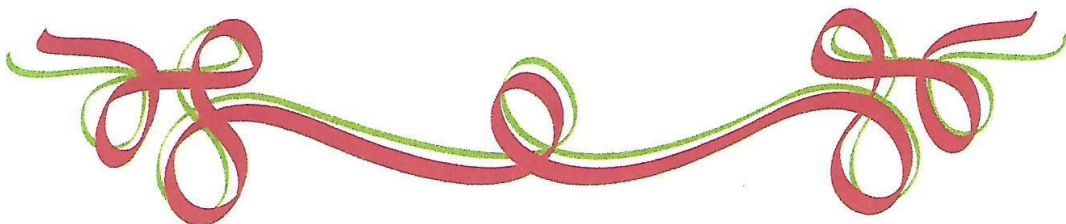
**MENU**

**Tossed Garden Salad – Penne Rigate in Tomato Sauce**  
**Family Style Roast Beef - Roasted Chicken – Potatoes – Mixed Vegetables**  
**Ice Cream – Apple Cider Donuts - Coffee – Tea – Beer – Wine – Soda**

**LIVE MUSIC**

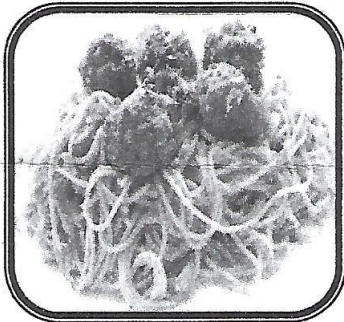
**and**

**A VISIT FROM “SANTA CLAUS” OF COURSE!**



*6:30 - 11:00*

# SAVE THE DATE!



*6:30 - 11:00*  
**JANUARY 7, 2022**  
*6:30*  
**FRIDAY to 11:00 PM**  
**UNICO NJ DISTRICT IV**

**PASTA DINNER PARTY**  
PROCEEDS FOR OUR ANNUAL  
"SPECIAL NEEDS" PARTY & DISTRICT CHARITIES  
**LOCATION: WAYNE PAL BUILDING**  
**1 PAL DRIVE, WAYNE, NJ**  
**B.Y.O.B. COST: \$20.00 PER PERSON**

FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gary D'Uva – 862-432-2141

Steve Calantone - 862-668-8682

Joe Agresti- 201-874-0546

Dave D'Arco- 973-417-0731





# NIGHT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEVILS



UNICO



VS



TUE | JAN 25 | 7:00 PM

## GROUP PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Discounted group ticket
- Group seating at the game!
- Group Welcome on scoreboard
- Group Gift for everyone in attendance
- Photo on the logo post-game
- \$20 food and beverage voucher
- \$62 - All inclusive pricing!

## ORDER FORM

GAME DATE	# TICKETS	TICKET INFO	PRICE	TOTAL
01/25/21			\$62	\$
				\$
				\$
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED				\$

ORDER DEADLINE: 12/20/2021

## PAYMENT METHOD

To Purchase Tickets, Please Visit:

<https://fevo.me/2Y5yWHj>

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to TOM VAUGHAN at UNICOTOMV@GMAIL.COM & 860-462-0160



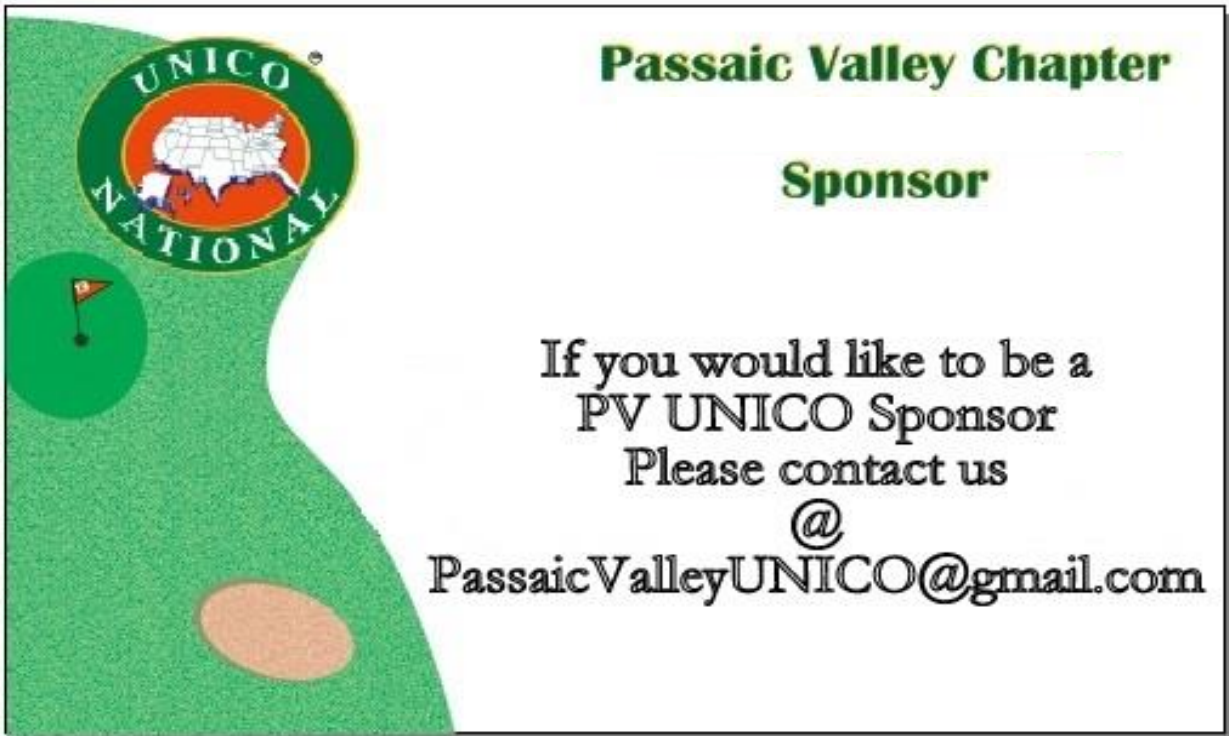


*It is “Never Too Late”*

*We will advertise your business, or your personal ad ~ Only \$100.00 See page 9.*







### **Our UNICO Charities**

#### **UNICO National**

*Armed Services ~ Columbus Day ~ Heritage & Photo Calendar*

#### **UNICO Foundation**

*21<sup>st</sup> century ~ Anti-Bias ~ Cancer Research & Prevention*

*Cooley's Anemia ~ Italian Studies ~ Mental Health*

*Scholarships ~ Torracco Food Bank/Shelter*

**About UNICO** ~ UNICO is the largest Italian American Service Organization in the United States  
Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, Opportunity

UNICO was founded on October 10, 1922, in Waterbury, Connecticut. A group of 15 men, led by Dr. Anthony P. Vastola, came together to create what has become a very special and very proud organization. It was Dr. Vastola's dream to create an Italian American service organization to engage in charitable works, support higher education, and perform patriotic deeds. Our motto is "Service Above Self".

Each year, the UNICO Foundation and the UNICO National Chapters across the country donate approximately \$1 million to various charities. Scholarships continue to be the primary focus of UNICO, as roughly one-third of all monies raised goes to deserving students from all the chapter locations throughout the chain.

UNICO National has funded major research in Cooley's Anemia and Mental Health. Through its association with the Jimmy Valvano Foundation, it has funded over 10, \$50,000 grants to help find a cure for Cancer. These worthy areas continue to receive generous support from the chapters and its members for these worthy causes.

If you would like to attend one of our meetings to see if you might be interested in joining UNICO, please contact us through any member, or through our email. We would be honored to have you as a member of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter.

*A Special thanks*

*To our Sponsors and Supporters*

*Please support them*

*You too can be added to this page for just \$100.*

*We sincerely appreciate your generosity & help.*

*For those that would like to help us in the years 2021/2022*

*Please reach out to us at*

*[PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com](mailto:PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com)*

*Or you can ask any chapter member for more information.*

*Just \$100 gets you in every issue of this newsletter and on our chapter website for our UNICO year of 2021-2022*

*You will also be shown at our annual golf outing.*

*[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)*



# Our 2021-2022 Sponsors




**Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor**



*Amore*  
Ristorante  
Italian Cuisine

973-925-5600  
(f) 973-925-5599



www.AmoreRistoranteWP.com  
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**Steve Pelonero**  
Passaic Valley Chapter Member



**UNICO National Officer  
Vice President**

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**Billy & Wyatt  
Ermolowich**

**Friends  
of  
UNICO**


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**Christopher Vancheri**  
Councilman, Little Falls

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**Joe & Ellen Kliminski**  
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Friends and Supporters of  
Passaic Valley  
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**Shook's Cedar Grove  
Funeral home, Inc.**

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Cedar Grove, NJ  
07009  
973-239-1489


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**Joe & Ellen Kliminski**  
Little Falls  
Friends and Supporters of  
Passaic Valley  
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**Patrick & Roni Corrado**  
Passaic Valley Chapter Member

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**CPR Inc**  
Commercial Plastic Recycling

Tampa, Florida  
Joe Benvenuti  
Account Rep




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**Sal Benvenuti**  
Executive Director

**UNICO National**



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**Francesco's**  
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Fine Authentic Italian Cuisine

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973-782-4550  
NEEDLEWORKSNJ@AOL.COM



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**Frank P. Tidona**  
Past National President



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**Gaita Memorial Home**  
Little Falls, NJ



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**Di Ferraro Inc**  
Precast Concrete Products

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**Chuck Russo**  
Wenzel Agency / Atlantic Insurors  
Little Falls, NJ



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**Viva**  
LA PIZZA

*We Deliver!*  
973-785 7501


1605 McBride Ave., Woodland Park, NJ 07424  
(Park West Shopping Center)




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**Holy Canolli Pastry Shop**  
Anything you want, I know a guy !!  
Leave the gun, take the cannoli !!




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**Peter L. Pettinato, VMD**  
UNICO National  
1st Vice President

Carbondale, PA



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**Little Falls ShopRite**  
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**Hanson & Ryan Inc.**  
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Democratic Club**



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**Metropolitan Society  
Private Cigar Club**

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Bldg. 8, Suite 62  
Fairfield, NJ




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**Statewide Reports**  
Comprehensive Credit  
Reporting Services

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201-444-8668

Supporting All 21 New Jersey Counties




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CIGAR SHOP AND CLUB

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Pompton Plains, NJ

**973-831-2499**




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**Bagels Unlimited**  
Gregory Evangelou

163 East Main Street  
Little Falls, NJ

**973-785-2211**




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**Law Offices of  
Abdy & Kane\_Timothy Kane**

97 Lackawanna Ave,  
Totowa, NJ

**973-890-9090**



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Little Falls, NJ



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**Santangelo Funeral Home**  
Woodland Park, NJ


**973-345-2500**



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Sponsor

**Main Lock Inc.**


762 Main Street  
Hackensack, NJ  
07601



Passaic Valley Chapter  
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Sponsor


**Salon Amici**

1021 McBride Ave  
Woodland Park




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**Congratulations  
Daniel Dransfield**  
from Anna, Cafo & Dom





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**Best Wishes**  
**Mario R Rosellini**




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**P. & J.C. Bros. Co.**  
**L.L.C.**




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**Statewide Mechanical**  
**Contractors**



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**James A. Martin**  
Certified Public Accountant  
**Ramsey, NJ**




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor



**FRANK'S PIZZA**


261 Comly Road  
Lincoln Park, NJ  
973-686-9005



Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Cestone Electric Company**

23 Jackson Street  
Little Falls, NJ



Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Little Falls Trophy**

Route 46 East  
Little Falls, NJ




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
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
**FRANK'S PIZZA**

261 Comly Road  
Lincoln Park, NJ  
973-686-9005





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Annual Golf Outing  
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**Election Fund for**  
**Senator Corrado**  
**for Senate**



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Sponsor



**Best Wishes**  
**Henry Youngster**



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**NJ**  
**Orthopaedic Institute, LLC**

504 Valley Road  
Suite 200  
Wayne, NJ



Passaic Valley Chapter  
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If you would like to be a  
PV UNICO Sponsor  
Please contact us  
@  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com