



Azeez Presents Stockton College With Largest Gift in its History

Donates \$5 Million, Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage
to College for Continued Advancement of Education, Community
Development, Prejudice Reduction

For Immediate Release

Monday, September 26, 2011

Contact: Tim Kelly
Office of Public Relations
101 Vera King Farris Drive
Galloway Township, NJ 08250
Tim.Kelly@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4950

Woodbine, NJ - Continuing a longtime collaboration and advancing mutual educational interests, The Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage and The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey today announced a partnership resulting in the largest gift in the history of the College.

Michael Azeez, prominent businessman, civic leader and founder of the Museum has donated, through the Azeez Foundation, \$5 million to the College, as well as the Museum itself.

"I wish for the continuity of the Museum's efforts to continue," Mr. Azeez said. "There exists a synergy between the Museum, Stockton's General Studies program, its Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, and its community partnerships. This collaboration enables the Museum to advance its goals, accessibility and visibility."

Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said the \$5 million gift would be used to establish The Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage Endowment Fund to perpetuate the Museum's activities, support its ongoing operation and maintenance for the continuation of its mission.

"Stockton is gratified and humbled by the trust Michael Azeez has placed in the College," President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said. "The financial commitment Michael has made is remarkably significant. However, the act of placing the Museum, its contents and operation under our care represents something more important – the preservation of the region's rich history as well as a commitment to reduce prejudice."

The historic Woodbine Brotherhood Synagogue, which houses the Museum, was built in 1893. It was owned by the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage of which Michael Azeez

assumed control in 2001. Michael Azeez spent several years restoring the interior, exterior and grounds of the building, a National Historic Landmark, as closely as possible to its original form. In 2003 he established the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage, named to honor the memory of his father, a successful entrepreneur who grew up in Woodbine.

The Museum is a teaching center focusing on perpetuating the history of the wave of Russian Jewish immigration to the area in the late 19th century and working for the reduction of prejudice. Since its inception, the Museum worked with Stockton and the New Jersey Holocaust Commission in education, teacher training, the collection of oral histories and other activities.

The Museum contains a rich collection of historic photos, artifacts and documents detailing the story of the town's settlers who had been denied the opportunity to pursue agriculture in their native lands.

Rams and Kansas City Chiefs Coach Dick Vermiel in produc