

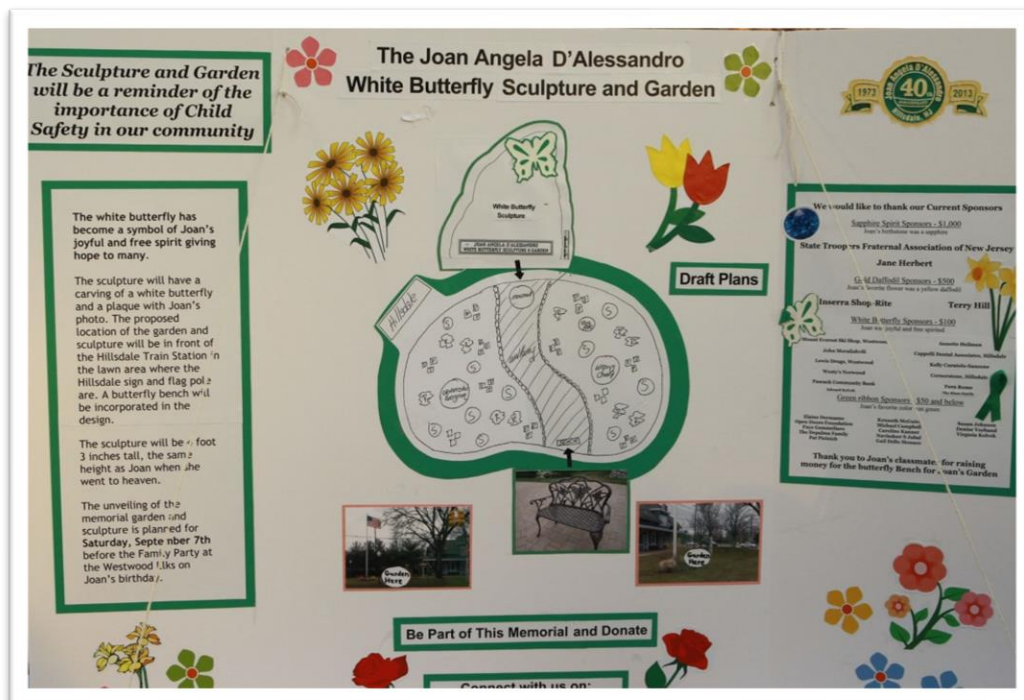
## History of the Joan Angela D'Alessandro White Butterfly Sculpture & Garden

The idea for the Sculpture and Garden came to Joan's mom Rosemarie as the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Joan's death approached. She thought that a place to reflect on the improvements made to child safety as a result of Joan's life would help to promote the cause and so she sent a letter to the Hillsdale town council on December 12, 2012 with her ideas. The first meeting with the council was held on March 5, 2013.



This is how the site of the garden appeared on March 12, 2013.

During 2013, there would be several more meetings with the council as it would take nine months to create a design plan and finalize suitable wording for the sculpture. The draft plan of the garden was unveiled at the Vigil Ceremony for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Joan's death on April 22, 2013.



Garden & Sculpture draft plan – April 22, 2013

After the long winter of 2014 had ended, the groundbreaking ceremony for the sculpture foundation took place on March 18, 2014 and the concrete foundation was poured. A white butterfly and green ribbon were placed under the foundation and the wet concrete was inscribed with special words about Joan.



Rosemarie breaking ground for the sculpture foundation – April 1, 2014



Digging the foundation – April 1, 2014

On April 1<sup>st</sup> the completed sculpture was delivered and laid on the foundation and covered until April 3, 2014, when the unveiling and dedication ceremony was held. It is 4'3" to the tip of the butterfly, which was Joan's height when she died.



Delivery of the sculpture – April 1, 2014





Sculpture unveiling – April 3, 2014

The pathway to the sculpture was constructed on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. After that, the garden work began with the placement of 13 large moss stones on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The next day all of the trees and shrubs were planted.



Raymond Brothers work on the path



Jeanene from Mystical Gardens plants flowers

The green bench arrived the morning of June 27<sup>th</sup> and features a white butterfly taken from a photo and Joan's name in her handwriting above it. There are also two flowers that Joan drew on each side of the butterfly. The bench was unveiled and the garden was formally opened with a ceremony later that day.



Finally, lighting for the garden and sculpture was installed on Sept. 11, 2014 and a concrete pad was poured for the bench on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Electrical work for the lights was completed on the 15<sup>th</sup> and that evening, there was a ceremony for the first lighting of the garden.



Every spring the garden is enhanced with the planting of annual flowers. The Joan Angela D'Alessandro White Butterfly Sculpture and Garden has been visited by many people and has become an important place that promotes the cause of child safety.





The completed garden as it appeared during the summer of 2014