

THE People of PORT

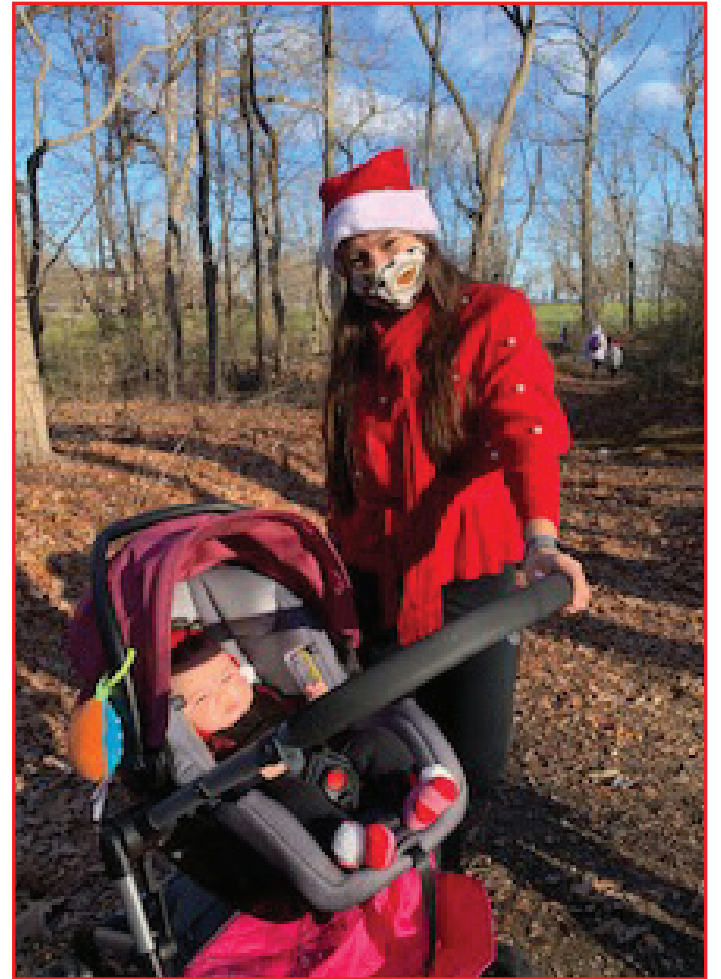


WINTER 2021: ISSUE 5

News for Donors and Friends

MAKING HOLIDAY WISHES COME TRUE AT THE PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

It was a magical sight when Santa arrived on a Port Washington Fire Department fire truck at the Sands Point Preserve on December 10, 2020 making holiday wishes come true for some very young Port Washington residents. Santa brought with him gifts paid for by donations from the Port Washington community. Thanks to a generous grant from the Port Washington COVID-19 Community Response Fund (administered by the Community Chest), Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer gave out gift cards for food and Port Pantry Supply Squad bags filled with paper and personal care necessities for all 45 families in the PRC Outreach program. The celebration also included a holiday-themed scavenger hunt through the woods and marked the end of the Fall 2020 outdoor Stepping Stones classes at the Sands Point Preserve. Helen C. says thank you: *"We give thanks to our PRC for being so special with our children and for helping in their education. We value the class with other families and look to the Spring to join again. A thousand thanks to the Community Chest who has supported us during this pandemic time with necessities to meet our needs. It has been a big help. A thousand blessings."* The Stepping Stones classes at the Parent Resource Center, which



Despite the chill, there was plenty of holiday warmth and cheer to go around for the PRC Stepping Stones families, thanks to the Sands Point Preserve, Port Washington Fire Department and generous donations from Port Washington community members.

serve low-income families, are part of the parent-child program that provides early education enrichment for children ages 0-4. A typical class consists of gross and fine motor play, circle time which includes reading books, singing songs, and doing yoga, and an age-appropriate craft activity. During COVID, the PRC moved its Stepping Stones classes outside (to the Preserve) and has supported its Outreach families with donations of diapers, meals, coats, books and crafts for home use, gift cards and more.

Thanks in part to a generous grant from the Community Chest, the PRC's Outreach Program (comprised of Stepping Stones classes and scholarships to PRC

classes) continues to provide early childhood education/enrichment to families who would not be able to afford these programs, helping prepare children for Kindergarten/Pre-K. These early childhood education experiences have an exponentially positive impact on children influencing their school experiences for years to come.

Says Christopher, an Outreach dad: *"There is nothing more beautiful in life than to find people with grand hearts like the Community Chest. Through the PRC they make small instances into big moments. We thank you for all the help you have given to our family."*

2021 GRANTEES

Community Scholarship Fund ❖ EOC/PW Community Action Council (CAC) ❖ Grassroots Environmental Education ❖ Helen Keller National Center - Destiny Home ❖ Landmark on Main Street ❖ LGBT Network ❖ LI Alzheimer's & Dementia Center (Previously LIAF) ❖ Littig House Community Center ❖ Nicholas Center for Autism ❖ North Shore Child & Family Guidance Center ❖ Police Athletic League (PAL) ❖ Parent Resource Center – Outreach ❖ Plant A Row for the Hungry, Port Washington ❖ Port Counseling Center; A Division of Long Island Reach ❖ Port Summer Show ❖ Port Washington Boy Scouts - Local Troop 7 ❖ Port Washington Children's Center ❖ Port Washington Adult Activities Center ❖ Port Washington Soccer Club ❖ Port Washington Youth Council (the "Pit") ❖ Port Youth Activities (PYA) ❖ St. Francis Hospital Foundation, Cancer Support Fund ❖ The Safe Center LI (plus, CAPS at the Safe Center) ❖ Port Rowing ❖ Science Museum of Long Island

Port Washington COVID-19 Community Response Fund as of December 31, 2020

Donations: \$245,393

Grants:

- Rental Assistance \$97,591
- Food \$39,917
- Paper & Personal Care \$28,657
- Masks & Other \$1,167

"NO PLACE LIKE DESTINY HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS"



Opening presents on Christmas morning. And a merry Christmas morning it was!

The four residents at Helen Keller's Destiny Home that stayed in Port Washington for Christmas celebrated the holidays a little differently this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Destiny Home is home to five residents who are deaf-blind and have intellectual disabilities.

On Christmas day, the staff ordered a holiday meal from Whole Foods, including champagne cups for special non-alcoholic drinks. The residents helped set up and clean up after the meal.

A generous donor provided funds to purchase gifts for the residents which were wrapped and placed under the tree for Christmas morning. While staying safe at home, the residents continue to train on work skills such as porter maintenance work and shredding. The dedicated staff continue to provide life skills support (e.g. personal and domestic maintenance, interpersonal communication and social skills and functional academics) while ensuring everyone's safety.



The team at The Cancer Institute at St. Francis Hospital finds creative ways to connect with patients' needs.

CANCER SUPPORT PROGRAM AT ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL GETS HIGH MARKS FOR PATIENT-CENTERED CARE

The best care often goes beyond medicine. Honoring the person behind the patient has always been an important part of the mission of The Cancer Institute at St. Francis Hospital.

For the second time, this focus on the patient has resulted in St. Francis Hospital's Cancer Institute receiving accreditation by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons. A hallmark of excellence, this accreditation is only awarded to cancer care programs that have made a commitment to providing high quality, comprehensive patient-centered care. "As our recognition and influence continue

to grow, St. Francis will be in a better position to treat and cure the patients we serve," says Bhoomi Mehrotra, M.D., Director of the Cancer Institute. "Even with increased growth, our mission to see the patient as a human being, not just a disease, remains the same."

The Community Chest of Port Washington shares this mission of people helping people. And when 2020 brought new challenges for the residents of our community, the focus turned to opportunities within our newly launched *Good Neighbor Cancer Support Program*. A grant from the Community

Chest allowed the multi-disciplinary Cancer Institute team to quickly respond with gift cards for food and safe transportation to medical appointments for residents of Port Washington undergoing cancer treatment at St. Francis. With each gesture of support, it became clear that kindness was truly the best medicine.

Thanks to the ongoing support of The Community Chest of Port Washington, there will be renewed hope for 2021 and multiple opportunities to meet the diverse needs of our friends and neighbors in need of cancer care at St. Francis Hospital.

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



What a year 2020 has been!

I hope that you and your loved ones have stayed healthy; though I know that cannot possibly be true given the news reports about the pandemic in Nassau County.

Port Washington is a community that prides itself on the kindness of its neighbors. The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic consequences have been devastating for many residents in Port Washington. And yet, so many have reached into their wallets and given larger contributions than ever before. Such is the fabric of Port...and why so many families want to live here. For anyone who needs help, because of COVID-19 or otherwise, please know that we are here. The Community Chest does not provide direct services but can often direct you to the right place.

For anyone who wants to help, please give us a call at 516-767-2121 or email me at jmeer@portchest.org. There is a volunteer project waiting for you.

As we enter 2021, the Community Chest of Port Washington has a lot of reasons to be grateful...many of them are on the donor lists within this newsletter. We do not exist without our donors.

Thank you

to every one of you.

Julie B. Meer

THE SAFE CENTER ACQUIRES CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION SERVICES

In July 2020, The Safe Center acquired and integrated the programs of Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS), a Roslyn-based grassroots nonprofit organization, into The Safe Center. For decades, CAPS programming, whose mission was the prevention of bullying and child abuse among school-aged children, has been presented in the Port Washington elementary schools.

CAPS at the Safe Center expands The Safe Center's Community and Professional Education department's outreach across Long Island and leverages CAPS' 38 years of experience and relationships with schools and communities. Students and faculty will have increased access to educational workshops and programming, empowering them to recognize and respond to abuse. It also brings more than 75 experienced volunteer educators to join CAPS at The Safe Center. These highly trained volunteers have

years of experience delivering CAPS' programs to Long Island elementary, middle, and high school students. These volunteers have been incorporated into the already robust volunteer education program at The Safe Center.

Since the acquisition and in the wake of the pandemic, The Safe Center's Community and Professional Education Services along with CAPS at the Safe Center has held many virtual classroom workshops in the Port Washington School District. In October, CAPS at The Safe Center volunteers taught 3rd graders at Daly Elementary School about bullying and being an upstander (one who intervenes on behalf of someone being attacked or bullied) and discussed internet safety via its "Cybersmartz" workshops to all 5th grade classes. Plans for virtual workshops about internet safety, cyberbullying, and child abuse prevention at "Safety Rules Workshops" for students at

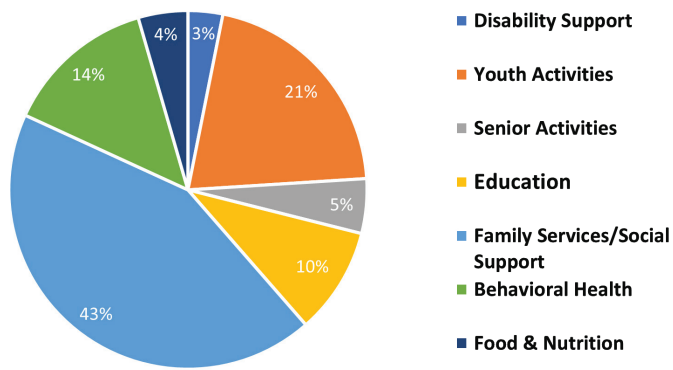
Guggenheim, Manorhaven, Salem and Sousa elementary schools are also in the works. For information about "virtual classroom workshops" presented by The Safe Center's Education team, CAPS at The Safe Center, or the 2021 schedule for presentations within the Port Washington School District, please contact Lorraine DiFiglia at ldifiglia@tscli.org. Information about programs and services can now be found on The Safe Center's website (tscli.org) under its new name "CAPS at The Safe Center."

The Safe Center welcomes Ilene Cooper, Bettina Finn, William Liu, and Karen Siris, former members of the CAPS Board to The Safe Center Board of Directors. Lorraine DiFiglia stated, "We extend our appreciation to The Community Chest of Port Washington for being a valued partner and champion for ending and preventing all forms of abuse within the Port Washington community."

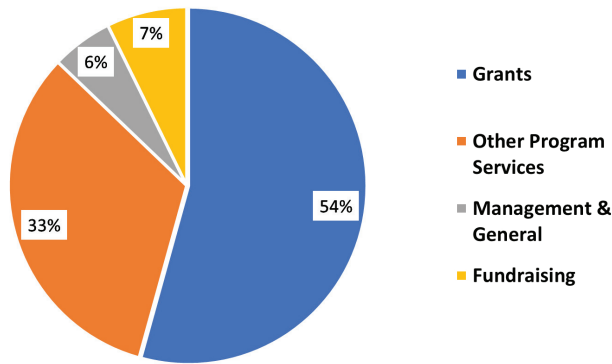
It is estimated that more than 80% of students are experiencing more than normal feelings of stress, anxiety, and sadness. North Shore Child & Family Guidance Center has multiple on-line resources to help. Check out their blog at www.northshoreguidance.org or email NSCFGCExperts@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY CHEST OPERATIONS

Distribution of Grant Funds



Functional Expenses



SUMMER PROGRAM TO FIGHT HUNGER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

On Saturday, October 24, 2020, elected officials from New York State, Nassau County, the Town of North Hempstead as well as representatives from Plant A Row for the Hungry, Port Washington, Rewild of Long Island, the Mosaic Foundation for Autism, the Nicholas Center, Growing Love Community Garden, and the Science Museum of Long Island gathered at the Science Museum to recognize the efforts of those organizations to fight hunger and climate change. A virtual reception was hosted two weeks prior that presented the **2020 NYS Senate Commendation Award** for “extraordinary dedication and lasting contributions to the community.” This exciting recognition celebrated a bountiful spring, summer and fall of growing and harvesting. The collaborative effort included the participation of 17 high school students and their instructors in an ambitious project to grow organic vegetables for the food insecure families of Port Washington. The result was 5,000 pounds of organic produce delivered to their Port Washington neighbors and a great learning experience.

At the in-person ceremony, citations were presented by New York State Senator Anna Kaplan, Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, and Town of North Hempstead Councilwomen Mariann Dalimonte and Veronica Lurvey. Engraved trowels and student awards were presented by program leaders Marvin Makofsky for Plant A Row, Raju Rajan for Rewild, Laurie Murdock for Mosaic Foundation and Hildur Palsdottir for the Science Museum.

Over 50 attendees, masked and practicing social distancing attended the outdoor ceremony. Says Senator Kaplan about the award, “The New York State Commendation Award is one of the highest honors that I as Senator can present, and it is reserved for a select few individuals each year whose exceptional work to support the community merits this level of recognition.” Behind the masks, attendees were all smiles with so much to celebrate. The gardens used for this project demonstrate the large range of Port Washington organizations and included those at the Science Museum, the Historic Dodge House, the Helen Keller National Center, Growing Love Community Garden, Nicholas Center and the Port Washington Adult Activities Center.

With his energy and enthusiasm never waning, Marvin Makofsky, Plant-A-Row, Port Washington says that he has even larger plans for 2021 which include expanding the garden areas of these existing programs to increase production, a new greenhouse and a children’s garden at the Science Museum.

“Every aspect of what we do requires volunteers to make it happen. Germinating, planting, watering, harvesting, distributing, educating, organizing and planning -- we have done all of this together as a team this year.”

MAJOR DONORS TO THE PORT WASHINGTON COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND

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SPECTRUM DESIGNS ACHIEVES MILESTONES



Robert is hard at work (screen-printing)

In 2020, Port Washington based Spectrum Designs Foundation grew its three social enterprise businesses -- Spectrum Designs, Spectrum Bakes and Spectrum Suds, expanded to a second location in Westchester, New York, and maintained employment for seven Port Washington residents with Autism.

Milestones for Spectrum Designs and its partner agency—The Nicholas Center—include graduating 11 individuals from their first-ever Screen Print Certification Course and fulfilling its largest Spectrum Bakes order to date – 10,000 Better Bars – baked, sealed and shipped in 1 week! Development Manager, LeeAnne Vetrone, states, “despite challenges from the pandemic, we’ve expanded our neurodiverse workforce.” She adds,

“Spectrum is grateful to everyone in the community who supports our work—with donations and orders—because it provides individuals with Autism and developmental disabilities meaningful vocational experiences, life-skills training, and the opportunity for paid employment.”

As if all that growth was not enough, Spectrum and the Nicholas Center demonstrated their COVID humanitarian “chops” with several initiatives during 2020: free laundry service to first responders during the height of the pandemic; acquiring and distributing 150,000 units of vital PPE (masks, gloves etc.) for first responders, businesses, and community members; monthly deliveries of fruit donations (from R Best Produce) to Port Washington food pantries; maintaining the Port Pantry Supply Squad distribution and delivery system; rolling, labeling and shipping 38,000 NY Tough Poster orders; and laundering and steam pressing 2,000 hand-made face masks for the “Port Washington Mask Brigade” project though the Community Chest.

Spectrum is #PortStrong.

Major Donors to the Annual Campaign

October 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020

Thank you

\$75,000 +

The Peter & Jeri Dejana Foundation

\$25,000 - \$74,999

The Atlantic Philanthropies Director/Employee Designated Gift Fund

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April 26, 2021 Citizen of the Year Ceremony
(honoring **Curt Trinko** as the 48th recipient of the award)

May 24, 2021 Golf & Racquet Outing

July 2021 (TBA) Port Washington-Manhasset Bay Kayak Run