

THE People of PORT

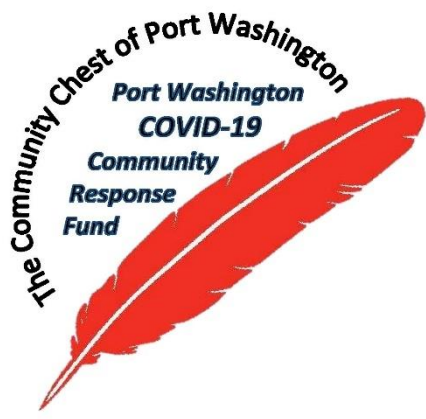
SPRING 2020: ISSUE 3

Grantee News for Donors & Friends



COVID-19 Coronavirus Humanitarian Relief

Faith-based and Community Leaders work together to address community needs



In an effort to address the emergency needs of Port Washington residents as a result of the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, the Community Chest has convened a working group of leaders from the Town of North Hempstead, Port Washington School District, PW Public Library, PW Police, the PW Crisis Relief Team, community and faith-based organizations (CFBO) and others. We have also created the **Port Washington COVID-19 Community Response Fund** with an initial goal of \$500,000. This Fund will be used to make **COVID-19 emergency grants** for food needs, housing costs and other expenses to existing CFBOs that have strong experience supporting local families, particularly those that are disproportionately affected by this pandemic and its economic consequences, including our frail home-bound senior citizens. The **PW COVID-19 Community**

Response Fund is hosted and administered by the Community Chest of Port Washington and is seeded with \$100,000 from the Community Chest.

Donations for the **PW COVID-19 Community Response Fund** are being collected through the Community Chest website and its Certified Charity GoFundMe campaign. 100% of donations received by the Community Chest for the COVID-19 campaign will be distributed to organizations helping Port Washington residents affected by this pandemic. Donations can also be made by check to the Community Chest of Port Washington ("COVID-19" in the memo).

As of now, four CFBOs have been identified (Our Lady of Fatima, Outreach; St. Peter of Alcantara, Social Ministry; Littig House Community Center and Port Washington Community Action Council) as providing critical needs for approximately 300 at-risk Port Washington families and who will be receiving emergency funding at this time.

With the help of EAC/Senior Community Service Center, we have created and are funding a "Groceries to Go" program to deliver shelf-stable groceries to 150 home-bound seniors every two weeks (with PW Crisis Relief Team volunteers.) We expect this

groceries program to be up and running soon. Joel Ziev, former Community Chest president and current board member wants all of us to make sure that our aging in place senior citizens do not "fall through the cracks." He is making a plea to the entire community to "be aware of your neighbors who are older adults and people with severe chronic illnesses and establish a way for them to ask for help from you if they need it." Additionally the Town of North Hempstead is requesting that **all senior citizens register with Project Independence (PI) by calling 311**; once registered, PI assigns a case worker who can help with transportation needs, food (including Meals-on-Wheels and Groceries to Go), entitlement benefits and other assistance.

The PW School District is providing breakfast and lunch to eligible students (and their pre-school siblings) at five locations in Port Washington: Schreiber H.S., Daly School, Our Lady of Fatima, Harbor Homes and at 382 Main Street (Community Chest.)

Individuals are running errands for neighbors who can't leave their homes, many have provided PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for our first responders, a Facebook group called "Helping NSUH and St. Francis with staff meals" is

providing meals at local area hospitals; residents are purchasing gift cards from local restaurants and businesses and donating them, and others have held virtual concerts to raise money for COVID-19 relief. The Community Chest is cataloging all these efforts and is sharing on its website daily.

This is not the only way people in Port Washington are helping. Many families are continuing to give to organizations they regularly support, and especially those that need help at this crucial time. The local food pantries are seeing an outpouring of support. Sister Kathy Somerville at Our Lady of Fatima had this to say: "The Port Community has been **beyond amazing** in its outpouring of support in helping those in the Manorhaven area during this pandemic. There are just no adequate words to describe it. This community always responds when there is a need, but usually the need is time limited. This need doesn't have an end in sight, and Port just keeps on giving like the Energizer bunny. We are very grateful for, and humbled by, the amount of food and cash donations. We, at Fatima, are privileged to be part of this community and able to help others in your name. This is "community" at its best!"

Curt Trinko is 2020 Citizen of the Year



The Community Chest of Port Washington is proud to honor Curt Trinko as its 2020 Citizen of the Year.

The Community Chest established this award in 1970 to honor individuals and organizations that have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service and contributions to the community.

Chairman of Residents Forward for 20 years (formerly Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington), Curt is the managing partner at The Law Offices of Curtis V. Trinko, specializing in complex litigation. Curt grew up in rural Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and got his law degree at New York University. He's been actively practicing law for 45 years and was party to an anti-trust action that reached the U.S. Supreme Court. After clerking for a judge in Chicago

for one year, he moved to Port Washington in 1978 and began focusing on investor-related litigation. Once in Port, he began his volunteerism with the PW Parent Resource Center (1980), joined the New Salem Civic Association and volunteered on the PW Landfill Citizen's Advisory Committee (1983). He currently volunteers at Our Lady of Fatima. Through his active education and advocacy work at Residents Forward, Curt continues to work on safeguarding our drinking water and advocating for effective land use plans.

The **Citizen of the Year Ceremony** originally scheduled for April 20th has been postponed. A new date will be announced.

The “PiT” (Port’s Teen Center) expands programming with Virtual Reality Gaming Equipment

Essential to bringing teens to Port Washington’s Teen Center (a.k.a. the “PiT”) is staying on top of new trends. In 2017, the PiT was awarded a Mertz Community Resource Grant to purchase a PlayStation 4 Virtual Reality set up (including a 180” movie screen, projector and the virtual reality system) and it has been a huge hit with teens. In February 2020 the PiT was awarded a second Mertz grant for the next level of virtual reality gaming called “The Oculus Quest”. The Oculus system translates all movements into virtual reality, no matter which way you’re facing. Every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 9:00PM, Port Washington teens have Virtual Reality Tournaments.



From PiT Executive Director, Mike Donnelly: “In many ways the video gaming tournaments have taken something that can be very isolating and created a place where kids have been able to overcome social anxiety and

developed lasting friendships.” In addition to the virtual reality programming, the PiT Youth Council (leadership group) has planned and executed many winter events this year: a fall Middle School 2 on 2 Basketball tournament and a Super Smash Brothers Ultimate Tournament. And in the winter was a Minecraft Build Battle Tournament, a HS Super Smash Bros Ultimate Tournament and a second Middle School 2 on 2 Basketball Tournament. Also on the PiT calendar is the annual Senior Citizen Pizza and Bingo Night where Youth Council members have an opportunity to spend time and connect with residents who live in the Landmark Senior Housing.

Note From the Executive Director



Every time I think I know how this pandemic is going to feel, I realize that I don’t. I can’t comprehend the extent of it; can’t wrap my head around the number of deaths, the anxiety of financial distress or the scary economic reality. The only thing that enables me to make it through each day, to have some measure of control is to try to make life better for our neighbors. The Community Chest is helping, and I am grateful to be right where I am.

Thank you to all of you who have donated to the **PW COVID-19 Community Response Fund** and to the Community Chest’s annual campaign.

Thank you also to the medical community who are on the front lines of this pandemic treating the very ill. Thank you to the essential workers who make it possible for me to get news, food, medicine and other necessities; the armed forces and our local first responders. You are working hard to keep everything running, while allowing the rest of us to stay safe and maintain social distancing.

In times like these we notice that all we have is each other. Stay safe.

Julie B. Meer
Executive Director

COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND LOOKING FOR BOARD MEMBERS



Photo credit to the Port Washington Union Free School District

The Community Scholarship Fund of Port Washington is a needs-based scholarship fund for college study awarded to Port Washington-based High School graduates. While the Scholarship Fund is 99% funded by the Community Chest, it is a separate nonprofit organization with its own board of directors. The number and amount of scholarships awarded varies each year. In June 2019, \$28,000 was awarded to Schreiber seniors. The Scholarship Fund is actively seeking additional donations and looking for board members. Contact: Robin Schroeder at (516) 659-0756 or SEPTAPW@aol.com.

Collaborations at Plant-A-Row for the Hungry, Port Washington



Master Gardener and Plant-A-Row Port Washington founder, Marvin Makofsky has done his job too well. There are well over 150 painted pots all over town filled with vegetables. According to Makofsky, “The problem is that no one reads the poster that’s in every painted pot.” Marvin is thrilled that so many people want pots but wishes that everyone understood why he’s so passionate about the pots. “Plant-A-Row is helping to solve our

community’s local hunger issues through gardening.” Says Makofsky, “it’s not only about the decoration.” Plant-A-Row encourages all Port Washington residents to plant an extra row of vegetables in their gardens and offer the surplus to those in need. People LOVE the planters, but Makofsky wants people to become backyard farmers or enlarge their plots so their neighbors can have fresh produce. In the meantime, Plant-A-Row continues to

collaborate with as many groups as possible in order to harvest lots of food for Port’s families. Makofsky’s dream problem is to have “too much fresh produce.” Once produce is delivered to Bayles Garden Center, teams of volunteers distribute the community’s harvest in a timely manner to our local Our Lady of Fatima Church Food Pantry and other outreach programs in Port Washington.

Community Synagogue

Helen Keller National Center

Paul D. Schreiber High School

Port Washington Children’s Center

Port Washington Girl Scouts

Port Washington Public Library

Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore

Residents Forward & Party in the Park

Spectrum Designs Foundation & Nicholas Center for Autism

Friends Together Preschool

Karmacue by Alper’s Hardware

Port Washington Adult Activities Center

Port Washington Cub Scouts

Port Washington Harborfest

St. Stephen’s Church & Youth Group

HEARTS & PortFest

Schreiber H.S. honors art society

Mertz Community Resource Fund gives over \$325,000 since inception

ANOTHER GRANT RESOURCE FOR PORT WASHINGTON CHARITIES...

For 50 years, The Community Chest has been providing small grants to non-profit organizations for startup or emergency financial expenses, for needed capital repairs or improvements, or for equipment through its Mertz Community Resource Fund. This fund was established with a generous donation of \$40,000 from Harold E. Mertz, a philanthropist who, along with his wife and daughter founded Publisher's Clearing House. To Mr. Mertz, this grant fund was to be unlike other community funds in that the money was not to be used

for general operating or program expenses. Instead, it was his intention that the money from this fund should be used primarily as a resource to support new initiatives and organizations with an important mission, or those facing a financial emergency, with an emphasis on programs serving youth. The members of the Mertz Committee, all of whom are past presidents of the Community Chest, keep his philosophy in mind when deliberating the merits of Mertz grant requests. With careful stewardship, the assets of the



Fund have grown; the balance is now over \$100,000. Nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply.

MANHASSET WOMEN'S COALITION AGAINST BREAST CANCER (MWCABC) SUPPORTS HUNDREDS



"All Hands In" is the only way to describe the work of the board members who manage MWCABC's eight committees and five annual events

MWCABC is an all-volunteer organization formed in 1997 by a small group of women that shared a concern about the high incidence of breast cancer on Long Island. The Outreach Program began in 2004 to provide support services; in 2019 its 16 Care Coaches helped 160 women diagnosed with breast cancer and 20 women diagnosed with other cancers by offering them emotional support and financial assistance. Goods and services such as meals and groceries, wigs, prosthesis, rental of medical equipment, transportation, house cleanings, nutrition and reference books, post-surgery jackets, pillow wedges, and electric bed recliners were provided. The cost of medical bills, prescriptions, and living expenses as well as medical massages, yoga and physical therapy sessions were reimbursed. With the help of our committed volunteers, we also delivered 82 special gifts throughout the year, 35 of them at Thanksgiving.

Marvin Brown is Senior of the Year at Port Washington Senior Community Service Center



Marvin Brown & EAC Network's Senior Dir. of Senior & Nutritional Services, Carol O'Neill

Marvin Brown has been a member at the PW Senior Community Service Center (the "Center") since 2011. Marvin has always shown great concern for the needs of underserved Port

Washington residents, especially those of immigrant families. A humble man who is well in tune with others, Marvin contributes to the culture and wellbeing of his neighbors at Hadley House (Main Street in PW), where he lives, as well as members of the Center. Marvin is active in the Unitarian Universalist Church at Shelter Rock where he is highly regarded as a great asset of the fellowship. He also sits on the board of Twin Pines Charitable Community Thrift Shop whose mission includes providing resources to those in need, regardless of demographics, ethnicity, or

sexual orientation. Marvin is a well-respected abstract and minimalist artist, born in Queens, NY whose works are found at The Museum of Modern Art, The NY Public Library, Harvard Art Museums and other galleries throughout the US and Britain. He has taught with passion at Berkley, Brown, Rice and the University of California in addition to local schools such as Hunter College and City College of NY. Marvin was the recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Senior Scholar in the Fine Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim fellowship, in Melbourne Australia as an Artist

in Residence. Marvin's artistic passion includes giving historical tours of local art. Marvin says that he discovered the value of caring for people when he was a young boy. One of the stories that inspired him is that of his uncle who gave away his rations to immigrants during World War II. For his accomplishments and contributions to his community, the Center nominated Marvin Brown to be its "Senior of the Year." Marvin, along with others, was honored at the Town of North Hempstead's **Senior Recognition Luncheon** in May 2019.

Winter Wonderland at the PRC Stepping Stone's Class

During December and January, students, ages three and four, had a magical time making crafts, doing yoga, singing songs and celebrating the winter season. The children played with and melted ice sculptures, built clay snowmen, made snow globes, and learned about polar bears. The Stepping Stones class at the Parent Resource Center (PRC) gives income eligible children a pre-school experience that they otherwise would be unable to afford. These Pre-K experiences often provide a child's initial exposure to school. "It's a perfect opportunity for

students to become accustomed to a classroom and learn how to play with other children," says PRC Outreach Head Teacher, Nicole Asselta. Amidst the learning, there was also plenty of time for holiday celebrating. Decorating gingerbread people, making holiday ornaments, and getting a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, who gave out gifts for all the children, was a wonderful time for the young students. The PRC received more than 60 gifts to giveaway at this year's holiday party. Countless families and volunteers continue to make the PRC a place

that brings families together in a supportive environment.



Stepping Stones class participants this Winter having "freezing" fun, while exploring some fascinating properties of ice, including how ice melts.

Donors to COVID-19 Community Response Fund

Thank you!

March 22, 2020 – April 28, 2020

\$20,000 and above

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Anne & Vincent Mai

\$5,000 - \$19,999

The Atlantic Philanthropies
Trevor Burton
Doppelt Family Foundation
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Ellen & Richard Fox
Stuart M. Johnson

\$500 - \$4,999

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...and more than 50 donors who chose to remain anonymous.

\$254,950 has been raised as of April 28, 2020 at 5:40 pm