

THE People of PORT

WINTER 2023: ISSUE 10

News for Donors and Friends



OUR GRANTEES: MEET THEM AGAIN...FOR THE FIRST TIME

RESIDENTS FORWARD: Building on 55 Years of Beautiful Work

Fifty-five years ago, a group of concerned Port Washington residents met to discuss their concerns about the state of the Port Washington community. From that, **Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington** (now **Residents Forward**) was born. In the decades following its founding, Residents Forward focused on environmental safety concerns and beautifying, cleaning and improving the town's public spaces, and, in the process, became one of Port's most beloved and respected nonprofit organizations. They recently changed their mission to reflect the broader work they are doing: inspiring and unifying the residents of Port Washington in order to protect and advance the vibrancy, resiliency, sustainability and beauty of the peninsula.

Their six-pronged 2023 Caring for Port Washington Plan includes Environmental Education, Waterfront Protection, Cleanliness, Advocacy, Beautification and Community Building Events. Visible manifestations of this vision are everywhere: Project Clean Green Main Street (monthly Main Street clean-up crews), Let's Walk PW (signs inspiring residents to walk more), the engaging and beautiful Port Washington Mural Project, and the expansion of the Manhasset Bay Walk.

Their work with young people includes *Environmental Education* in the elementary schools and the



Students from the 2022 Youth Climate Summit working to clean up Manhasset Bay

Youth Environmental Action Group and *Climate Summit*, open to high school students. On March 18th, 100 Long Island high school and middle school students (90 from Port Washington) gathered at the Port Washington Public Library for the **Youth Climate Summit**. The conference, now in its third year, empowers students to act by implementing Climate Action Projects in their own community. Examples of prior Climate Action Projects include: Skip the Straw (participation in a National Day of Awareness to pass up a straw and drink from the cup), Bag the Bag (encouraging people to eliminate getting paper/plastic bags and bringing reusable bags) and The Climate Awareness Garden (mentoring students on growing vegetables, learning about our food systems and how they can address climate change). The Community Chest awarded Residents Forward

a \$9,000 grant to support the 2023 summit. Part of this grant award included the **Tweezerman Environmental Heroes Annual Grant Award**. Residents Forward Executive Director Trish Class spoke to us about being one of the Tweezerman Environmental Heroes' for 2023: "We are thrilled to have received a grant from The Community Chest of Port Washington for our **2023 Youth Climate Summit**. We look forward to working together with Tweezerman International and the Community Chest to help further our efforts to Learn, Educate & Act. We continue to be excited by the opportunity to successfully engage local youth in building a movement that influences policies and practices in our region and develop ongoing projects that change systems; caring for our town, the planet and their future."

The Community Chest is thrilled to be partnering with Tweezerman

within their social responsibility lens and environmental sustainability division. The company, located on West Shore Road in Port Washington, has a long-standing commitment to the environment by being "cleaner and greener," and, in fact, has pledged to be a climate neutral company by the end of 2023. Tweezerman President + CEO Juergen Bosse stated "We are unwavering in our pledge to invest in the welfare of the communities in which we do business." In 2023, their donation is being used to increase support to ReWild, Plant A Row for the Hungry, Port Washington, and Residents Forward, for projects aimed at environmental challenges impacting Port Washington and the planet. Community Chest President Drew Hershkowitz gives kudos for their commitment: "Tweezerman International sets a very high bar for how corporations can and should operate as members of a community." Tweezerman's Bosse added: "As a Port Washington resident, I know that the Community Chest has an incredible track record of support and community stewardship in our town and with their help, Tweezerman intends to support environmental organizations who make significant contributions to this community."

And The Community Chest couldn't be more pleased!

WHY I SERVE; BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Drew Hershkowitz, President

We'd like you to meet our Board President, Drew Hershkowitz, who has served the Community Chest with distinction as its President for five years and whose service to the Port Washington community is greatly appreciated.

How do you have the time to be an active board chair while working full time?

The opportunity to work with others who are also dedicated to our community inspires me to find the time. Our office team runs the day-to-day operation including coordinating evening meetings and events. This provides me and the full Board with significant leverage to be able to focus on the most important aspects of the organization. Our Executive Committee and Board meetings occur in the

evenings. In the last several years, as working from home has become more accepted, I have been able to find time during the day as well. I feel so strongly about the mission of the Chest that I find the time to make calls, attend meetings and go to community events.

What has surprised you the most as Board President?

The complexity and planning required for key events was unexpected. For example, our Thanksgiving Day Run which has been a tradition for nearly 50 years now, takes months of planning: assembling committees, seeking local sponsorships, acquiring permits and coordinating the race itself. There is little room for error with thousands of participants, and an equal number of details. We co-produce it with the Town of North Hempstead and feel a great responsibility to have it go off without a hitch as it is one of the most visible community events of the year. We have been fortunate that in addition to our Board, there are dozens of volunteers that help at all of our events. The other important point is that our Board and volunteers are just that - volunteers, so while we have critical functions to execute on, at times we need to get creative with scheduling and resourcing some of our activities.

In your role as President, what has been the biggest challenge?

An ongoing challenge is the sheer number of nonprofits emerging over the last 10-15 years. These organizations have a positive impact on the community and our residents, yet all are seeking donations from the same donors. We have been fortunate that our longtime supporters have continued to generously invest in our community, however we need to be diligent getting our message out and reiterating our mission to be heard alongside all the others utilizing various media platforms. Being an ambassador for the Chest didn't come easily to me right away, but now I am comfortable in that role; that was unexpected as well. I also figured out early on that as President I needed to not only be physically on-hand, but also, completely "present" with thought and concern and ready to add value to every interaction. I've learned a lot about being a nonprofit leader.

What has given you the greatest sense of accomplishment? Of what are you most proud?

The work that I did with our previous Executive Director Julie Meer, was by far the most rewarding. During the early days of COVID, we were hearing about local needs that didn't make the media headlines until many months later

(cont'd on page 3)

LITTIG HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER

On-going work at Littig House: providing restorative & educational opportunities for children



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings to our Community Chest Family.

I hope your new year is off to a great start. I want to start off by thanking all of you who helped make our 2022 Thanksgiving Day Run the most successful run ever!

In this issue, we'll explore the Community Chest's grantmaking process, so that our donors understand how carefully we "invest" their donations in the nonprofits that help to make Port Washington the amazing community that it is and changes that we're making to streamline our grant application process.

I'd also like to introduce you to more incredible volunteers, who continue to help the Community Chest carry out its mission to serve the Port Washington community. Jackie DelliBovi and Skip Stern have been volunteering with us for over a decade and I hope you'll enjoy learning a little bit about why they volunteer for the Community Chest.

In our Board Member Profile section, we'd like to introduce you to our Board President Drew Hershkowitz, who has served the Community Chest with great distinction for five years and whose service to the Port Washington community is greatly valued!

Finally, I hope you enjoy learning a little bit more about why longtime donors Fern & Hersh Cohen believe in the Community Chest.

Bobby Keller

DONOR FOCUS

Fern and I consider ourselves lucky to have landed in Port Washington NY. This is a community that cares about its neighbors. It has always seemed straightforward to us to donate to the Community Chest of Port Washington—an organization that provides funding to so many organizations and has an impact on the lives of so many residents. Helping others has always been important to us. When we learned that the Community Chest gave grants to 25 to 30 organizations, and had a vetting process that would be careful with what we gave, our choice was clear. When I was just starting out in my career, we gave what we could; our donations

increased as our income rose. Everyone in Port Washington benefits when those who have less are better off.

To see the impact that the Community Chest has, look no further than three years ago when COVID hit everyone so hard. The Community Chest led the way for the entire town and



Fern & Hersh Cohen

provided a mechanism to help people who were most hurt by the economics of the pandemic and provide them with the items they needed most: shelf stable food, meat delivery, diapers, legal aid, rent assistance, household supplies and more. It was miraculous and I'm gratified to have been associated with every program they created.

The Community Chest continues to listen to the needs of the People of Port and awards grant funding to help. We are fortunate to be part of this generous community of caring people and we urge donors to tell their friends about the Community Chest. Fundamentally we are **ALL** neighbors helping neighbors!

February 13, 2023 press release from the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* reports that **3 in 5** teen girls admitted to persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness and **1 in 3** seriously considered attempting suicide. We must listen and often "read" between the lines. **North Shore Child & Family Guidance Center** encourages calls at **(516) 626-1971** or **Dial 988** for the **National Suicide & Crisis Hotline**.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE GRANT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR. MICHAEL COOPERMAN

Interviewer: *Michael, please tell our readers who you are and what the Budget & Allocation (B&A) committee does.*

Michael Cooperman: I'm the Co-Chairman of the Budget & Allocation Committee (B&A) for the Community Chest along with Jerry Federlein. I've been a Port resident for more than 40 years and I have served on this committee for a number of years. Although I am now retired, I have an MBA and a CPA and led for-profit and non-profit organizations as CFO and COO for many years. Our committee, consisting of (8) Port residents, reviews all grant applications and recommends to our board which organizations should be funded and the amounts to be awarded.

Interviewer: *Tell us about your grant application process.*

Michael Cooperman: Our grant application process focuses on 3 areas. First, we want to know general information about the

organization. This includes their mission, how they are managed and their track record of success in Port Washington. Second, we review an organization's financial reports to ensure that they are fiscally sound and meet all governmental requirements. Finally, we want information about the specific program for which funding is requested or about the need for general operating support and how this grant will benefit the people of our community. There is an interview process as well.

Interviewer: *What makes a great grant application?*

Michael Cooperman: At the highest level, it's all about helping people in need here in Port Washington. It's about finding great organizations whose programs make a real difference in people's lives. Getting into the weeds a bit, a non-profit who is seeking a grant should have a well thought out proposal

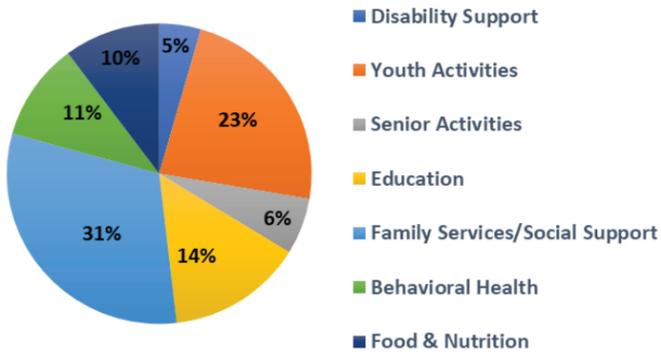
narrative which tells us who they are, what they do and how they will help to solve a problem which impacts our residents. They should also be able to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and have a solid management team running the organization.

Interviewer: *What changes are you making to the Application Process?*

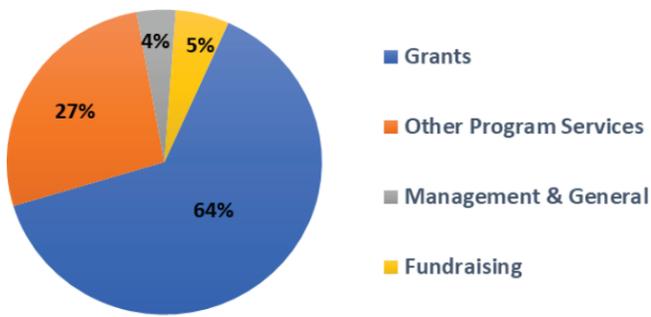
Michael Cooperman: We are working to streamline our application process, so that it's less work for our grant applicants, while maintaining our review criteria and standards, so that our donors can be assured that we are making wise investments with their donations.

If you know of a nonprofit organization that might be helped by a Community Chest grant, go to <https://www.portchest.org/grantapplication> to download a grant application.

COMMUNITY CHEST 2022 OPERATIONS



Functional Expenses



BINGO & LUNCH AT THE PORT WASHINGTON ADULT ACTIVITIES CENTER



"We are grateful for the support we receive from Community Chest. It allows us to provide a place for older adults to socialize, exercise and dine with their peers. It also allows them to get the support they need in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. With the pandemic almost behind us, our senior residents are finally coming back and are happy to socialize and feel a sense of normalcy."

Linda Livio, Executive Director
PW Adult Activities Center



VOLUNTEER PROFILES: IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Jackie DelliBovi at the Citizen of the Year Ceremony



Robert "Skip" Stern at the Thanksgiving Day Run

that Port is a true community; where people are connected and take responsibility for each other."

Robert "Skip" Stern

"I've always believed in giving back. And because the Community Chest helps so many Port residents, volunteering with them always seemed like the right fit. I, and several others, volunteer for the Thanksgiving Day Run during

both nights of race packet pick up and on race day; we've been working together for 10 years. Not only are we connecting with run participants, we're also enjoying each other's company; the camaraderie brings me back each year. I think I've done every job there is to do: given out medals at the finish line, as cashier for late registration, directed runners on the race course, held the mile marker race clocks, packed up at race end and more. It's hard to say which I like best, but I get the most gratification from bringing donated food to the Our Lady of Fatima food pantry. This is a special town and I feel good to be a part of the event that's doing so much good for the People of Port who need help."

Jackie DelliBovi

"The tag line of the Community Chest, 'The People of Port Helping the People of Port' is what I love. I live in this town and want to help my neighbors. When I first started volunteering, I told Julie (the former Executive Director), just tell me when and where and I'll be there; she kept me busy. I've worked on the Golf Outing, Citizen of the Year and the Winter Run; but the Thanksgiving Day Run is my absolute favorite event to work. I give out the medals at the finish line and have for almost a decade; the event makes my Thanksgiving Day because I am reminded



Our events simply cannot happen without our volunteers who, over the years, have become dear friends of the Community Chest.

Shelly Persaud,
Community Chest Associate

THE PIT AT LANDMARK



Middle Schoolers having a blast at the video game and dodgeball tournaments

DREW HERSHKOWITZ PROFILE (CONT'D FROM PG. 1)

with the expectation that the impact on our residents would get far worse in particular for food and housing, we quickly assembled a leadership team, a legal team, raised funds and deployed those funds partnering with several community and faith-based organizations. In the end we were able to provide \$350,000 to help hundreds of families in a very timely manner. This is in addition to the annual grants the Chest has been providing for over 70 years.

What is it about the CCPW that is engaging for you?

Providing support to my neighbors in Port Washington resonates with me (and thousands of others) who want to help locally. In particular, giving grants to organizations that offer social programs, many of whom do not have the ability to raise necessary funds on their own, was appealing to me. As part of the Executive Committee, I became tuned into the grant process,

ensuring donations are deployed responsibly, and became even more sure of my commitment. Lastly, as President, I work with the Executive Committee to not just oversee the organization, but to plan for the future, identifying strategic initiatives that will allow the Chest to succeed for many years to come.

Do you think that your work with the CCPW and the work the CCPW has done with grantees will inform future plans for you in terms of your life/career?

Most certainly. It is important for me to be a role model for my children and highlight in addition to a focus on one's career, that investing locally within one's community is incredibly important and rewarding. In the case of the Chest, it has been in a leadership role. However, in other cases it is as a volunteer, participant, or donor. The opportunity to help organizations succeed, forge relationships for and with groups and their leadership teams doing great work, and build new friendships personally has been more impactful than I would have expected.

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TO
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MAKE A TRIBUTE GIFT

Donate in honor of or in memory of someone special to you. All tribute gifts are recognized in our Winter Newsletter.

The Community Chest also warmly thanks the many donors who have chosen to be Anonymous, made contributions of less than \$250, or who have made donations of goods and services.

All Gifts Make A Difference!

HOST A FUNDRAISING EVENT

Do you like to have people to your home?

- Host a weekend brunch, wine tasting or cocktail party.
- Make it themed: Super Bowl, March Madness, the Oscars, or tag it to a Port Washington tradition like Pride in Port. Contact the office at: (516) 767-2121 or info@portchest.org.

SAVE THE DATES

March 25, 2023 4th Annual Winter Run

April 17, 2023 Citizen of the Year Ceremony
(honoring **Curt Trinko** as the 48th recipient of the award)

May 22, 2023 Golf Outing at the *Village Club of Sands Point*
July 2021 (TBA) Port Washington-Manhasset Bay Kayak Run

MAKE AN EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT BY:

- Name the Community Chest as a beneficiary of your estate plan, life insurance policy or retirement plan
- Double your contribution by asking your employer about its **Matching Gift** Program
- Donate appreciated stock to avoid paying tax on the unrealized capital gain and get a charitable deduction equal to the fair market value of the stock
- Make a **qualified charitable donation** from your IRA or other tax-deferred retirement account

For securities transfer instructions or additional information, please email Bobby Keller: RKeller@portchest.org or call (516) 767-2121.