

THE People of PORT

SPRING 2021: ISSUE 6

News for Donors and Friends



PW CHILDREN'S CENTER COMMITTED TO THE BEST EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION

Port Washington Children's Center was busy over the winter months. The children rang in the New Year with a month-long celebration of kindness. Kicking off with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, followed by the Presidential Inauguration, and then concluding with Multicultural Book Day; the recurring theme was the power of tolerance, inclusion, and unity. Practice makes perfect. Both the children and the staff purposefully demonstrated acts of kindness towards one another every day of February. Then to serve as a reminder of the importance of kindness, the children made construction paper hearts which were hung in the windows facing Main Street, along with a giant quote inviting the rest of the world to join their celebration of kindness. The Children's Center also

“ Kindness is the mark we leave on the world.

introduced its first Lunar New Year Parade in February. Children marched around the Landmark on Main Street building to festive traditional music while carrying beautiful, hand-made, flying-dragon floats and Chinese-styled lanterns. Participants wore red and some even wore traditional qipao dresses or mandarin-styled suits. The children learned that 2021 is the Year of the Ox and feasted on dumplings, rice balls, candies, and tangerines. Gong hei fat choy! (or Happy New Year!)

Parents are applauding the Children's Center for their childcare and education efforts, despite the challenges this past year. *“The Children's Center has done a wonderful job ensuring our young children enjoy a safe, full 5 days with enriching activities throughout the pandemic. The teachers and staff adapted procedures seamlessly to comply with COVID protocols and have communicated with the Center's families on a regular basis. They also implemented excellent technology to allow for contactless check ins and the ability to communicate directly with the teachers, all while providing the*



Port Washington Children's Center participate in their first Lunar New Year parade around the Landmark Building on Main Street

same loving, safe and educational environment that my family has appreciated since 2014,” says Lauren, a mom of two in the Early Childhood Preschool Program. This March, the Children's Center was selected to be one of **five** programs out of 800 in New York State to showcase a portion of their program with lawmakers and the QUALITYstarsNY initiative. New York QUALITYstarsNY is NY State's voluntary quality rating and improvement system for early childhood care and education. Childcare centers who participate are committed to improving and

maintaining the highest standards of early childhood care as well as education. Programs use their results to receive individualized coaching, professional development opportunities and classroom materials. Through the power of Zoom, the toddler classes were able to share a morning with Assemblywoman Gina Sillitti and are looking forward to meeting NYS Senator, Anna Kaplan in the weeks ahead. Senator Kaplan and Assemblywoman Sillitti are both advocates for quality early childhood education.

NICHOLAS CENTER CELEBRATES 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

This year marks a decade of service for The Nicholas Center, an organization specializing in Autism support, vocational training, community partnership and peer connection. The organization has experienced a meteoric rise from its early days where the idea took root at Co-founder, Stella Spanakos' home. Today, the organization works with over 100 individuals in two locations on Long Island and Westchester and offers dozens of in-person and virtual programs via the remote platform, “Zoomiverse,” which took off during the Covid-19 shutdown in 2020.

In the fall of 2020, The Nicholas Center expanded to a 2nd location in Westchester County, NY. Executive Director and Co-founder, Nicole Sugrue, adds: *“For 10 years with partner, Spectrum Designs Foundation, we have addressed some of the most pressing issues facing the Autism community. Together, we have*

developed innovative solutions to drive transformational change, even during the greatest health crisis of our time — working to advance inclusion, bridge gaps in service disparities, and support the needs of people with Autism across Long Island...and now Westchester.”



The Nicholas Center is actively engaged with non-profit organizations and businesses in their communities forging mutually meaningful partnerships. Businesses are thrilled with these collaborations and enjoy their collegial relationships with the program

participants. During the Covid-19 pandemic, when the needs of Port Washington families increased, the Nicholas Center Navigator team joined the “Port Pantry Supply Squad” – a Community Chest COVID Relief initiative.

The Nicholas Center Navigators working with the Port Pantry Supply Squad to sort and bag items for delivery to local food pantries. Here they are in the Schreiber Gym, which stored the supplies in the early days of the pandemic.

The Navigators provide the leg work and volunteer corps to help with the provision of more than 600 bags of food and household supplies for hundreds of neighbors in need each week. The team is responsible for sorting, organizing, packing and

delivering the supplies to several food pantries in the community while picking up excess food from the JCC food bank in Roslyn. *“This program is very important. We like to help people in our community and by making the bags, we can provide them with items they need,”* says Alyssa, a Nicholas Center participant. The Nicholas Center team sings their favorite tune as they work: *“We're All in This Together,”* from the movie, High School Musical. Brooke Mellett, Director of Community Inclusion expressed her enthusiasm this way: *“Our mission at The Nicholas Center is to help individuals with Autism lead full and productive lives in the community. That we are participating in such a meaningful and unique way, showcasing the talents of our participants while also helping those in need in our community is in essence, living our mission out loud – it's extraordinary!”*

GIVE PORT WASHINGTON LIGHT & LOVE FUNDRAISER CELEBRATES THE COMMUNITY'S DIVERSITY

It began with a red lantern display in Manhattan's Chinatown and ended with \$35,000 in COVID-19 relief to support Port Washington restaurants and local families. Port Washington residents Jill Carvajal, Bin Hu Laurence and Diane Livingston brainstormed a major fundraising program around that red lantern light installation that Jill Carvajal had seen online.

The plan called for honoring Port's cultural diversity by celebrating the Lunar New Year with Port Washington's Asian community while lending a helping hand to Port's vulnerable families and restaurants, who were hit especially hard by the pandemic. The fundraiser — hosted and managed by the Community Chest — asked residents to sponsor red lanterns and purchase raffles for lucky red wishing ribbons (a Chinese tradition during the Lunar New Year) which were displayed and hung on trees at Sunset Park. London Jeweler's donation of a \$500 gift "coin" prize for the wishing tree raffle encouraged more residents to donate. (London Jewelers also made a cash gift of \$500 to the Give Port Washington Light & Love fundraiser.) The **Give Port Washington Light & Love** fundraiser was profiled in local papers and Governor Cuomo gave it a shout out in one of his daily email New York State Reimagine, Rebuild

and Renew briefings in February this way: "Tonight's Deep Breath Moment: This Lunar New Year, Port Washington, NY used the holiday's traditional red lanterns to raise money for those affected by the pandemic. Community members participated in the fundraiser by sponsoring red lanterns hung at Sunset Park. The donated funds go toward gift cards at local restaurants that are then given to help families in need. Organizer Jill Carvajal was inspired by similar lantern displays in Chinatown. With the help of her friends Diane Livingston and Bin Hu Laurence, they made it happen in Port Washington. The lanterns will stay up through the end of February."

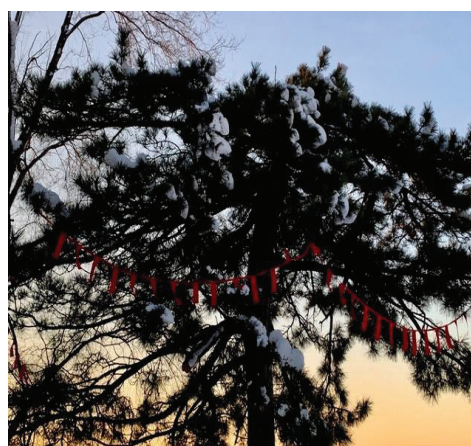
The social media fundraising program launched on January 23rd and ended one month later. The outpouring of support from over 400 donors is testament to the extraordinary generosity of this community who give — and then give again — to help their neighbors. This spring, proceeds were used to purchase \$35,000 worth of restaurant gift cards that are now being distributed to 400 local families who lean on food pantries and other community organizations for food and provisions. Every Port Washington restaurant was approached, and most are participating, with many offering

extras for the families by donating back more gift cards than were purchased. Diane Livingston, who spent over 100 hours connecting with Port Washington restaurant owners and whose moving social media posts on every restaurant giving back to the fundraiser have racked up thousands of comments, had this to say, "I have been humbled to work with so many extraordinary people who help spread love and kindness throughout Port Washington. Every restaurant has such a unique story and I've been honored to tell their stories. So many restaurants jumped aboard immediately — donating above what we purchased—I was in awe. What a positive experience for all!"

Community Chest Board Chair, Drew Hershkowitz was blown away by the success of this initiative: "We are grateful to be able to stand with the Asian-American community and together fight the effects of the COVID pandemic. The Community Chest is proud to be a part of spreading some Year of the Ox light and love in Port Washington."



Installation of Lantern display at Sunset Park on lower Main Street



Wishing Tree with red ribbons of hope

Note From the Executive Director



Hello. I hope this note finds you and your loved ones well. At the Community Chest we have completed one of the most difficult, surprising, and yet meaningful and successful years in our 72-year history. Last March, when it seemed that the whole world was imploding, the Community Chest convened community stakeholders and began conversations about how best to help Port's vulnerable residents; this morphed into the Port Washington COVID-19 Community Response Working Group. Weekly Zoom meetings were a novelty at the time; now most of us have had enough. Every participant in the working group brought professional resources to the table. Along the way, we partnered with foundations, charities, food banks, churches, companies, and anyone who offered to help. We created the Port Washington Mask Brigade, Helping Hands for Seniors, Port Pantry Supply Squad, Give Port Washington Light & Love and most recently, "Meat the Need." Grants for food, restaurant gift cards, rental arrears, laundry, transportation, diapers, and more were all possible because of your contributions. In this issue, we have printed a listing of the more than 200 volunteers who made these initiatives possible. I am in awe of all the work done by so many in the service of others. Whether it is mailing a check or donating your time, **YOU** make Port Washington a *community* because of your shared understanding of what it means to care for our neighbors.

Thank you,
Julie B. Meer

Executive Director

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

Aiko Sushi ♦ Aki Japanese Restaurant ♦ Amalfi Ristorante & Pizzeria
Ayhan's Mediterranean Marketplace ♦ Bagel Schmeat Bakery
♦ Baskin-Robbins ♦ Bistro to Go ♦ Bonsai Japanese Restaurant
Bosphorus Café & Grill ♦ Cactus Café ♦ Carlo's Pizza ♦ Carvel
Domino's Pizza ♦ Dunkin Donuts (Main Street) ♦ Dynasty of Port
Washington ♦ Finn MacCool's ♦ Frank's Pizzeria ♦ Gino's Pizza ♦
H on the Harbor ♦ Hickory's BBQ ♦ Hinck's Delicatessen ♦ Ikedo Ramen
La P'tit Framboise ♦ Let There Be Bagels ♦ Louie's Grille and Liquors
♦ Margaritas Café ♦ Mojito Café ♦ Mole Mole ♦ Narinatto ♦ New
Garden ♦ Pepe Rosso 24 ♦ Port Washington Diner ♦ Restaurant
Yamaguchi ♦ Smashburger ♦ Starbucks ♦ Subway ♦ Sullivan's Quay ♦
Tiga ♦ Toscanini Ristorante Italiano ♦ Tropical Smoothie ♦ Waterzooi
Wild Goose ♦ Wild Honey on Main ♦ Wings Plus Deli ♦ Yummy Gyo
Yummy Oriental

NEWS IN BRIEF

MEAT THE NEED: LATEST INITIATIVE LAUNCHED BY COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE WORKING GROUP



Jimmy, a Nicholas Center Navigators' team member helping with pickup at Valley Meats for local food pantry delivery.

In response to COVID-19's economic impact on Port Washington residents, The Community Chest of Port Washington, along with its partners in the COVID-19 Community Response Working Group, recently launched *Meat the Need*. This new initiative uses COVID-19 Community Response Funds to purchase chicken and meat in bulk and distribute it to local food pantries for use by hundreds of families in need.

In addition to providing legal assistance, securing rental arrears grants, acquiring paper and personal care products, and more, the Port Washington COVID-19 Community Response Working Group identified that low-income families were lacking a regular supply of chicken and beef. Our food insecurity volunteers, led by Sue Bishop-Copeland and Gail Seiden, regularly collect what non-shelf stable surplus food is offered by Long Island Harvest and Whole Foods. Most weeks however due to the

unpredictability of the donations, the pantries are still reporting a need for meat and chicken.

Jessica Feingold, the volunteer program coordinator for *Meat the Need*, works with the food pantries at Littig House Community Center, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Peter of Alcantara to determine weekly needs. "Valley Meat, who sells to us at cost, is an amazing collaborator," declares Feingold. "The Nicholas Center Navigators, our delivery partner for so many other COVID-19 relief efforts, picks up and delivers on an as-needed basis according to the weekly schedule." Community Chest Executive Director, Julie Meer gushes about what the COVID relief funds can do: "We are so grateful for the generosity of Port Washington residents who opened their hearts for their neighbors in need. Because of these donations, we can purchase meat in bulk at lower prices so donated dollars can purchase more meals."

GUIDANCE CENTER LAUNCHES NEW SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

It is a phone call the staff at North Shore Child & Family Guidance Center gets all too often: A parent is in despair, saying their son or daughter is experiencing severe depression, anxiety and thoughts of suicide. And the situation has worsened due to the COVID-19 virus. "The isolation brought on by the pandemic is hard on everyone, but it's especially difficult for young people," says Regina Barros-Rivera, Associate Executive Director at the Guidance Center, Long Island's leading children's mental health organization.

Sadly, suicide among young people is not a new problem. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the second-leading cause of death for Americans ages 10-24, with more teens and young adults dying from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, birth

defects and other major illnesses combined. This past September, the Guidance Center launched a new program, the Douglas S. Feldman Suicide Prevention Project, an expansive initiative that aims to tackle the epidemic of suicide among young people. "Through the Douglas S. Feldman Suicide Prevention Project, we will bring essential, life-changing services to the children and families in our community," says Elissa Smilowitz, who is heading up the new program. "We will address high-risk cases with a thorough evaluation for suicide risk; multiple weekly sessions of individual, group and family therapy; and a culturally sensitive treatment plan that focuses on safety strategies, healthy coping skills and relapse prevention." Evaluation with a psychiatrist regarding the possible use of medication will also be provided,

along with in-home treatment and referrals to programs and services that will support parents' efforts to protect their children. The Guidance Center will also provide educational forums and a suicide survivors' support group for those who suffer this tragic loss. Andrew Malekoff, Executive Director of the Guidance Center, says, "We are grateful to the Feldmans for enabling us to develop a suicide prevention initiative that will enhance our ability to reach young people who may see no way out from the despair they are feeling. It's a prime example of how our dedicated supporters (including the Community Chest) make a profound difference in the well-being of our community." He adds, "Join us in spreading the word to schools, community organizations and friends. Information is power, and this program can save lives."

Check out their blog at www.northshoreguidance.org or email NSCFGexperts@gmail.com for help.

PORT WASHINGTON SOCCER CLUB PROGRAMS UP AND RUNNING

The Port Washington Soccer Club (PWSC) successfully and safely restarted all of its programs in the Fall 2020 season, including its intramural training programs for children ages 3-9 as well as its travel soccer program, with boys' and girls' teams participating in regional soccer leagues and tournaments. This was after Covid brought all sporting activities to a halt in the spring of 2020. According to Lyle Stein, PWSC Board President, "While the pandemic presented novel challenges, the programs ran smoothly and safely with various Covid-19 protocols implemented." He added, "It was terrific to get the players out onto the fields for activities, skills training and to witness the social and emotional development that comes from participation in team sports."

While preparing for the season, U17 travel soccer

players, Jack Taylor and Christian Mendoza organized "Cleats for Kids". This initiative collected and distributed soccer equipment for players in financial need. Jack and Christian evaluated and cleaned the donated equipment that was handed out at a club event. PWSC takes great pride in this accomplishment; it was such a success that going forward they plan on supporting more initiatives like this one to help families in need. The PWSC does not turn any family away; it provides needs-based scholarships to players in all programs, to ensure that financial constraints do not prevent them from participating in the club's programs and travel teams. Those scholarships are supported, in part, through grants provided by the Community Chest.



Soccer Equipment handed out at the "Cleats for Kids" event. PWSC Spring is up and running and they are gearing up for Summer 2021.

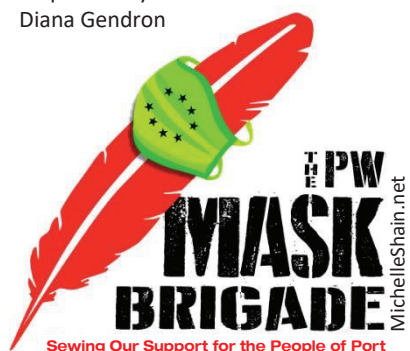
Thank You
Volunteers!

Port Washington COVID-19 Community Response Working Group

Nicole Asselta, *Port Washington Resource Center*
Lynette Batts & Jacob Dixon,
Littig House Community Center
Susan Bishop-Copeland
Trish Class, *formerly, Port Washington Parent Resource Center*
Mariann Dalimonte, *Town of North Hempstead*
Julie Epstein, *Port Washington Union Free School District*
Detective Tony Guzzello, *Port Washington Police*
Nora Johnson, *Port Washington Union Free School District*
Keith Klang, *Port Washington Public Library*
Mario Martinez & Mercedes Alvarez,
Port Washington Community Action Council
Elise May, *Port Washington Crisis Relief Team*
Peggy O'Hanlon,
Port Washington Public Library ESOL Coordinator
Hope Pecullan, *Port Washington Parent Resource Center*
Shelly Persaud, *Helping Hands for Seniors*
Gail Seiden, *Port Washington Crisis Relief Team*
Rob Seiden, *Port Washington Crisis Relief Team*
Kathy Somerville, *Our Lady of Fatima*
Lourdes Tagliatela, *St. Peter of Alcantara*

Port Washington Mask Brigade

Michelle Bazzini	Jessica Griffin	Betsy Liegey - Coordinator
Susan Bishop-Copeland	Beth Horn	Diana Lupoli
Nancy Burke	Michele Hyde	Kiki Maddison
Christina Byers	Natalie Johnsen	Emma Mahon
Carol Condon	Dilia Kamensky	Joan Marinann
Lydia Cotronis	Joan Kendall	Jacinta Pisano
Danielle Dayan	Kelley Keyes	Amalia Rather
Zani Denton	Amanda Klein	Susan Rosenberg
Linda DeMeo	Mary Alice Kohs	Ann Sachs
Vicki Engel	Tracy Lefkowitz	Julie Schachter
Noelle Faure	Jo McGinty	Sima Shore
Stephanie Flynn	Karen Miller	Therese Siegel
Diana Gendron	Karen Moore	Barbara Silbert
		Spectrum Suds
		Renee Swanson
		Danielle Tane
		Valerie Taylor
		Gail Wagner
		Jane Walsh
		Sandy Wilding
		Francesca Zahner



COVID-19 Community Response Fund Community Chest of Port Washington Oversight Committee

Nancy V. Cowles
Drew Hershkowitz, Coordinator
Michele Hyde
Joel D. Ziev Ed.D.

The Community Chest thanks the extraordinary volunteers who stood by their neighbors during this past year of incredible challenges, helping our most vulnerable in their time of need. We are so VERY grateful! Thank you for being one of the *People of Port, Helping the People of Port.*

Helping Hands for Seniors

**Laura Mogul,
Coordinator**
Javiera Arenas
Baltic Family
Brian Barr
Kalpana Bhandarkar
Meena Bose
Carillo Family
Carrie Cheung
Mariann Dalimonte
Ellen Dean
Elise Delaney
Cristina Di Meo
Boyan Doytchinov
Ann Marie Fitzpatrick
Christine Frankel
Marlene Friedberg
Ilise Friedman
Francine Furtado
Jay Gelb
Ben Goodman
Gail Gutenplan
Sue Hershkowitz
Daria Hoffman
Heather Hurt
Suzanne Kolen
Stuart Kroll
Betsy Liegey
Ethan London
Stephanie Lorber

Holly Marvin
Carole McDonald
Gilmour
Pam McDonough
Erin Molyneux
Karen Moore
Satish Nagrani
Ben Ollendorff
Pam Ollendorff
Samuel Palmero
**Shelly Persaud,
Coordinator**
Raju Rajan
Marivic Restivo
Tricia Rosso
Alex Scardigno
Becky Schamis
Lesley Siegel
Mara Silverstein
Paige Silverstein
Erika Stehl
Alexandra Trinkoff
Lauren Welter
Young Family

Meat the Need

**Jessica Feingold,
Coordinator**
Nicholas Center
Navigators & Brooke
Mellett
Elias Moraitis,
Valley Meat Center

Independent Fundraisers

Ava Anderson
Christopher Dawes,
Grill Shack
Payal Doshi
Cynthia Littman,
Mom Time Events
Madelaine Reis
Emily & Zander Stern
Smusht Ice Cream
Sandwich
Ugly Biscuit Baking
Company

Port Pantry Supply Squad

**Kalpana Bhandarkar,
Coordinator**
Kevin Bordeman,
Raindeew Family
Centers
Maria Branco
Patricia Carbo
Claire Dorfman
Heather Edwards,
Allied Foundation
Julie Epstein
Tara Funk
Palmer, Fletcher & Wells
Furtado
**Francine Furtado,
Coordinator**
Edna Keeney-Bailey
Josh Kirshner
Kim Lichtenstein
Nicholas Center
Navigators & Brooke
Mellett
Sylvie Nouel-Russo
Pam O'Connell
**Pam Ollendorff,
Coordinator**
Jeff Rembrandt,
Community Synagogue
Jim Ristano,
Port Washington Union
Free School District

Seth Russo
Becky Schamis
Sam Schamis
**Danielle Tane,
Coordinator**

Legal Team

Bob Harnick
Ken Magida
Debbie Mishan
Harvey Mitnick
Ralia Polechronis
**Fred Pollack,
Coordinator**
**Rob Seiden,
Coordinator**
Mike Siris

Laundry Love

Maureen Peraza

Food Insecurity

Susan Berman, Sid
Jacobson JCC
**Susan Bishop-Copeland,
Coordinator**
Michael Copeland
Boyan Doytchinov
John Jakobowski,
R Best Produce
Father John Lardas,
Archangel Michael
Greek Orthodox Church
Karen LaSoursa,
Long Island Harvest
John Maher
Sylvie Nouel-Russo
Seth Russo
Doug Super
Paula Super
Temple Beth Israel Food
Insecurity Forum
planning committee
Town of North Hempstead
drive-in movie night
drop-off food donation
Lauren Welter
Whole Foods, Manhasset

Give Port Washington Light & Love

**Jill Carvajal,
Coordinator**
Chloe Carvajal
Tyler Huang
Shanata Huang
Win Kinney,
Port Washington Water
Pollution Control District
**Bin Hu Laurence,
Coordinator**
Ian Laurence
Meiling Laurence
Marisa Li
**Diane Livingston,
Coordinator**
Sydney Livingston
Yutong Wang
Andy Zhang
Zilin Zhang

Vaccination Appointments

Roberta Cooperman
Lainie Leber
Ethan London
Laura Stulbaum, NYIT Medical
Outreach Program: Covid-19
Vaccine Assistance

Donors of PPE & other Supplies

Julie Epstein
Richard Frankel
Kornhaber Dental Group
Kraus USA
PM Pediatrics

DONORS TO THE PORT WASHINGTON COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND MADE IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE

DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR OF

Ellen & Richard Fox
Ellen Fox
Riley Funk
Kathie & Arie Kovant
Marianne Vecsey

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF

John Bodkin
Arnold & Erna Carlson
Michael J. Henchy, Sr.
Sherman Landwehr
Vincent Mastropolo
Ann R. Ocker
Jack Orros
Carole Pedicini
Morgan Quigley
Patricia Sessler
Syd Siegel
Shirley Zacharius

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WAYS
TO
GIVE

MAKE AN **EVEN MORE**
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- 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
 - Donate your IRA's required minimum distribution
- For securities transfer instructions or additional information, please email Julie Meer at jmeer@portchest.org or call (516) 767-2121

SAVE THESE DATES

May 24, 2021 Golf & Paddle Outing <http://bit.ly/CCPWGolfRacquet>

November 25, 2021 Thanksgiving Day 5 Mile Run