THE **People of PORT**

News for Donors and Friends



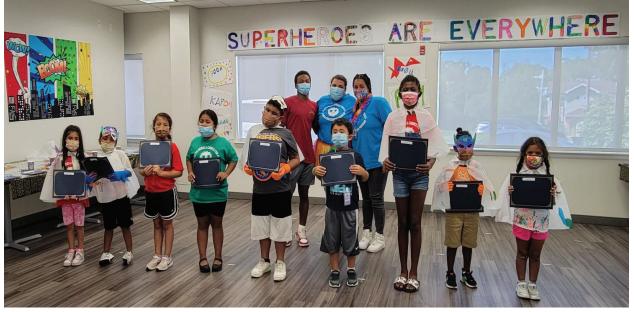
COMMUNITY CHEST HIRES EXPERIENCED **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

WINTER 2022: ISSUE 8

After an exhaustive search, the Community Chest has hired non-profit executive and Port Washington resident Robert Keller as its new Executive Director. He brings extensive non-profit and foundation management experience to the job, most recently as Executive Director for National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), the Queens/Nassau chapter. Prior to that, he was President of the National Grid Foundation. According to Drew Hershkowitz, Community Chest Board president, "Bobby is the ideal professional to help us build on our rich history of service to the nonprofit community. With his help, I believe that events like our Thanksgiving Day Run, initiatives like our COVID-19 relief fund and grants to more than 25 non-profits will continue to bring our community together as we emerge from the pandemic." Keller has served on numerous nonprofit boards, including Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory's Corporate Advisory Board, Project GRAD Long Island, the Cradle of Aviation, and the Long Island Works Coalition, to name a few.

"I am thrilled to join the Community Chest as its new Executive Director and look forward to building on its incredible record of care and support for the people and non-profits of Port Washington," said Keller. "I am genuinely impressed with all the Community Chest has done for Port Washington, and I can't wait to help this organization continue to meet the evolving needs of our community."

As of December 31, 2021, COVID-19 RELIEF GRANTS TOTAL = \$329,500:	
Rental / Legal Assistance	\$111,500
Port Pantry Supply Squad	\$ 91,100
(includes diapers & feminine hygiene products)	
Food Assistance	\$ 84,400
(shelf stable food & restaurant gift cards)	
Meat the Need	\$ 34,600
Laundry Love	\$ 3,600
Transportation Assistance	\$ 3,000
Mask Brigade	\$ 1,300



The youth at the Littig House Summer Enrichment Program performed with their original superhero powers and qualities based on books read over the summer. This is part of the Storytime Theater Program with Elise May, a teaching artist; where the program's focus is bringing stories to life through a literary, artistic, sensory, and an imaginative environment supporting *literacy and boosting self-esteem!*

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR 2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS WHO ARE RECEIVING \$324,000 IN FUNDING. WE APPLAUD THEIR EFFORTS TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF PORT! **GENERAL OPERATING**

Littig House Community Center **Nicholas Center for Autism** North Shore Child & Family Guidance Center Plant a Row for the Hungry, PW Port Counseling Ctr; A Division of LI Reach **Port Summer Show Port Washington Adult Activities Ctr** Port Washington Teen Center (the PiT)

The Safe Center LI & CAPS at the Safe Ctr

SCHOLARSHIPS

Community Scholarship Fund of PW Girl Scouts of Nassau County Landmark on Main Street **Police Athletic League (PAL) Port Rowing** Port Washington Boy Scouts Troop 7 **Port Washington Children's Center Port Washington Soccer Club Port Youth Activities (PYA)**

SPECIFIC PROGRAM GRANTS

Helen Keller National Center/Destiny Home LGBT Network/Project Oasis LI Alzheimer's & Dementia Center/Respite Program LI Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependency (LICADD) /HERE Program Port Washington Community Action Council/College Tour Port Washington Parent Resource Center/Outreach Program ReWild Long Island/ Summer Climate Change Program Science Museum of Long Island/ Embracing Nature

The following nonprofit organizations receive assistance through below market rate rent as tenants in the Community Chest building at 382 Main Street:

Over 1,400 residents are receiving some form of continuing COVID relief support.

Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation • Art Loft of Port Washington • Long Island Traditions • Nicholas Center for Autism • Residents Forward • Twin Pines Community Thrift Shop • PW Community Action Council/EOC

COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Port Washington Community Scholarship Fund (the "Fund") is currently accepting scholarship applications from the class of 2022. The scholarship—a one-time award is designed to help further postgraduate education and career training. Scholarships are awarded for technical (non-college), two-year and four-year college programs. The Fund has been awarding need-based scholarships to graduating Port Washington high school seniors for

over seventy years. Costs for year when so many awful things institutions higher of continue to rise faster than inflation and the Fund has seen the number of applications rise in recent years. Every dollar raised by the Fund is given out succeed in their future endeavors and to worthy students. The class of 2021 believe that whatever is invested in was awarded 12 scholarships totaling over \$20,000 and the level of award ranged between \$500 and \$2,500. Both students and their parents are eternally grateful for the help; as one only raise more money for more parent put it: "It was a Godsend in a awards but also increase the size of

learning happened." The selection committee (Fund Board of Directors) is made up of residents who have an interest in helping Port Washington students

these young people is being repaid many times over. Because the students' families have increased expenses, the board is trying to not

individual awards. Currently there are open board positions. For information about donating, joining the board or student applications contact interim president, Robin Schroeder at septapw@aol.com.

To download a pdf of the scholarship application instruction letter go to https://bit.ly/PWScholarshipApp

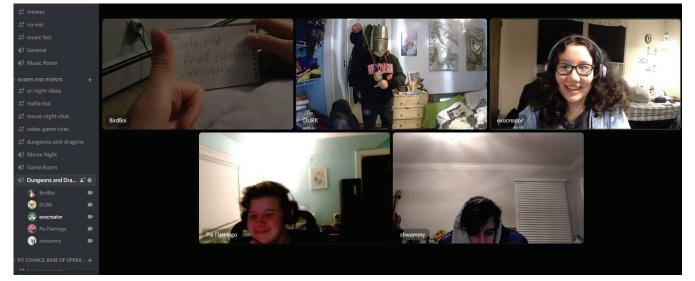
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COMMUNITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO REGISTER GO TO <u>WWW.PORTCHEST.ORG</u> AND CLICK ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT BAR





Teens virtually hanging out and playing Dungeons and Dragons through a program at the Port Washington's Teen Center

TEENS BEAT BACK THE COVID BLUES AT THE PIT

The PiT (Port Washington's Teen Center located at the Landmark on Main Street community center) battles back the COVID-19 blues every Tuesday night during the school year. Eight to ten teens go on virtual quests to fight dragons and "level up"¹ magic spells—all in the comfort of their own homes. Paul D. Schreiber High School Junior, Thea Smith, has created her own Dungeons and Dragons (DnD) campaign and runs it every Tuesday night on the PiT's Discord Server² for Port Washington teens to join in fantasy game playing. Thea explained, "Dungeons and Dragons is the ultimate form of storytelling." Thea is the DM (or Dungeon Master) who sets up The setting and background while PiT players become the main characters. Thea continued, "Through DnD

night I've made some new friends; people who like DnD as much as I do. A few are not in my grade." For many young people, Discord is the only on-line place where they can connect with friends and really feel like they are "hanging out" with them.

Mike Donnelly, PiT Director is proud of the creativity of his PiT members, stating, "Dungeons and Dragons night embodies what the PiT is all about: empowering Port Washington youth to create fun and healthy activities that they are passionate about." And Mike and his trained staff are always there in background, supervising the without hovering to ensure our teens are safe. Other PiT Discord groups include: Jackbox, Super Smash Bros and movie night. Find them at ThePiTatLandmark.org.

¹In games derived from Dungeons & Dragons, an accumulation of a sufficient number of experience points increases a character's "level" or a number that represents a character's overall skill and experience. To "level up" means to gain enough experience points to reach the next level.

² Discord is a free voice, video, and text chat app that's used by tens of millions of young people ages 13+ to talk and hang out with their friends. The PiT's Discord server is an invite-only space for PiT members to spend time together.

Supportive relationships with friends and family, sleep and physical activity contribute to better mental health outcomes among teens during COVID-19.

GUIDANCE CENTER WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR



2021 Summer saw new beginnings at North Shore Child & Family Guidance Center, as it welcomed Kathy Rivera as its new Executive Director, upon the retirement of Andrew Malekoff in June. Nancy Lane, former board president who worked with Malekoff for 30 of his 45 years of service, remarked: "Over his many years, Andy has provided compassionate, expert care to children and families. His advocacy work and dedication to ending the stigma and discrimination surrounding mental illness is unmatched."

Kathy Rivera joins the Guidance Center after 14 years at the Jewish Child Care Association. where she was Senior Vice President of Care Management Services. Her experience at this child multi-service welfare which provides agency, comprehensive social services to children and families makes her a perfect fit for the Guidance Center. Paul Vitale, the current Board President said, "We are confident that Kathy will provide the strong leadership, experience and vision the Guidance Center needs to move into the future."

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hi, this is Bobby Keller, and I am thrilled to join the Community Chest as your new Executive Director. Though here just a few weeks, I am excited to join my friends, neighbors, and those of you I have yet to meet as we work together to build on this organization's 73-year record of care and support for the people and non-profits of Port Washington. I am genuinely impressed by all of you who continue to make donations to support our work, volunteer at our events, and serve on our Board.

What makes the Community Chest an organization like no other is the ownership each of you takes in our success because you recognize that together we make Port Washington a better place for all to live. Whether it's helping to fund those non-profit organizations who help define the character of our community or your generous support for our COVID-19 relief fund, or volunteering at events like Thanksgiving our Day Run, together, we help to chart our community's future.

In joining the Chest, I bring nearly two decades of experience in nonprofit management and corporate foundation expertise. In the coming months, I look forward to applying my knowledge, building on the incredible work that Julie Meer carried out during her tenure.

I look forward to sharing more about the people we help, as well as our volunteers and Board members, in coming issues, so that you come to know all those who work to make Port Washington the special place that it is. My hope is that their stories will inspire more of our fellow residents to support our work, volunteer with us, and maybe one day join our incredible Board of Community stewards.

Kathy Rivera, the Guidance Center's new Executive Director/CEO

Thank you for being one of the *People of Port Helping the People of Port !*

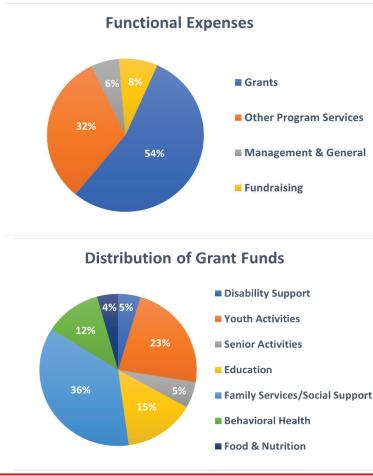
In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people suffering from mental illnesses has increased to a point where the mental health "crisis" has become its own epidemic. Parents with children up to 18 years old who are concerned that their children may have anxiety, depression or other mental health concerns should reach out to NSCFGCexperts@gmail.com or call (516) 626 -1971.

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IMPACT

LEADERSHIP SHIFT AT THE LANDMARK COMMUNITY CHEST OPERATIONS





Richard Mayer, Landmark on Main Street's new Executive Director

Leadership and strategy at the Landmark on Main Street are shifting this season. Laura Mogul, the Executive Director of the Landmark for the past six years has stepped down and Richard Mayer, a New Orleans theater professional has been hired to lead the Port Washington non-profit. The original founders of Landmark dreamed of enhancing the "spirit of community," and in its new leader, they found someone who is experienced at bringing together the community and government to support and encourage artistic expression.

Richard is an experienced live theater producer and artistic direct or. Much of his theater work

has been in New Orleans, serving either as artistic director, associate producer, or executive director of various organizations. While at the Old Marguer Theatre (formerly the Shadow Box Theatre), Richard received the Times-Picayune Theatre Person of the Year award for community leadership. Mayer started at the Landmark on Main Street in September of 2021.

In enumerating the Landmark's new strategic thinking, Landmark Board Co-President, Marlene Munnelly stated: "In addition to the maintenance of our legacy programming, our the revitalization goals include programming to reflect demographic shifts, theater upgrades and updates and a revamping of our branding and marketing." Executive Director Mayer said, "Our legacy supporters will continue to have access to performances they love and at the same time Landmark is creating a new menu of music and other offerings to attract younger Port Washingtonians." He continued, "I'm really looking forward to getting to know the people of Port Washington and surrounding communities."

A CONVERSATION WITH COMMUNITY CHEST EXEC DIRECTOR, BOBBY KELLER

deeper into what he's thinking regarding the Chest. **Interviewer**: So, Robert, you've been at the Community

Chest for one month now, how are things going? Keller: Please, call me Bobby. I won't lie, it's a lot. The Community Chest does so much for the People of Port, and I don't want to let any balls fall. Right now, we are getting ready for the 2022 Winter Run ["Spring Edition"] on April 9th and prepping for the new grant cycle. Interviewer: What is the "new grant cycle"?

Keller: Non-profit organizations that received funds in 2021 are required to submit grant reports in February. We review those and tabulate the outcomes. And grant applications for funding in 2023 are due in March, so we're getting the paperwork ready now.

Interviewer: How many applications do you expect to receive?

Keller: It's hard to say...we expect higher than normal numbers because of the impact of the pandemic on our community, especially on our non-profit partners. What I do know is that we'll have to raise additional funds to accommodate their needs. In fact, in a normal year, we receive requests for support that are up to 35% higher than our funding capacity, so I have to believe that our non-profit community will need even more help.

Interviewer: Are you planning on adding or changing any fundraising events?

Amazing examples of this generosity come from Alpers True Value Hardware (and its annual Karmacue) (both of whom donate a portion of their profits to us). Also, there is a group of guys in Port who run a fantasy football League and NCAA March Madness tournament and donate all the fees to the Community Chest.

Interviewer: That's wonderful. Other than events, how does the Chest raise money?

Keller: We do direct mail solicitations; social media requests and we have close relationships with many donors that we reach out to by phone.

Interviewer: How are you planning on building relationships with donors?

Keller: Our donors are incredibly passionate about Port Washington, and they recognize that for this community to remain the special place that it is, we must support the non-profits that change so many acknowledge that our donors work incredibly hard for their money, and they deserve to know that their donations are invested in non-profits that are So, in essence it's important for our donors to know efficiently managed and provide impactful programming focused on improving our community. Washington has to offer and I hope this encourages That said, I hope to build on what Julie [Meer, the them to join us as volunteers and perhaps eventually

In January, we sat down to speak with Keller, to delve donate the proceeds to the Community Chest. things that we think are so obvious to the community are not actually so obvious. For example, our donors know that we have a Board, but many probably don't and Smusht Ice Cream Sandwiches and Ugly Biscuits realize that our Board members are all Port Washington residents! Each of them has a life here and a stake in this community that he or she loves like each of you. In fact, as part of my efforts to get to know the Chest, I am in the process of meeting with each of our Board members and I am truly amazed, by the level of commitment each of them makes, to keep this community a special place. Not only do they serve on this Board, so many of them also share their time and talent with our schools, service organizations and places of worship and have tremendous insights into the needs of the people who live here.

> This is especially important for our donors to know when they ask themselves, how well does the Community Chest know the needs of this community? We can answer with a great deal of pride, that our Board comes from and understands this community lives each day. At the same time, it's very important to and they constantly interact with their friends and neighbors who share their thoughts and concerns about Port Washington's needs

> > that the Community Chest reflects the best Port

Keller: The pandemic has altered how everyone is doing business; the Chest is no exception. For example, we've moved the Winter Run to April, to take advantage of milder temperatures. So, in that way we're changing the event. As we move past the pandemic and get back normal or whatever normal maybe in the future, I think it's important for us to maintain our lineup of events some of which are treasured community activities. For example, our Thanksgiving Day Run, which was a great success this year, is an activity that brings families together and has become part of their Thanksgiving traditions.

My goal is to get more community members involved as volunteers and participants this year to help us all come together as a community push past the pandemic and embrace events that make Port Washington a special place. Speaking of what makes Port Washington so special, I am truly amazed by the generosity of our community members who hold their own events and

former ED] has designed at the Chest. I'm going to to serve on our Board one day.

follow in her footsteps by continuing to communicate Finally, we need to put a face on this organization, so newsletters and adding more on-line content, so stay tuned for that!

I also want our readers to get to know our donors by about their lives and why they love our community as much as they do. I also want to profile our nonprofit partners each issue, so all our donors understand the critical role that each of our funded

organizations plays in helping to make Port Washington the special place that it is. Finally, I'd donations in action by taking them on site visits. donors to know about the Community Chest? **Keller:** You know, we're all so busy that sometimes

the impact our donors make through these I'm going to literally put our faces and stories on our website, and I'll be profiling our Board members and volunteers in upcoming issues. I want our "Community Chest investors", to get to know the highlighting those who support us; we can share a bit people who are working hard on their behalf to invest their donations wisely and to have confidence that they know this community as well as they do. Interviewer: Given your relative newness to town, what are your impressions so far?

Keller: What an amazing town you have here. I'm impressed with how dedicated our donors are and like to invite donors to see the power of their how this community comes together to help its most vulnerable residents. I've written thank you Interviewer: That's a lot. Is there anything you want letters to donors who have donated to the Community Chest every year for 5 decades. Now that's dedication!

GIVING

PAGE 4

Major Donors to the Annual Campaign January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

\$70,000 +

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Cohen Family Anne & Vincent Mai Mr. & Mrs. Martin M. Metz Harry & Anne Otterman Spivack Family Pam & Larry Tarica

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SAVE THESE DATES

April 9, 2022 Winter Run, Spring Edition (5K) June 13, 2022 Golf Outing

July 2022 (Date TBD) Port Washington-Manhasset Bay Kayak Run

MAKE AN EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT BY:

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- Doubling your contribution by asking your employer about its Matching Gift Program
- Donating 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
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- Making a qualified charitable donation from your IRA or other tax-deferred retirement account

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

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