**Community Chest of Port Washington**

**382 Main Street Ste 105**

**Port Washington, NY 11050**

**516-767-2121; info@portchest.org**

**ORGANIZATIONAL FACT SHEET**

**Mission**

The Community Chest of Port Washington is a non-profit organization established in 1949 to raise and distribute funds to charities dedicated to improving the Port Washington community for all residents, exemplifying the spirit of **The People of Port Helping the People of Port.** It also offers below market rent to charities dedicated to improving the Port Washington community.

**Background**

The Community Chest of Port Washington is one of the oldest nonprofit organizations in Port Washington. It was established in 1949 to consolidate fundraising activities for a handful of local agencies, including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the Village Welfare Society. Within a few days of its charter, three new charitable organizations were added to the roster: St. Francis Cardiac Sanatorium, Community Santa Claus and the Police Athletic League. Its initial fundraising goal was set at $39,870. The Community Chest of Port Washington is part of a long tradition of collaborative fundraising for social services. While for many people the words “Community Chest” conjures up the board game Monopoly, it was the game that took the term from the charitable community.

\*\***Today, the Community Chest of Port Washington distributes funds to 28 nonprofit organizations and its annual fundraising goal is $375,000.** Through these organizations, donations to the Community Chest help to fund social, heath and educational and other services for Port Washington residents in-need.

**Funded Organizations**

**The 2019 grantee organizations are:**

* Child Abuse Prevention Services
* Community Scholarship Fund of PW
* Girl Scouts of Nassau County
* Grassroots Environmental Education – *Dodge Farm*
* Helen Keller National Center – *Destiny Home*
* Landmark on Main Street Inc.
* Littig House Community Center
* Long Island Alzheimer’s Foundation
* Manhasset Women’s Coalition Against Breast Cancer
* North Shore Child & Family Guidance Center
* Parent Resource Center - *Outreach Program*
* Plant a Row for the Hungry, PW
* Port Counseling Center: A Division of Long Beach Reach
* Port Rowing
* Port Summer Show
* Port Washington Boy Scouts
* PW Community Action Council EOC Inc.
* Port Washington PAL
* Port Washington Soccer Club
* Port Washington Children’s Center
* Port Washington Youth Council (The “PiT”)
* Port Washington Senior Citizens Center
* Port Youth Activities (PYA)
* The Safe Center LI
* St. Francis Hospital Foundation – *Cancer Fund*
* Senior Community Services Center – EAC Inc.
* Spectrum Designs Foundation
* Twin Pines Community Charitable Thrift

In addition to raising money and distributing grants we also provide office space in the Harold E. Mertz Building (at 382 Main Street—across from the town dock) at below market rates to nonprofit organizations helping them achieve their missions. We currently have 11 tenants.

**Organization Activities**

*Annual Campaign (October 1 – September 30)*

While originally conceived to raise money from September to December only, the current fundraising campaign is year-round. We solicit our donors and perspective donors through direct mail beginning in October and our “last ditch” letter goes out in summer. Once a donor contributes, they are not solicited again until the next campaign year.

**Volunteer Opportunities**: When letters are being printed and sorted, we often need additional office help to complete the mailings.

Donations from direct mail solicitations provide the largest funding to the campaign; sponsorships and donations for our events add the rest.

*Thanksgiving Day Run - November 28, 2019*

The Thanksgiving Day Run is a 5-mile run held in a loop within Port Washington on Thanksgiving Day each year and is our largest fundraising event of the year. The number of participants is capped at 3,000. We had nearly 3,000 participants in 2016.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We have a Thanksgiving Day Run committee that meets about 5-6 times per year. The committee sets policies and procedures. Opportunities abound for work on this committee: writing, organizing, sponsor relations, design, supervising, fundraising, marketing, and administrative. There are also needs for pre-event staffing (Tuesday, Wednesday) and day of race staffing help.

*Port Washington Winter Run - March 9, 2020*

The Winter Run is a 5-mile run held in a loop along the eastern shore of the Port Washington peninsula and our 1st annual race was held in 2019.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We have a Winter Run committee that meets about 5-6 times per year. The committee sets policies and procedures. Opportunities include writing, organizing, sponsor relations, design, supervising, fundraising, marketing, and administrative. We need pre-event help and day of race help.

*Citizen of the Year – April 20, 2020*

The Citizen of the Year award and ceremony was established to honor individuals and organizations that have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service and contributions to the community. While technically not a fundraiser, the Citizen of the Year event does make some money from the Journal created to honor the recipient. The public is invited to the event and it is free of charge.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We need people to help with the event itself: ordering and picking up cake, cookies, and fruit as well as paper goods. We also need people to help set up and clean up on the day of the event.

*Karmacue – May 17, 2020:*

Karmacue is a BBQ/street Fair-type event sponsored, organized and presented by Alper’s Hardware. It is not a Community Chest event. As we receive 100% of the net proceeds, we provide volunteer staffing throughout the day to ease the paid staffing burden for Alper’s Hardware. Irma Avenue is blocked off (at Main Street) for the event.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We need volunteers all day from Set Up to Clean up: from 8am to 5pm. Volunteers staff the Community Chest tent and any other stations that Alper’s needs help with (children’s crafts, games, music and food).

*Golf Outing - June 1, 2020*

This event runs from breakfast through lunch and ends at about 3pm.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We need volunteers to help with acquiring sponsors (creating an attractive/effective Sponsorship package), recruiting golfers, obtaining raffle prizes and gifts for players, working with the Village Club of Sands Point, developing the raffle program, invitations and other printed materials. Volunteers could be part of the Golf Committee or not. We also need help on the day of the event to register the players, sell raffle tickets, provide instructions where necessary, help with the raffle, give out prizes and player giveaways etc.

*Port Washington/Manhasset Bay Kayak Run – Summer 2020*

The Kayak run is a community activity; the date is only set when we know what the tide levels are. The event provides an opportunity to explore Manhasset Bay via kayak. The Kayak Run is a family event open to kayakers of all skill levels, with check points along the way to qualify for prizes. It’s not a race and all are welcome. This year’s course will be more than six miles but there is no requirement to complete it.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We need volunteers to help get raffle prizes, staff the various check points on the bay and help with registration and organization on the day of the event.

**Miscellaneous Volunteer Opportunities:**

The Community Chest has a lean staff for a good reason. We function as a “middle-man” and therefore need to keep our overhead as low as possible. We do not have paid staff to handle many functions and therefore have general needs in: web site design and upkeep, writing press and social media. In addition to event committees as noted above, other committees of the Board of Directors are public relations & marketing, finance & audit, nominating & board development (a.k.a. “governance”), Campaign (direct mail fundraising) and Building.