

The People of Port

News for Donors and Friends



Record Breaking 50th Anniversary Thanksgiving Day Run



Councilwoman Dalimonte is joined by Rallye CEO Julianna Terian, women's race winner Lola Gitten and Chest ED Bobby Keller

It was a Thanksgiving Day Run for the record books! Our 50th Anniversary run had it all, with almost 3700 runners, over \$200,000 raised and our favorite runner Bobby Anastasia running in his 50th consecutive Thanksgiving Day Run.

On a windy Thanksgiving day morning on Manorhaven Blvd. was filled with the cheers of spectators and the rhythmic footfalls of 3,700 participants, ranging from elite runners to multi-generational families. As the golden anniversary of the event, the 2025 race was not just a competition but a vibrant homecoming for a community that has turned a morning jog into a half-century legacy of philanthropy.

The tradition traces its roots back to 1975, born out of a community crisis. After the local school budget was voted down, residents Walter and Betty Bingham, along with local runner Steve Lubar, founded the race as part of the first S.O.S. (Save Our Sports) Program to fund student athletics.

One of the most remarkable highlights of the 50th anniversary was the participation of Bobby Anastasia,



a local runner who successfully completed his 50th consecutive run, having never missed a single year since the event's inception—not even during the legendary 1989 blizzard. His perseverance mirrors the enduring commitment of the Community Chest to the town's welfare.

Competition was fierce for the landmark anniversary, with the top spots claimed by standout local athletes. William Schimitsch of Little Neck secured the overall victory and the first-place male title with an impressive clock time of 26:54, maintaining a blistering pace on the rolling hills of Sands Point. On the women's side, Port Washington's own Lola Gitlin captured the top female finish, crossing the line in 30:38.

Beyond the medals and personal bests, the 50th annual run solidified the Community Chest's role as a vital safety net. The funds raised through registration fees and sponsorships contribute to over \$350,000 in annual grants distributed to organizations providing daycare, senior services, and food assistance to more than 7,000 residents.

As runners headed home to their Thanksgiving feasts, the success of the 2025 event served as a powerful reminder that in Port Washington, the holiday is defined by the "run" and sustained by the "giving."

After 50 years, the TDR has grown to become a multi-generational family tradition.

FROM THE ED'S DESK



Greetings,

As we leave winter behind, we're excited to look ahead toward the spring and summer seasons! We have a great lineup of Community Chest events coming up, including our annual charity golf outing in June and the Kayak Run in July. Inside this issue, we celebrate our record-breaking 2025 Thanksgiving Day Run and introduce you to our 50th Citizen of the Year honorees, the Alper family. We're also proud to announce that we've received CANDID's coveted Platinum designation, a distinction achieved by less than 1 percent of all U.S. charitable organizations. You'll also find tips on how to give wisely following the new tax changes and an update on the fantastic work being done by the Nicholas Center's "Port Provides" program. This is also our chance to recognize the incredible generosity of our community by publishing our annual major donor list. We hope to see you very soon—until then, stay well!

*Best Regards,
Bobby*



The Community Chest of Port Washington will host its Annual Charity Golf Outing on **Monday June 15th at the Village Club in Sands Point.**

Be on the look out for early bird pricing specials and details about this year's outing. For sponsorship information please call us at 516-767-2121 or email us at info@portchest.org

MEET OUR 2026 CITIZENS OF THE YEAR: THE “ALPER FAMILY” A CENTURY OF SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP



On Monday evening March 23rd the Alper family was honored at a ceremony at the Port Washington Public library attended by over 100 community members, elected officials and first responders.

For more than 115 years, the Alper family has exemplified integrity, hard work, and community commitment in Port Washington. Their multigenerational legacy—rooted in Alper’s Hardware & Paint—is closely tied to the town’s growth and civic life. From Sam and Mary Alper’s arrival more than a century ago to Adam and Brian’s leadership today, the Alper family has become an enduring neighborhood institution. Their business has thrived by evolving alongside the town, and their steadfast volunteerism has strengthened the organizations and values that define Port Washington.

To learn more about their contributions to our community, please visit the Community Chest website to read their family biography at www.portchest.org

ANNOUNCEMENT: CANDID PLATINUM RECOGNITION

THE COMMUNITY CHEST EARNED A CANDID PLATINUM SEAL OF TRANSPARENCY ON GUIDESTAR

We’ve Hit Platinum! The Community Chest has been awarded the Platinum Seal of Transparency by Candid (Guidestar). A Platinum rating on Candid is the highest level of transparency. It signifies a top-tier commitment to accountability, held by fewer than 1% of organizations, providing Chest

donors with the highest level of confidence that their donations are being managed wisely. For more information about GuideStar and its non-profit rating system please visit:

<https://candid.org/blogs/a-look-at-organizations-that-have-earned-guidestar-seals-of-transparency/>.



The Nicholas Center Provides: A Community Partnership That Continues to Grow

In March 2020, as COVID-19 began impacting local families, the Community Chest formed the **PW COVID-19 Community Response Working Group** to address urgent needs among vulnerable residents. The organization launched the **COVID-19 Community Response Fund** with an initial \$100,000 and, thanks to generous support from neighbors, raised an additional \$218,000 to provide emergency grants for food, housing assistance, and essential supplies.

As the pandemic intensified, many residents faced isolation, reduced income, and limited access to basic necessities. In response, the Community Chest created the Port Pantry Supply initiative. Volunteers coordinated bulk purchases of paper goods and personal care items—including diapers, feminine care products, toilet paper, detergent, and soap—packed them into reusable bags and distributed them through local food pantries in partnership with community and faith-based organizations. Together, these efforts helped ensure that families across Port Washington had access to the essentials they needed during a challenging time.

After several months of operating the Port Pantry Supply program, many volunteers began returning to work. However, the PW COVID-19 Community Response Working Group had come to understand the persistent, underlying needs faced by so many in the community. Continuing the program was essential to supporting these ongoing needs. The decision was also made to expand the program to include the distribution of meat and poultry to vulnerable neighbors facing food insecurity.

To keep the program up and running, **The Nicholas Center** stepped in to sort, organize, and deliver supplies to community partners. The Nicholas Center supports young adults on the autism spectrum to learn life skills, improve social and communication abilities, gain vocational training and supported employment, secure jobs, and participate in meaningful community projects.

With the support of **The People of Port Helping the People of Port**, the Community Chest assisted more than 1,400 Port residents who were directly affected by the economic impact of the pandemic or whose needs became more visible when the community came together to support underserved neighbors. In 2022, The Nicholas Center volunteered to take on the funding and administration of the program by launching **Port Provides, Powered by The Nicholas Center**.

Over the past four years, the program has grown and evolved into **The Nicholas Center Provides**. Today, it serves more than 2,500 individuals through its food bank service. The program costs approximately \$240 per participant per year, or about \$34,000 per month for meat, diapers, and essential products alone. In the most recent fiscal year, the program purchased and distributed 38,400 pounds of meat, more than 8,500 packages of diapers, 26,589 units of cleaning supplies, and 28,089 units of personal hygiene products, including soap, toothpaste, adult and children’s toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, and feminine care items.

Beyond providing significant and measurable support to those in need, approximately 70 Nicholas Center participants receive vocational skills training in the day-to-day operations of The Nicholas Center Provides program. These individuals have gained self-confidence and formed meaningful bonds with food pantry staff and fellow participants. They understand the value and impact of their work, which gives them a strong sense of purpose and self-worth.

“Our participants understand the importance of their work helping vulnerable Port Washington residents. The spirit of neighbors raising up neighbors is at the heart and soul of our organization – which strives to integrate adults with Autism into our community in fulfilling ways,” said Nicole Ferrara, Executive Director and Co-Founder of The Nicholas Center.

The Nicholas Center continues to fundraise for the TNC Provides program to purchase items and food for distribution. The Community Chest supports these efforts through funding provided by its annual grant program.



SMART GIVING: MAXIMIZING YOUR IMPACT IN THE NEW TAX LANDSCAPE

Donors to all charities are asking how the 'One Big Beautiful Bill' (OBBB) Act affects their ability to give. While tax laws evolve, the heartbeat of Port Washington—our community's needs—remains the same. Your generosity is the lifeblood of the programs that keep our town thriving. As you continue to show up for your neighbors, we want to help you navigate these changes so you can maximize your impact while getting the most out of your tax benefits."

Here are four smart strategies to consider as you plan your giving for 2026:

1. The "Deduction for Everyone"

Even if you don't itemize your taxes (and about 90% of people don't), you can now get a direct tax break for your generosity. Starting this year, **non-itemizers** can take an "above-the-line" deduction of up to **\$1,000 (individual)** or **\$2,000 (joint)** for cash gifts made directly to public charities like the Community Chest.

2. The SALT Cap Unlock

Great news for Port Washington homeowners: The State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction cap has officially risen to **\$40,400** for 2026.

- **The Strategy:** Because you can now deduct more of your property and state taxes, you are much more likely to benefit from **itemizing** your deductions. This means your gifts to the Chest could provide a larger tax-saving "punch" than they have in years.

3. Beating the "0.5% Floor" with Bunching

A new rule for 2026 requires itemizers to "clear a floor" before deductions kick in. You can only deduct charitable gifts that exceed **0.5% of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)**.

- The Strategy: If your annual giving is close to that floor, consider "Bunching" two years of giving into one. By making a larger gift this year (perhaps through a Donor-Advised Fund), you clear that floor easily and maximize your tax savings.

4. The QCD: The "Gold Standard" for Seniors

If you are **70½ or older**, the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) remains the most tax-efficient way to give. You can transfer up to \$108,000 directly from your IRA to us.

- The Benefit: This money is never taxed as income, so it bypasses all the new caps and floors entirely. It's a win-win for you and the community.

For more information, please read the National Philanthropic Trust's July 2025 article "Navigating Charitable Giving in the Wake of New Tax Reform". <https://www.nptrust.org/philanthropic-resources/philanthropist/navigating-charitable-giving-in-the-wake-of-new-tax-reform/>. We also recommend consulting with your financial advisor to see which of these strategies fit your 2026 goals.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Port Washington Children's Center. "Anchored in Community" Event May 6th, 2026
<https://forms.donorsnap.com/form?id=1c6baa6a-135d-4c5c-bfa7-b67717c268c9>



Stand or Success: Comedy Night Event May 20, 2026
<https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E354146&id=72>



Residents Forward Gala –at Manhasset Bay Yacht Club June 4, 2026
<https://residentsforward.org/about/upcoming-events/>



The Art Guild: Art Summer Camp- June 29 – August 21, 2026
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DUEFtjTEU0k/>



Science Museum of LI-Summer Camps- June 29 – August 21, 2026
<https://www.sml.org/summercamp>

FOLLOW THE CHEST ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO WIN 2 ENTRIES TO OUR 2026 THANKSGIVING DAY RUN

Join us! Keep up with the latest Chest news by following us on Instagram, Facebook & LinkedIn. Get up to 3 chances to **win two free Thanksgiving Day Run Race entries** by following us on all three. Scan the QR Code to follow us. Winners will be announced in our next Newsletter!



THANK YOU! FOR SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY CHEST

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JANUARY 1, 2025 -
DECEMBER 31, 2025

The Community Chest warmly thanks
the many donors who have chosen to
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gifts make a difference!



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