

**We hope you had a HAPPY HOLIDAY!
We wish you a PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!!**

"New Year – a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately we write it. The choice is ours." – Alex Morritt

We are so thankful for those who supported our Holiday Assistance Programs!

Sunshine's goal each year is to help families who were going through various challenges that include: job loss, homelessness, substance abuse, separation and other situations that make this time of year harder for them.

We began in the early fall collecting names of families who could use a little extra support this year and started reaching out for help for our Adopt a Family Program, Toy and Food Drives, and Holiday Meals donations.

We were able to brighten the holidays for more than 25 families, which included about 30 adults and 60 children and teens with this support!!!

We appreciate each and every one of you!!!

Sunshine would not be able to do all the work we do for and in the community during the holiday/winter months if it was not for our Financial Supporters.

We want to recognize those who so graciously **gave to us financially this season** to help Sunshine continue to "brighten the future" for families:

**Knapp/Swezey Foundation Inc.
Roanoke Sand and Gravel
Port Jefferson Lions Club
Long Island Charities Foundation -
(Hank and Kate Heissenbuttel)
Lois and Sharon Cox
Frank and Dory Barker
Bob Cohen - Board President
Nancy Campo - Board Member
Liz Kotseas DeLucia-Board Member
Joanne Wilson - Board Member
Linda Sanders - Board Member
Rich Bylott - Board Member
Frances Campani - Campani & Swarting - Board Member**



Our Adopt a Family Program supported 19 families which consisted of 32 adults & 49 children/teens.

Each supporter was provided with a specific family, names of the family members and a wish list of items they needed. The supporters would then shop for the items, wrap them and deliver them to Sunshine for the families to pick them up. Besides shopping for items from the wish list, many of the supporters also provided families with warm clothes, blankets, towels, toiletries, groceries and much more!

Thank you to all our Adopt a Family Supporters:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lois and Sharon Cox Tracie Morley Shannon Pousson & Thump Local Employees John Dima and Family Ashley Merron Diane Rooney and the staff at Merrill Lynch-Smithtown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharon and Rick Cebulski Judi Searage & Family – The Giving Tree Jennifer Veltman & employees at Zurich Insurance Alexa Gold and Family Margo Abrams and Staff from Little Rascals Learning Center Lainie Goldberg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livia Benedetto Jade Albert Danielle Pliakis Patti Kelly/Barker Arnika Edwards - SBU Baseball Team - Head Coach Matt Senk Community Housing Innovations - Medford
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Thank you to the **Port Jefferson Lions Club** members for all their hard work and dedication to the community and their support to Sunshine this Holiday Season!!

9 Families from Sunshine totaling 30 children, teens and adults attended the annual Christmas Magic Holiday Party on December 16th at the Setauket Fire Department. The families enjoyed a delicious breakfast, entertainment and music and a special visit from Santa Claus who surprised the children with gifts!!

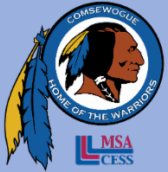
*This day was truly magical, thanks to all the Lions Club members, **Linda Eicholz, Lenny Scolaro, Rick Giovan and all of the PJ Lions Club members!!!***





Sunshine was so happy to start off our holiday celebrations supporting a wonderful organization, **Gabriel's Giving Tree** at their **Family Fun for the Holidays** event at the Scully Estate in Islip.

The families enjoyed face painting, delicious food, caroling, a story from the Friends from Sunshine Center puppets, and a special visit from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.



Sunshine would like to thank the **Boyle Road Elementary School 5th grade students and their teachers, Nicole Taormina and Deborah Foster** for their donation and continued support!!

The students earned "Kindness Bucks" by doing good deeds at home. With the "Kindness Bucks", they paid it forward and bought wrapping paper, candy and other gifts for our Holiday Store.

For many reasons we were not able to do a staff dinner this year, so the students and staff surprised us with a special pizza lunch which was a wonderful treat for us all this holiday!

Thank you all so much for your support and generosity!!



Sunshine would like to extend a **BIG THANK YOU** to the students from the **STONY BROOK ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT** for the **VERY GENEROUS DONATION** of personally made and crafted 75 warm blankets and cuddly stuffed animals for our families!!!

Each blanket had a special birth certificate and personally designed letter for the recipient. We were able to share these blankets with our students, evening participants, and many other families.



The Teen Service Department (headed by *Emily Ostrander, Teen Librarian*) from the Emma Clark Library in Setauket donated brand new pajamas of all sizes which we were able to share with many families in need.

Sunshine would also like to thank the **Three Village Community** who were the major contributors to this project.



Thank you to

Melissa Monfreda, Julia Cavonna

and the Middle Country School District Community

for the generous donation of new and gently used coats.

Melissa started the coat drive at the Newfield High School by creating flyers and posting them around the school and putting them in local mailboxes. She then organized a drop off area for the coats and would pick them up weekly. Over 50 coats of all sizes were then delivered to Sunshine which we were then able to share with Sunshine families and individuals from the local community.

We appreciate all of your hard work which truly made a difference in many lives!!!



Sunshine's December Program Updates

Sunshine Alternative Education Center



Our academic calendar was packed with holiday activities this month! We have been hard at work completing units in history, math, and science so we can start fresh in the new year. In English Language Arts, students have been excitedly reading "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." Everyone has been very invested in the storyline, and participation was HIGH this month! The unit culminated with a project choice board, which was well-liked by all.

We were lucky this month to be able to bridge the gap between several core subjects with a trip to the **Garvies Point Museum**. Besides learning about the history of Long Island, we also found out all about the rock and fossil records, clay around our Island, and activities enjoyed by students of the past.

Decembers **PEACE (Prevention Education and Cultural Enrichment)** topic was **diversity**. Students worked on understanding the differences in themselves and others. They worked on projects and participated in activities revolving around appreciating cultural diversity.

We had guest speaker **John Martin from the Department of Health** who worked with us on implied improv. This helped us share our uniqueness while building community cohesion.

The program continues to have a waiting list, with some students moving on and others coming in. We welcomed a new student from Longwood school district and are in the process of accepting a student who is from the Middle Country school District.

We are all looking forward to a relaxing and rejuvenating holiday break. When we return, Regents prep for January exams will be in full swing, and there will be just a few short weeks left in the second quarter.

SUNSHINE AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Districts refer students to Sunshine Alternative for a variety of reasons (substance use, anxiety, attendance issues, behaviors, lack of motivation, learning disabilities that are hard to address in a larger setting, emotional disabilities, and more)

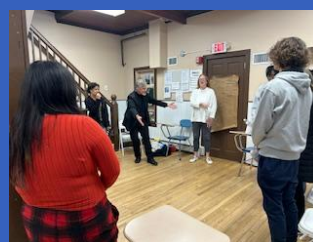
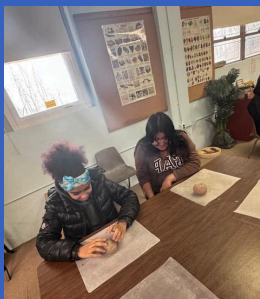
For over years Sunshine has been utilizing various techniques and strategies from Restorative Justice to help work through these challenges, build relationships and work through conflicts, including PEACE circles, Talking PEACE and staff development.

This past year Sunshine began introducing more strategies when Dr. Carter was trained as a "trainer" through the **International Institute of Restorative Practices**. The use of restorative practices helps to reduce crime, violence and bullying, improve human behaviors, strengthen civil society, provide effective leadership, restore relationships and repair harm.

Sunshine's prevention/mental health staff, academic staff and administrative staff are all utilizing these strategies to build a healthy environment and teach the students these valuable skills for life. Since this is an alternative setting, we have more flexibility and opportunities to work through challenges, resolve conflicts, and build relationships. But being a smaller setting also holds many challenges too. All staff have to buy in to this philosophy and do their part to help make a difference. Students must also be willing to participate as this is the biggest and most important component to the program's success.

Sometimes more time each day is spent working through challenges than actual academic time. But our belief and understanding is, the more we build on these positive skills, the more we will see the academic improve. These are valuable skills for life and skills we hope these students will take when they leave our facility. We teach them that we cannot change others, but we can change ourselves and how we respond to others. When they leave Sunshine and go back to larger schools, to a job setting or into the community, they have to take these skills with them. And this will help them be successful in their future, in their work, school or families.

[If you are interested in learning more about what we do at Sunshine Alternative, we would like to invite you for a site visit. Click here to email Dr. Carter to set up a time to visit.](#)



Evening Programs Updates -

SafeKids, Youth/Teen Leadership Social Skills, Support Groups

Building and Reinforcing positive social skills and social emotional learning for children ages 5 through teens. Each age-appropriate group provides a parent/guardian support component.

In December our night groups PEACE topics focused on gratitude and diversity. We used creative projects and games to learn about different cultures and perspectives. We also learned about giving back and helping others in need.

We finished the month with a pot luck dinner together thanks to the Boyle Road Elementary school for sharing their cafeteria with us so all our families could all come together. We enjoyed delicious food, creative crafts, holiday singing, and fun dancing.

Registration is underway for the new year. We will be opening a third group, thanks to the support of the local school districts and agencies who are referring many families to our program.

Whether a child is struggling with friendships or challenges at school, or parents just need a little support and guidance, these programs may be just what you are looking for!

Each program is designed to build on positive social skills/social emotional learning for the whole family.

Children are divided into age-appropriate groups and are involved in fun and creative activities that reinforce the PEACE (Prevention Education and Cultural Enrichment) topics. The parents/guardians also meet during this time and are learning ways to better help themselves and their children in all of these areas.

[Click here if you would like to register](#)



We appreciate all of our 2023 Supporters!

We'd like to take the opportunity to send a heartfelt thank you to all the families, businesses, agencies, and financial supporters



United Way of Long Island



Shane's Kindness

GOT KINDNESS? PASS IT ON.



Ronald McDonald House Charities®
New York Metro



Frank J. Antun Foundation



Rotary  Port Jefferson
Established 1937

Service Above Self

Port Jeff Rotary is proud to support the work of local organizations

Serving the Port Jefferson, Port Jefferson Station & Mount Sinai Communities

Most Tuesdays at 12:15 PM at Cafe Spiga, Mt. Sinai
Monthly evening meetings at various locations
Interested in attending? Contact us!
Visitors welcome

portjeffrotary.org    @portjeffrotary



BECAUSE IT TAKES MORE THAN FOOD TO FEED THE HUNGRY

Long Island Cares INC

The Harry Chapin Regional Food Bank
licares.org



GOLD Supporters, Financial Supporters, Grants

- Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine

Local Business, Agency, School Supporters

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- Suffolk County Youth Bureau
- Brookhaven Youth Bureau
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- Assemblyman Steve Englebright
- Legislator Kara Hahn
- Councilman Jonathan Kornreich
- Councilwoman Jane Bonner
- Roanoke Sand and Gravel
- Knapp/Swezey Foundation
- Frank J. Antun Foundation
- Port Jeff Lion's Club
- Ridgewood Savings Bank
- Lois Cox & Sharon Cox
- Frank & Dolores Barker
- Long Island Community Foundation
- Patti Kelly/Barker
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Port Jeff Rotary Club
- Linda Sanders and Michael Lockhart
- Jane Guido Foundation, Inc
- Local IBEW 25
- Plumbers Union # 200
- Long Island Charities Foundation
- Shanes Kindness Foundation
- Parker-Hannifin Foundation
- Home Depot Selden - The Home Depot Foundation
- Long Island Cares

Personal Donations

- Lois & Sharon Cox
- Tackett and Dalske Families
- The Barker Family
- Craig and Chris Cox
- Linda Sanders/Lockhart Family
- Nancy Campo
- Joanne Wilson
- Bob Cohen
- Rich Bylott
- Liz Kotseas DeLucia
- Warren & Kimberly Beitel
- Alestra Family
- Bambrick Family
- Byers Family
- Pliakis Family
- Milazzo Family
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- Elissa Trusnovac
- The Mapes Family
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- Dawn Frick
- Bloomfield Family
- Keith Brandow
- John

- Consolidated Ennergy
- SC Department of Labor
- National Waste Services
- Pat Davis Technical Support
- Ohara & Company and Henry DeBlasi Accountants
- Lamb & Barnosky
- Sterling Business
- LI University/CW Post
- SC Department of Health
- SC Probation Department
- Child Protective Services
- Mt. Sinai Congregational Church
- Stony Brook University
- DASH
- Department of Social Services
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Department of Health
- Family Service League
- WellLife Network
- Suffolk Intensive Case Management (SCIM)
- EAC
- SC Department of Labor
- Legal Aide Society
- Stop & Shop Community Bag Program
- Shore Construction
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Boyle Road Elementary
- PSEG Outreach
- KS Mechanical
- O'Brien Insurance
- TomKat Business Solutions
- Donlon Brothers Heating and Cooling
- Pure H2O
- Staples - Port Jefferson
- All County Pavement Maintenance
- Usher Plant Care
- Long Island Cares
- Long Island Advocacy
- Long Island Volunteer Center
- Jefferson's Ferry
- Mike Contino/Contino Landscaping
- Ashley Home Store
- Linda Johnson - Chocology Unlimited
- Brookhaven Irrigation
- Shyla Silva-Shyla Cares
- Scrap Happy Quilters
- Caroline Woo
- Zion Lutheran Church
- Rick Weaver - Transform
- ShopRite - Port Jeff Station
- AGAPE Meals for Kids
- Project Hope
- Rise Life Services
- Brookhaven Asphalt
- Suffolk Credit Union
- It's Time Restoration
- Geico Foundation
- Buttercup Dairy Store

SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

**Comsewogue, Middle Country, Longwood,
Sachem, Bayshore, William Floyd, Pat/Med, Central Islip, Miller
Place Amityville, Hauppauge, Eastport South Manor and Three Village
School Districts**