



**Happy New Year to All!**

**We hope you had a HAPPY HOLIDAY!**

**Wishing you a year filled with prosperity and peace!**

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

Sunshine's goal each year was to help families who were going through various challenges that includes: 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, Holiday Parties, Toy and Food Drives, and Holiday Meals donations.*

*We appreciate each and every one of you!!!*

**THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OF OUR SUNSHINE SUPPORTERS!  
WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT 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 Supporters.**

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



**Roanoke Sand and Gravel**  
**Lois and Sharon Cox**  
**Port Jefferson Lions Club**  
**Port Jefferson Rotary Club**  
**Long Island Charities Foundation -**  
**(Hank and Kate Heissenbuttel)**  
**Linda Sanders**  
**Ken Combs-Consolidated Fuel**  
**Keith Brandow**  
**Joanne Friedman**  
**Pamela Kiernan**  
**Scott & Vincent Muller**  
**Carol Davis-Wiebelt**  
**Patty Kelly/Barker**  
**Liz Kotseas DeLucia**

Thank you so much to the Sunshine Staff who dealt with disruptions in the regular schedule every day to help decorate our facility, plan holiday events, submit information for the newsletter, bring in and deliver gifts, and much more!

I could not have done all of this without you!!

Mary Bartol  
Sharon Cebulski  
Holly Colomba  
Nancy Forestiero  
Amber Ayala  
Donny Forestiero

Beth Zani  
Christine Won  
Nicole Corrao  
Paul Rodriquez  
Jennifer san Inocencio  
Kurtis Hall  
Tabetha Swertfeger

See all of our 2024 Sunshine Supporters below!

We are so grateful to the **Port Jefferson Lions Club** members who started off the holiday season, delivering over 100 Thanksgiving Food Baskets, which included several of Sunshine families.

Thank you also to  
**Shyla Cares and Ro Doscher**  
for also providing meals to Sunshine families.



All of these meal baskets were made with love and care and included, the holiday trimmings, desserts and of course a delicious turkey or gift card.



Our **Adopt a Family Program** supported **12 families** which consisted of **24 adults & 30 children/teens.**

11 Families, businesses and organizations "adopted" a specific family for the holiday. From holding parties to picking specific items to buy, each group put special touches, love and kindness into this! Each supporter was provided with 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, gift cards, groceries and much more!

Thank you to all our Adopt a Family Supporters:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tabetha Swertfeger - <i>Read Between the Lines Book Club</i></li> <li>• Mary Sharp</li> <li>• The McMath Family</li> <li>• Thump Local LLC</li> <li>• Benedetto Family</li> <li>• Little Rascals Learning Center</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eric Swertfeger/BINDER Inc.</li> <li>• The Diaz-Hanes Family</li> <li>• The Suchdeve Family</li> <li>• Tracie and Dan Morley</li> <li>• Jennifer Veltman/Zurich Insurance</li> <li>• Elizabeth Kotseas DeLucia</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

Some of the supporters are pictured below:



Jennifer Veltman  
Zurich Insurance



Tracie Morley



Derrick  
Thump Local



Deepa Suchdeve



Halle Abrams  
Little Rascals



The Swertfeger family



*A thank you from one of the families...*

*I wanted to express my deepest gratitude for your kindness and generosity in sponsoring my family during a challenging time. Your support made a significant impact on our lives.*

*The summer program was an incredible experience, and I'm so grateful to have been a part of it. I hope many more children will have the opportunity to enjoy it in the future.*

*Please extend my thanks to your grandson as well, for sharing your time and resources with families in need. Your selflessness is a blessing to many.*

*May Jehovah God continue to bless your program and expand its reach, touching the hearts and minds of even more people. Your kindness has made a real difference in our lives, and I'm grateful.*

*Thank you again for your compassion and generosity.*

Thank you to the **Port Jefferson Lions Club members** for continuing all their hard work and dedication to the community and their support to Sunshine through the Holiday Season!!  
Each year Sunshine families are invited to a very special "**Christmas Magic**" celebration!

**11 Families from Sunshine totaling 25 children and teens and 16 adults**

attended the annual Christmas Magic Holiday Party on December 14th at the **Clinton Ave School in Port Jefferson**. The families enjoyed a delicious breakfast, entertainment and music and a special visit from Santa Claus who surprised the children with gifts!!

Thanks to **Amber Ayala and Donny Forestiero** for giving of their time to provide transportation for some of Sunshine families and support the event.

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





Thanks so much to our generous  
Toy and Food Drive Supporters



Chick-fil-a Port Jeff Station Sabrina Verdecanna and Staff from Wellbridge Addiction Treatment Center,  
Alexa Gold, Jade Albert, Judi and Mark Searage

The supporters planned and organized toy, food and gift drives in fun and creative ways (parades, parties, fun events) to support Sunshine families. They donated hundreds of items, including toys, food, gifts, warm coats, gloves, hats, books, games, toiletries and more! We stocked the Blessing Box and Food Pantry with some of these donations and also set up a "holiday store" for families to come in and "shop" for various items. The Sunshine Holiday Store was able to provide gifts for over 50 more children, teens and adults.

This generous support allowed Sunshine to provide toys, clothes and gifts to families from local agencies including:

**New Hope Rising, Inc.**

- Hope House Ministries,
- Community Housing Innovations (CHI) Medford



Pictured above: Sabrina Verdecanna - Wellbridge Addiction Treatment Center



Sunshine would like to send a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to **Ruth and Stan at Chick-fil-A in Port Jefferson Station** for organizing the Toy and Gift Drive during their Festival of Lights event on Dec. 13th. What a great turnout it was and so much fun for all who attend the event! We appreciate all our their support throughout the year!

Ruth and Stan have been so generous in providing lunch for our students and staff monthly! We all LOVE Chick-fil-A and appreciate this yummy treat!!



We would also like to thank **Ruth and Stan** for the VERY GENEROUS FINANCIAL DONATION!! They have been so supportive this past year to Sunshine and we appreciate all that they do for us!





## Sunshine would like to thank the Comsewogue School District

for their continued support in so many ways including: donations of food, plowing our driveway, use of their building for family events, support for our staff development and more!

Pictured below: Students from Ms. Foster's 5th grade class learn and experience different holidays and traditions through stories and food hosted by Sunshine Alternative Students and Staff



## Our guest this month in our school program was Love on Leash LI - Pet Therapy Program.

The students loved learning about each dog and how they provide comfort to others and they even got to have time to pet them and interact with the dogs and their owners. We appreciate all their support!!



Community Collaboration



Special **THANKS** to **JOHN DIMA**  
from **It's Time Renovations**

for the pizza, desserts, and panera luncheon he provided for the Students and Staff! Everything was delicious and we really appreciated it!

*We also appreciate all he does for  
**SUNSHINE** throughout the year!*

Sunshine mission is to collaborate with other schools, organizations and agencies to promote the importance of prevention. We were happy to start off our holiday celebrations supporting

**Gabriel's Giving Tree, LICADD and FIST**

at their **Family Fun for the Holidays** event at the Scully Estate in Islip.

The families enjoyed face painting, delicious food, and a special visit from from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

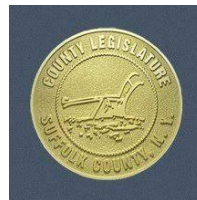
Thanks to Mia and Saida from Longwood HS for volunteering their time to paint faces with holiday designs!





**We appreciate all of our 2024 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



**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 Café Spiga, Mt. Sinai  
Monthly evening meetings at various locations  
Interested in attending? Contact us!  
Visitors welcome

[portjeffrotary.org](http://portjeffrotary.org)    @portjeffrotary



## **GOLD Supporters, Financial Supporters,**

### **Grants**

- Town of Brookhaven Supervisor & Town Councilmembers
- Town of Brookhaven Parks Department - Commissioner Ed Morris
- Suffolk County Youth Bureau
- Brookhaven Youth Bureau
- Senator Mario Mattera
- Councilman Jonathan Kornreich
- Councilwoman Jane Bonner
- Roanoke Sand and Gravel
- Knapp/Swezey 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
- Plumbers Union # 200
- Long Island Charities 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
- Pliakis Family
- Carol Davis-Wiebelt
- Ken & Elizabeth Combs
- Jay Hart
- Susan Blake
- Keith Brandow
- John Dima
- Jeanne Cox
- Adrian Clarke
- Sharon & Rick Cebulski
- Carol Ann Guerriero
- Joan Strong-Gleason

## **Local Business, Agency, School Supporters**

- Donoghue Printing Company
- 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
- Stop & Shop Community Bag Program
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Boyle Road Elementary
- KS Mechanical
- O'Brien Insurance
- TomKat Business Solutions
- Staples - Port Jefferson
- Usher Plant Care
- Long Island Cares
- Long Island Advocacy
- Long Island Volunteer Center
- Mike Contino/Contino Landscaping
- Brookhaven Irrigation
- Shyla Silva-Shyla Cares
- Scrap Happy Quilters
- Rick Weaver - Transform
- Suffolk Credit Union
- It's Time Restoration/John Dima
- Geico Foundation
- Buttercup Dairy Store
- Shawn Kean/Olde Towne Gardens
- Chick-fil-A PJS

### **SCHOOL DISTRICTS:**

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