

HEADLINES 2.2025



Contents

Featured Stories

Events

Programs

Media Coverage

Social Media



Featured Stories



Realizing Her Potential through YouthBuild

Nancy, a single mom, unemployed, and high school dropout found United Way of Long Island's YouthBuild program at a critical point in her life. Before YouthBuild, Nancy felt discouraged with limited English proficiency and educational trajectory. That's when a friend referred her to YouthBuild.

She dreamed about a career path in cosmetology, that would also allow Nancy to express her creativity while making other people feel more beautiful and confident. With YouthBuild's support she learned to trust in her abilities and navigate through barriers to achieving her goals. When Nancy realized her potential, she became more resilient.

Upon graduating YouthBuild, Nancy attended Long Island Beauty School to earn a cosmetology certificate and secure a job. She also became fluent in English. Nancy's YouthBuild experience changed the trajectory of her future.

Nancy has referred others to YouthBuild so they can receive the same support to make their dreams a reality too.

CompanySpotlight nationalgrid



National Grid has been a steadfast partner of United Way of Long Island, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the community through workplace giving campaigns, volunteer efforts, and program support.

Their generosity and dedication have helped advance key initiatives that empower families, strengthen neighborhoods, and create opportunities for a brighter future across Long Island.



POWER UP!



YOUTHBUILD




PROJECT WARMTH





Events

Presenting Sponsor:

Bethpage 

Federal Credit Union

We care about what you care about.®

JUNE 18, 2025 • 11:30AM-2:00PM

Crest Hollow Country Club, Woodbury, NY

HONOREES



EDUCATION • HEALTH • FINANCIAL STABILITY
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**ANTHONY J. STUPORE MEMORIAL
VOLUNTEER CHAMPION**

LYNDA J. HULLSTRUNG
PARTNER, DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

CORPORATE CHAMPION

MAGNACARE™

LABOR CHAMPION



**UNITED TOGETHER
CELEBRATION**

UNITED FOR GOOD • UNITED FOR IMPACT • UNITED FOR COMMUNITY



The holiday season was shining a little brighter for 125 children facing hardship, thanks to a generous donation from Sands New York to United Way of Long Island. The funds provided children from EAC Network and Family & Children's Association, Housing Help, and United Way's YouthBuild program, the opportunity to shop at Target in Westbury, spreading holiday cheer to those who need it most.

This initiative ensured children experienced the magic of the holidays in a meaningful way. On December 11, volunteers from Sands New York and United Way of Long Island accompanied the children during their Target shopping experience.

"We are so grateful to Sands New York for their incredible generosity," said Theresa Regnante, President and CEO of United Way of Long Island. "This partnership exemplifies the spirit of giving and community, promising these children a holiday to remember. Their smiles are the true testament to the power of compassion."



United Way of Long Island Receives Major Gift from Sands New York to Spread Holiday Joy to 125 Local Children



The initiative highlighted the importance of corporate philanthropy in fostering stronger communities. By supporting YouthBuild and collaborating with EAC Network, Family & Children's Association and Housing Help, Sands New York demonstrates a commitment to enriching lives across Long Island.

"The holiday season is about bringing people together and creating moments of joy. At Sands New York, we're honored to partner with United Way of Long Island to bring smiles to children's faces and share in the true spirit of giving," said Tracey Edwards, Senior Vice President and Corporate Social Responsibility Officer for Sands New York. "Our team of volunteers was deeply moved by the resilience of the children and families we met, and this experience reminds us of the power of coming together as a community to make Long Island a place where everyone feels supported and valued."

"It was an incredible experience for our team at Nassau Coliseum to be part of this event. Partnering with Sands New York and United Way of Long Island allowed us to contribute in a meaningful way, and seeing the children's faces light up made it all the more rewarding," said Joe Zino, General Manager of Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. "It was a powerful reminder of what the holiday season is truly about."





TEAM MISSION UNITED CONQUERS 2024 TCS NEW YORK CITY MARATHON RAISES OVER \$44,000 FOR LONG ISLAND VETERANS

The TCS New York City Marathon represents the best of New York—when all New Yorkers come together to support each other and cheer on their neighbors. For the eighth year, United Way of Long Island was selected as a charity partner for the 2024 TCS New York City Marathon. United Way of Long Island’s Team Mission United runners finished the 26.2- mile course, raising over \$44,000 in support of U.S. military veterans and their families on Long Island. Every runner has their own unique story for why they run.

“We couldn’t be prouder of all the work our runners have put in throughout these past twelve months,” said Theresa A. Regnante, President and CEO of United Way of Long Island. “Our veterans across Long Island are collectively grateful for Team Mission United’s support to live healthy and productive lives and build brighter futures.”

Thank you Team Mission United, Premier Veteran Supporter Sands New York, and all our sponsors for helping United Way of Long Island connect veterans and their families to local services and resources that provide the support they deserve.

**If you’re looking to join Team Mission United in 2025, visit
www.unitedwayli.org/TMURaceApplication**



UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

presents



**FUNNY
BUSINESS**

AN EVENING FILLED WITH PUNCHLINES & PROFESSIONALS
Benefiting Long Island Veterans and Their Families

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025
6:30 - 10pm • Showtime is 8pm

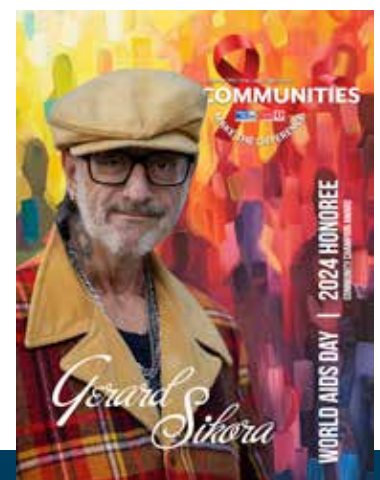
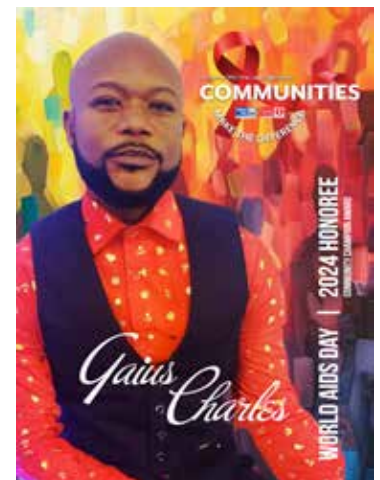
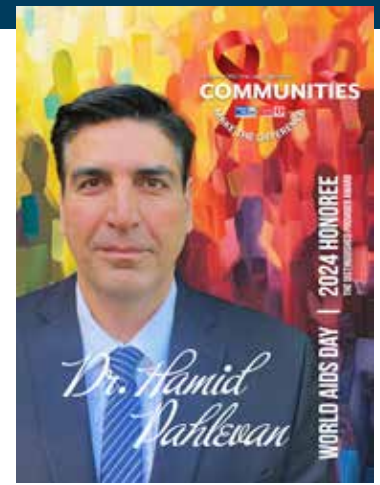
TICKETS \$25 pp in advance only
Two item purchase per person at tables



GOVERNOR'S COMEDY CLUB

90A Division Ave., Levittown, NY 11756

Food is available. Please Arrive by 7:30pm • 21 and over
Use the QR Code to purchase tickets or visit
www.unitedwayli.org/YPNComedy2024



More than 140 guests attended the Nassau-Suffolk HIV Health Services Planning Council's event on December 13 to celebrate the 36th Anniversary of World AIDS Day. The theme for this year's event is 'Achieving 95% Viral Load Suppression: Communities Make the Difference.' This theme acknowledges the impact of partnerships between healthcare providers, support staff, and individuals living with HIV, in achieving a major milestone toward the further reduction of new infections, improved community health, and a future where HIV is no longer a public health threat.

The event commenced with an invocation and candlelight ceremony followed by remarks from Dr. Gregson Pigott, Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Health Services. Awards were presented to individuals in recognition of their efforts on health care advocacy, outreach and prevention, and the provision of quality services and support to those living with HIV.

The 2024 award recipients are Gaius Charles, Peer at Nassau University Medical Center, Dr. Hamid Pahlevan, Grant Supervisor, Nassau University Medical Center, Gerard Sikora, Peer at Stony Brook Medicine, and Clarivet Isidore, PrEP Specialist, Stony Brook Medicine. An 'In Memoriam' award was presented to the family of George Marzen in recognition of his legacy of service. Legal Services of Long Island, formerly known as Nassau-Suffolk Law Services was honored with The Community Champion Award.

There are nearly 5,500 Long Islanders of all ages living with HIV/AIDS. The Nassau-Suffolk HIV Health Services Planning Council with the support of United Way of Long Island provides effective planning for Long Island and promotes development of HIV/AIDS health services, personnel, and facilities which meet identified health needs in a cost-effective manner, reduce inefficiencies, and address the needs of uninsured and under-insured HIV infected individuals. For more information, visit: www.longislandpc.org



Thank you, TWU Local 252, for an exciting night honoring Long Island Veterans. We had a great time at the 7th annual "Bets For Vets," raising over \$14, 500, which benefits our local heroes through United Way's Mission United.





Programs

Celebrating 30 Years of Warming Homes and Hearts

Since 1995, Project Warmth has made a difference in the lives of 30,000 families, providing more than just heat—it's provided hope. Behind every number is a unique story of resilience and community support. Meet some of the families whose lives have been touched by Project Warmth. Through their photos and words, discover how warmth has meant safety, comfort, and a brighter future.



"As a single dad with a young child, I couldn't bear the thought of my daughter going to bed in a cold home. I reached out for help and received the support we needed to stay warm."



"When hard times hit we struggled even with my full time job. The thought of losing heat was terrifying, but thankfully, Project Warmth was there to help."



"I'm a retired veteran that has battled some health conditions and the help I received kept me warm and healthy through the coldest months."

2-1-1

Get Connected. Get Help.™

If you or someone you know needs utility assistance, please contact 2-1-1 or visit 211LongIsland.org

Project Warmth Helped Over 2000 Families in the 2023-2024 Winter Season

Including: 1,468 children, 1,063 seniors, 106 veterans and 2,580 adults.

- 81% required heating assistance because of a medical emergency, illness or disability.
- 19% needed help because of a loss of job or loss of a loved one.
- 92% had at least one vulnerable person in the house. Elders, young children and individuals with disabilities are most susceptible to extreme temperatures and prioritized by Project Warmth.
- 100% required assistance due to a disruption in family income.

Project Warmth depends on the generosity of our community. Together, we can help our most vulnerable neighbors. Give To Project Warmth today www.unitedwayli.org/givepw

“Project Warmth was a saving grace for my family. You truly are a safety net for those of us facing rocky roads with nowhere else to turn.”



“Thanks to Project Warmth, I was able to pay my gas and electric bills, giving me peace of mind. The assistance helped me get through a difficult time after losing my home in a fire.”



“Life threw us a curveball, but we’re grateful that Project Warmth was there for us. Now we’re back on our feet. The assistance we received wasn’t just heat—it was hope during a dark time.”

Project Warmth Community Partner Agencies

- Bellport Hagerman
- E. Patchogue Alliance
- Catholic Charities Parish Outreach Offices
- Choice for All
- Colonial Youth and Family Services
- Community Action of Southold Town (CAST)
- Community Chest South Shore
- Community Counseling Too Outreach
- Dept. of Human Services Resource Center (Amityville)
- EAC Network
- Family Service League
- Hempstead Works
- Hispanic Brotherhood
- Long Island Council of Churches
- Margert Community Corp.
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Town of Huntington Human Services Dept.
- Town of Southampton
- Wyandanch Community Resource Center

Thank You to All Our Project Warmth Supporters

Signature Supporters



Sustaining Supporters*

The Baer Family • Carbo Industries • Esquire Bank • Eversource • The Friedmann Family • The Gilmartin Family
 The Horace & Amy Hagedorn Fund at NY Community Trust • The Kraft Family • Island Outreach Foundation • J-Power USA
 LIPA • M & T Bank • The Randi and Clifford Lane Foundation • NYS Energy Coalition • Petro • The Rice Family
 The Rienti Family • The Scattone Family • Swezey Fuel • UPS • Vane Brothers

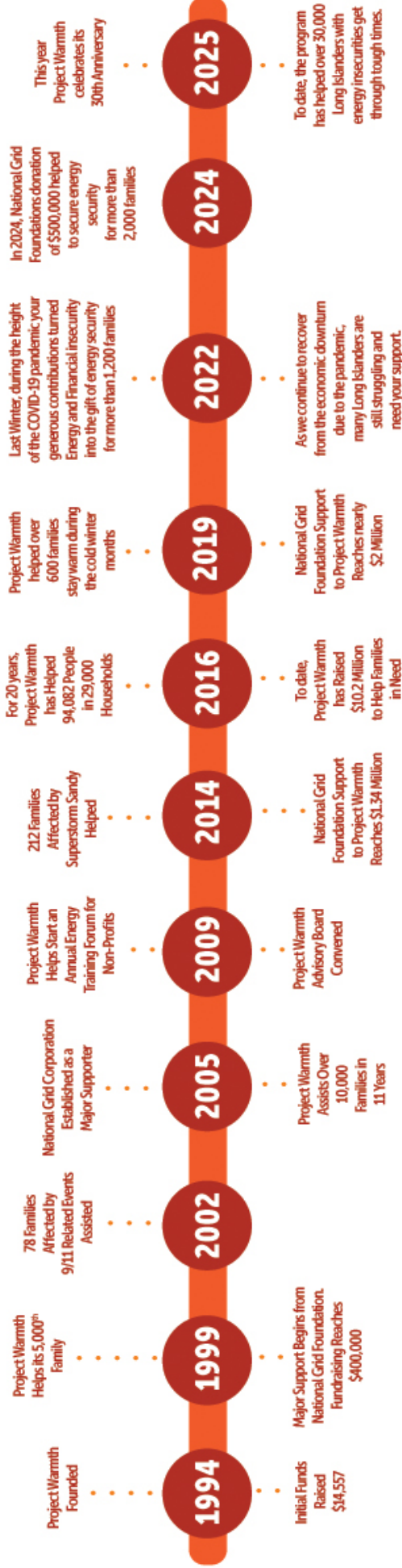
Media Supporters: Newday • Long Island Business News • Long Island Press • * Supporters of \$2,500 and up.

Thank You to All the Companies That Kept the Heat on Last Winter

Alcus Fuel Oil & Sons • All Island Fuel • All Island Propane • Allyn Oil • At Your Service • Atomic Heating
 Bay Fuel Company • Beato Fuel • Ben’s Oil • Blue Flame Fuel • Burt’s Reliable • Calderon Fuel • CJ Fuel
 Consolidated Fuel at St. James • Cookes • Danisi Energy • Dart Fuel • Devoe Fuel • Discount Fuel • East End Fuel
 • Eastern Fuel • Ecuia Fuel • Family Fuel • Freeport Electric • Genesis Fuel • Great White Propane
 Greenport Utilities • Grissom Fuel • Hart Home Comfort • Hendrickson Fuel • Heras Fuel • Hirsch Fuel • Home
 Fuel • JC Discount Fuel • JM & Sons Fuel • John’s Fuel • L&N Fuel • Lewisy Fuel • Long Island Ice & Fuel
 Marran Oil • Meenan • MNS Fuel • National Grid • OSI Comfort • Oswego • OVO Oil • Paraco Citizens
 Paraco Gas • Peronic Energy • Pembroke Fuel • Perillo Bros • Petro • ProFlame • Propane Depot • PSEGLI
 Reutershan Firewood • Rosales Oil Company • Sage Oil • Santander Bank • Shale Energy • Skaggs Walsh
 Slomin’s • SS Fuel • State Utilities • Steve’s East End Fuel • Suburban Propane • Swezey Fuel • Troiano Fuel
 URT Corn • Village of Greenport • Village of Rockville Centre • WC ESP Fuel • Wise Choice

Project Warmth Committee Members

- Gene Bernstein**
Northville Industries
- Robert DeMarinis**
Community Advocate
- Dennis Galvam**
Eversource
- Ed Gomez**
Petro
- Christopher Hahn**
PSEG Long Island
- Cliff Hochhauser**
Carbo Industries
- Raymond Homburger**
PSEG Long Island
- Rocco Lacertosa**
NYS Energy Coalition
- Brian Sapp**
National Grid
- Gary Zanazzi**
Swezey Fuel



History:

- Project Warmth was first sparked in 1994 to help Long Islanders who did not qualify for Federal assistance programs due to income guidelines. Emergency assistance programs that were already in place to address year-long needs were often depleted by the end of the year, leaving many with nowhere to turn for help. Since its inception, Project Warmth has helped to fill the need for emergency heating assistance on Long Island, keeping families safe and warm.

Thank You to Our Leading Supporters





POWERUP2025!

Wind, Solar & Renewables Career Training

PowerUp! is off to a fast start in 2025, as we celebrated our first cohort graduation on February 4th and are planning to have at least six classes in English and three in Spanish this year.

The next cohort starts March 24th visit www.unitedwayli.org/PowerUp for more information.





OLDER ADULT HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM



Does Your Home Need Basic Modifications?

FREE HOME MODIFICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE



United Way may be able to help seniors remain safe, healthy and independent in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

Offering qualified seniors:

- Home safety adjustments
- Small home repairs
- Healthy Homes Evaluations
- Accessibility modifications
- Falling hazard modifications

Eligibility requirements*

include: (Apply Online):

- 62 years or older
- Own/Rent your home or apartment
- Proof of annual income

For more information or to find out if you qualify contact Daniel Taylor at 631.940.3744 or online at: unitedwayli.org/OAHM

You qualify if your:

Family of 1 makes less than \$78,500
 Family of 2 makes less than \$89,750
 Family of 3 makes less than \$100,950

Occupational Therapy Consult included

*For a full list of all eligibility requirements visit: www.unitedwayli.org/OAHM

If you or someone you know needs help Call 2-1-1 or outside Nassau and Suffolk Counties 1-888-774-7633 or visit 211longisland.org. The Call Center is open 24/7.

DREAMS

DETERMINATION
REALIZATION
ENRICHMENT
ACADEMICS
MISSION
SERVICE

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Since its inception in 2002, United Way of Long Island has awarded scholarships and/or grants, in the areas of Academics & Enrichment, totaling more than \$1,000,000. The D.R.E.A.M.S. For Youth Advisory Board, comprised of 7th graders to college students, works under the guidance of United Way staff to make award decisions. The Dreams R Us Foundation provides support for D.R.E.A.M.S. For Youth scholarships.

ACADEMIC AWARDS - Assists with costs associated with educational goals at a college, university, private or vocational school. Applicants must demonstrate financial need. Recipients receive between \$1,000 through \$3,000.



Scholarship applications are open for the 2025 academic year
For more information or to download an application visit:

unitedwayli.org/scholarships

For additional information contact Biena Depena at 631.940.3719



DREAMS FOR YOUTH
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM





Media

Print



United Way of Long Island stands by our nation's heroes, helping them regain their strength and rebuild their lives. Together, we honor and support those who served like Kristine, an Army National Guard Veteran who bravely served through two of Long Island's most devastating natural disasters, Hurricane Irene and Hurricane Sandy. Transitioning back to civilian life proved challenging, as she faced both PTSD and the difficulty of re-establishing a routine.

But with the support of United Way of Long Island and its dedicated community partners, Kristine received vital wrap-around services that transformed her life and empowered her to move forward.



For more information about our veteran and workforce development programs use the QR code or visit

www.unitedwayli.org/missionunited



Mission United Partners





THANK YOU TEAM MISSION UNITED FOR YOUR DEDICATION, PASSION & PERSERVERANCE

The TCS New York City Marathon represents the best of New York—when all New Yorkers come together to support each other and cheer on their neighbors.

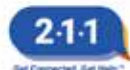
Thank you to the lucky 13 Team Mission United runners for finishing the 26.2-mile course and raising over \$44,000 in support of veterans and their families on Long Island.

MISSION UNITED helps ease the transition to civilian life and address the unique needs of veterans. By connecting them to a coordinated network of community partners, we empower veterans and their families to lead productive lives in our community.



We are now recruiting for the 2025 Team Mission United TCS New York City Marathon Team, for more information and to apply: UnitedWayLI.org/TMURaceApplication

Premier Veteran Supporter



If you or someone you know needs support, please contact 2-1-1 to get started or visit 211LongIsland.org



TOP STORIES

NY NONPROFIT NUMBERS DECLINING

Report: Lack of timely payments burden groups

BY OLIVIA WINSLOW
olivia.winslow@newsday.com

New York State saw a decline in the number of nonprofit organizations and jobs they provided in a five-year period ending in 2022, in sharp contrast to the picture nationally, according to a new report this week from state Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

The report said many New York nonprofits are burdened by the lack of timely reimbursement from government agencies for the services they provide New Yorkers.

"It's a huge problem and has been a problem for decades," Megan Allen, CEO of the Albany-based New York Council of Nonprofits Inc., said in an interview.

"It's a huge problem now. . . [because] we're seeing far more nonprofits having to take out credit lines and being in really horrible financial positions. How do they make payroll? How to keep their doors open?" she said, adding: "We are hearing more nonprofits going out of business and just struggling financially."

DiNapoli, in a forward to the report, "The Critical Role of Nonprofits in New York," highlighted nonprofit organizations' importance to the local and the state economies, citing the vast array of services those organizations provide and the number of people they employ. According to the report, there were 33,536 nonprofits in New York in 2022, out of more than 344,000 nationwide.

"Nonprofits have a greater presence in New York than in many other states. While nonprofits in the U.S. accounted for 3.1 percent of all private sector establishments, in New York, the concentration was 5 percent," the report said. New York was second behind California, for its share of nonprofits nationally, at nearly 10%, with California's at nearly 12%.

"Nonprofits provided over 1.3 million jobs with \$96.8 billion in total wages, ranking the



Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli highlighted the importance of nonprofits to local, state economies.

WHAT NEWSDAY FOUND

- **New York State saw a decline** in the number of nonprofit organizations and jobs they provided in a five-year period ending in 2022, a new state report said.
- **The report said many New York nonprofits** are burdened by the lack of timely reimbursement from government agencies.
- **Nassau and Suffolk counties showed** an increase in the number of nonprofit organizations between 2017 and 2022, though the Island still showed losses in nonprofit jobs.

[New York] State among the highest in the nation for these measures," DiNapoli wrote.

DiNapoli added, "However, nonprofits in New York have been shrinking since 2017, both in number of establishments and in number of jobs, while expand-

ing in the rest of the nation. In all the State's regions, nonprofit employment in 2022 was lower than in 2017." But the report said New York's nonprofit sector had higher average annual wages than other states.

NY lost 173 nonprofits

The report said New York lost 626 nonprofit organizations between 2017 and 2019, but recovered 453 over the next three years, for a net loss of 173 organizations.

The report focused on nonprofit charitable organizations listed as 501(c)(3)s and analyzed data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics between 2017 and 2022, the most recent available, the report said.

According to the report, all of the 10 regions in the state saw employment declines among their nonprofit organizations, although the chart showed that Long Island had the smallest employment decline at 1.3%.

Nassau and Suffolk counties showed an increase in the number of nonprofit organizations between 2017 and 2022 unlike

other parts of the state, though the Island still showed losses in nonprofit jobs.

Mark Johnson, DiNapoli's press secretary, wrote in an email: "There were 3,204 nonprofit establishments on Long Island in 2022, 85 more than in 2017. However, there were nearly 2,000 (1,974) fewer jobs over this time period."

The report applauded the vital work that nonprofits do, but said many were hampered by a lack of timely reimbursement from government agencies they are in contract with to provide services, concerns echoed by several Long Island nonprofit leaders.

"Nonprofits provide a wide array of services and benefits to people living in New York, including mental health, early childhood education, shelter and services for the homeless, recovery aid from storms and other weather events, public safety, and arts and cultural programs," the report said.

However, it said nonprofits are often reimbursed late for services by government entities,

causing "cash flow burdens — relying on loans or lines of credit to make existing payroll or other expenses, incurring costs for which they are not reimbursed." The report said, "over 5,000 contracts — 56 percent of contracts with State agencies subject to PCL [Prompt Contracting Law] requirements — were processed late," citing a 2023 annual report.

Financial burden

"Organizations are working six, seven, eight months without payment on their contract. That's a pretty difficult math arrangement. Agencies have to make payroll," Theresa Regnante, president and CEO of United Way of Long Island, based in Deer Park, said in an interview.

Regnante also said the loss of the big infusion of federal dollars during the COVID-19 pandemic that waned in 2022 may have played a role in the loss of jobs in the nonprofit sector, as well as keeping up with competitive wages.

Jeffrey Reynolds, president and CEO of Garden City-based Family & Children's Association, wrote in an email: "The Comptroller's report is exactly on point, in that it highlights, not only the vital services nonprofits provide to local families in need, but our critical roles as employers and regional economic engines."

Reynolds added, "Doing business with government at any level means borrowing money to fill payment gaps and now that interest rates have soared, those dollars could be better spent on services."

Reynolds wrote that government sources provided 88% of revenues to his nonprofit organization. He said FCA employs 320 people and has a \$27 million budget for 2025.

Vanessa Baird-Streeter, president and CEO of the Health and Welfare Council of Long Island, a Huntington Station-based nonprofit that is an umbrella agency representing about 200 nonprofits in addition to providing direct services, in an interview noted the "gamut of resources and services" nonprofit organizations provide, and their role as an "economic engine ensuring the financial stability of thousands of families on Long Island."

Pandemic may be over, but Safe at Home's mission isn't



Safe space: Five years later, United Way of Long Island's Safe at Home for Seniors program continues to provide essential services for elderly residents living alone across the region.

JANUARY 23, 2021
By GREGORY ZELLER //

A leading regional nonprofit is continuing to find innovative ways to assist at-risk Long Island seniors living alone.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic is over, its effects linger – especially in the winter, when new strains of the coronavirus disease emerge, accompanied by influenza and other nefarious health risks.

Social distancing remains a top defense. But this presents different hazards for many Long Islanders, particularly seniors cut off from food, medication and other paramount resources.

In addition to scheduling vaccinations and making sure cupboards are stocked, the Bilingual Community Navigators provide COVID/flu safety kits (including sanitizers and personal protective equipment), arrange third-party transportation, facilitate communication with family members and expedite in-person assessments for depression, Alzheimer's disease and other red-flag conditions.

As needed, they can also help coordinate minor home repairs and prepare seniors for venturing out into the public.

By providing these services, UWLI is easing the burden on Long Island's crowded – and occasionally troubled – assisted-living facilities, while ensuring the safety and dignity of aging-in-place Long Island seniors.

"Together, we are serving one of the most vulnerable segments of our community," Regnante added.

Enter **Safe at Home for Seniors**, the **United Way of Long Island's** five-year-old health and safety program targeting seniors in the towns of Islip, Babylon, Brookhaven and Huntington.

Working in partnership with its network of agencies, the Deer Park-based 501(c)(3) organization dispatches Bilingual Community Navigators to assist seniors isolated from their families or caregivers – helping with grocery shopping, ensuring residences are equipped with the proper safety measures (grab rails and smoke detectors, for instance) and scheduling healthcare appointments, including COVID and flu vaccinations.

The program launched in 2020 under dire circumstances, with COVID casualties piling up – especially among senior populations. Today, with many elderly Long Islanders eschewing assisted living and choosing to remain in their homes, and especially with COVID and the flu in the winter air, "the senior population continues to face significant challenges," according to United Way of Long Island President and CEO Theresa Regnante.

"Safe at Home for Seniors is part of United Way of Long Island's commitment to supporting our elder neighbors by collaborating with local agencies and townships across Long Island," Regnante noted. "This program ensures that seniors remain safe and cared for while aging in place, even when isolation presents additional hardships."

Even with the worst of the pandemic behind us, the resources provided by Safe at Home for Seniors are "essential," according to Town of Islip Supervisor

Theresa Regnante: Anti-isolation operation.

Angie Carpenter, and its services "critical."

"While the pandemic affected all of our lives, it has had a particularly profound impact on our beloved seniors, many of whom depend on in-person care and services," Carpenter said in a statement. "The Town of Islip is proud to partner with United Way on the Safe at Home for Seniors program, which ... allows (seniors) to remain safe, supported and comfortable in their own homes."

The program incorporates best-practice assessment tools embraced by top social-service organizations, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's **STEADI checklist** (for Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries).

Here to help: United Way of Long Island's Bilingual Community Navigators help isolated seniors with many essentials, including medical and nutritional needs.



The new Wells Fargo branch in Port Washington. (Photo: Wells Fargo)

Wells Fargo grand opening gives \$50K to United Way

January 12, 2025 Trade Winds

Wells Fargo held a grand-opening celebration for its newest Long Island branch this week.

The event was held on Thursday, Jan. 9 at the new Wells Fargo branch at 1020 Port Washington Blvd. in Port Washington. This is the 12th Wells Fargo branch on Long Island, according to a company statement.

To celebrate the branch opening, Wells Fargo awarded a \$50,000 grant to the United Way of Long Island in support of their Family Support Project program, which helps families remain in their homes, and children remain in their schools.

"We are so excited to open our newest branch on Long Island," Silvia Lara, District Branch Network senior manager at Wells Fargo, said in a written statement. "Our New York branch expansion is designed to offer more resources to our customers across the state. This is another step forward in that commitment and we are thrilled to be part of the Port Washington community."

[Home](#) > [Economy](#) > [United Way of LI scores \\$100K grant from Capital One](#)*Courtesy of United Way of Long Island*

United Way of LI scores \$100K grant from Capital One

Adina Genn // January 15, 2025 // 1 Minute Read

[X](#) [f](#) [in](#) [p](#) [✉](#)[▶ Listen to this article](#)

Deer Park-based **United Way of Long Island** received a \$100,000 grant from Capital One. The grant is in support of the nonprofit's Financial Literacy Initiatives program, which includes providing the knowledge and tools to build financial stability and long-term prosperity.

"This generous contribution from Capital One underscores their commitment to fostering financial empowerment and addressing the unique challenges faced by underserved populations," Theresa Regnante, president and CEO of United Way of Long Island, said in a news release about the grant.

"Thanks to this partnership, we are equipping individuals and families with the tools they need to achieve financial independence while creating lasting economic stability for our communities," Regnante added.

Those who would benefit from the initiative include United Way's YouthBuild students, Project Warmth recipients, ALICE families (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), and participants in Family Support programs. With the funding, United Way aims to provide comprehensive curriculum comprising essential financial topics, including budgeting, debt reduction, credit building and consumer protection.

The initiatives, according to the news release, are expected to "create a ripple effect of positive change, uplifting entire communities by empowering individuals to make informed financial decisions, reduce debt and build brighter futures."

NEWS

Bethpage Federal to rebrand as FourLeaf

Bethpage Federal Credit Union is rebranding under the new moniker FourLeaf Federal Credit Union. The rebrand is expected to take effect in the first quarter of 2025.

The new name aims to highlight the credit union's "commitment to growth, prosperity and abundance for its members and the communities it has served for the past 83 years."

"As we navigate an ever-evolving landscape, we recognize the importance of adapting to meet the changing needs of our members and our markets and exploring new ways to grow and expand," Linda Armyn, the credit union's president and CEO, said in a news release.

"I'm thrilled to lead Bethpage into our next chapter as FourLeaf in a way that acknowledges the incredible foundation we have built, our ties to our Grumman history, Long Island, and a future filled with infinite possibilities," Armyn said.

The credit union has more than 480,000 members and \$13.4 billion in total assets.

Designed to reflect the future, the new logo brings in two intertwined infinity symbols, keeping the orange color to celebrate Bethpage's history and incorpo-

'AS FOURLEAF, WE WILL HARNESS OUR POSITIVE MOMENTUM TO EMPOWER OUR ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP TO THRIVE.'

rating a deeper blue to honor its Grumman founders.

"This rebrand comes at a time when we are stronger than ever," Armyn said. "We are well-prepared to create and embrace new opportunities that will enhance the members' experience, expand our reach, and enrich lives in even more communities. We are growing, and the Bethpage name, while so close to our hearts, was limiting. As FourLeaf, we will harness our positive momentum to empower our organization and membership to thrive."

Over the past year, Bethpage opened four new branches including Sunnyside, Queens; Ozone Park, Queens; Cherry Hill, New Jersey; and the new Station Yards community in Ronkonkoma. Forest Hills, Queens, will be opening in early 2025



Courtesy of Bethpage Federal Credit Union

The change is set to take effect during the first quarter of 2025.

along with two other Queens locations later in the year. The credit union currently operates 36 branches with a member satisfaction rating of more than 85%. Beyond New York and New Jersey, the credit union serves members nationwide through a virtual branch and Digital Home Lending program.

"We are the same organization at our core. Our values and vision to enrich the lives of our members, employees, and in

the communities we serve remain true. As FourLeaf, that drive and ambition will only be elevated to offer even more value, resources and solutions to our current and future members," Armyn said.

Earlier this month, the credit launched Bethboards, designed to showcase and boost women-owned businesses. The Bethboard campaign will continue indefinitely, a spokesperson said.

— ADINA GENN



Photo: United Way of Long Island

United Way of Long Island awarded \$1.4 million in YouthBuild funding

January 7, 2025 | Jared Scot

United Way of Long Island's YouthBuild program has been awarded a grant of \$1.4 million from the U.S. Department of Labor, the sixth time the organization has been selected to receive funding.

The grant will continue to support academic, occupational skills training, and leadership development opportunities for young adults, ages 18 to 24, from the Wyandanch and Village of Hempstead communities.

"United Way and YouthBuild have been an invaluable resource to the Wyandanch Community for many years. So many residents owe their success to the work put forward by YouthBuild, and we are looking forward to welcoming them back," said Beverly Theodore, director of the Wyandanch Community Resource Center (WCRC).

YouthBuild Long Island was established in 2008. A 2010 Congressional Grant of \$1 million funded the SmartBuild Career Training Center, which houses a NYSERDA-funded state-of-the-art Pressure House. The program encourages trainees to take classes that teach in-demand skills sought by local employers, opening doors to workforce training and education for those who are neither working nor attending school, as well as for youth whose parents did not attend college.

"Without YouthBuild Long Island, I wouldn't be the person I am today: because of the path that I took with YouthBuild, I was able to enter the construction industry and gain financial stability," said Ulysess, a member of the YouthBuild Long Island class of 2015 from Wyandanch. "I now have a place to call home that brings my family closer together and am excited about being part of the future with a net-zero energy-ready house."

Since its inception, YouthBuild Long Island has graduated 450 participants, with one-third entering construction jobs, one-third pursuing other careers, and one-third continuing their education. The U.S. Department of Labor grant will allow YouthBuild to expand its offerings, adding training in the fast-growing healthcare services sector to its established construction and renewable energy skills curriculum.

"United Way of Long Island has a proven record of empowering young adults through comprehensive workforce training in the construction and healthcare industries and is well-deserving of this competitive grant," said U.S. Rep. Andrew Garbarino (NY-02). "Their work provides young adults with the skills and resources they need to secure stable employment in high-growth industries."

"United Way of Long Island recognizes the tremendous support of our elected officials, organized labor, Suffolk County Department of Labor, HempsteadWorks, and the New York State Department of Labor," said United Way of Long Island president and CEO Theresa Regnante. "This grant underscores the power of collaboration and will enhance our efforts to grow Long Island's economy."

To learn more about YouthBuild Long Island and the SmartBuild Career Training Center, visit unitedwayli.org/youthbuild-long-island and unitedwayli.org/e3-smartbuild-training-center

Long Island Association

Not-For-Profit Sustainability and Growth Strategies

Join us for a discussion on key challenges facing not-for-profits, including funding, growth, and long-term resilience, with insights from local industry leaders.

November 14, 2024

8:30 a.m. - Registration & Networking

9:00 a.m. - Program

300 Broadhollow Rd.
Melville, NY 11747
Lower Level

Free for all members
\$25 for non-members

Scan Here to Register



Panelists

- **Neela Mukherjee Lockel**, President & CEO
EAC Network
- **David Okorn**, Executive Director
New York Community Trust, Long Island
- **Theresa Regnante**, President & CEO
United Way Long Island
- **Jeff Reynolds**, President & CEO
Family & Children's Association
- **Lauren Wagner**, Executive Director
Long Island Arts Alliance

LIA Health, Education, and Not-For-Profit Committee

Chairs: Dr. Kimberly Cline, President, Long Island University
Dr. Patrick O'Shaughnessy, President & CEO, Catholic Health

Vice Chairs: Ellen Labita, Partner and Professional Practice Leader, Baker Tilly
Paule T. Pachter, President & CEO, Long Island Cares, Inc.

Long Island Runners Raise \$45K For Veterans At NYC Marathon

This is the eighth year that United Way of Long Island was selected as a charity partner for the 2024 TCS New York City Marathon.

 Jerry Bernabei, Patch Staff

Posted Fri, Nov 15, 2024 at 10:55 am ET



A group of Long Island runners raised \$45,000 for veterans at the New York City Marathon. (Shutterstock)

NASSAU COUNTY, NY — A group of Long Islanders, including two from Nassau County, raised \$45,000 for veterans as in the New York City Marathon.

For the eighth year, United Way of Long Island was selected as a charity partner for the 2024 TCS New York City Marathon. United Way of Long Island's Team Mission United runners finished the 26.2-mile course in support of U.S. military veterans and their families on Long Island.

Among them were:

Taylor Salkowsky (Massapequa Park):

Salkowsky finished the race in four hours and 12 minutes. She has always been active, playing soccer from a young age and through college. Taylor loves running because it has helped her through periods of stress and anxiety, allows her to experience new places in a fun, active way.

"As a lifelong New Yorker, I'm excited to experience the city in a whole new way through this race," Salkowsky said. "I'm incredibly honored to be running on behalf of United Way to support veterans and their families on Long Island."

Find out what's happening in Rockville Centre with free, real-time updates from Patch.

Your email address

Subscribe

More Than 250 Turkey Meals Given Out At Suffolk Sheriff's Office Thanksgiving Event

The meals, including all the trimmings, like gravy, stuffing, and sides, were given out to pre-selected families, sheriff's office says.

 Peggy Spellman, Patch Staff

Posted Fri, Nov 22, 2024 at 12:49 am ET



The Suffolk County Sheriff's office on Thursday handed out over 250 holiday meals to the needy at the department's annual Thanksgiving food distribution in Yaphank. (Suffolk County Sheriff's Office)

YAPHANK, NY — The Suffolk County Sheriff's office on Thursday handed out more than 250 holiday meals to the needy at the department's annual Thanksgiving food distribution in Yaphank.

The meals, which included all the trimmings, like gravy, stuffing, and sides, were given out at the SP4RT Resource Center to pre-selected families during a drive-thru event. Families in need of holiday meal help were identified by the SP4RT Center and their partner non-profit service agencies to guarantee that they can receive a free Thanksgiving meal.

Sheriff Eric Teulon said that "with the cost of groceries and household expenses on the rise, more and more of our neighbors are in need."

His office proudly hosted the event "to help families in need, and provide them with some cheer and comfort during the holiday season," he said. "Thank you to our sponsors and our non-profit partners who help to make this event possible year after year."

The meals were donated by the sheriff's police benevolent and corrections officer associations, as well as Walmart, United Way of Long Island, Long Island Cares, Gala Supermarket, and Stop and Shop.

Other organizations that helped out with donations included City of the Hill Community Church, Axis Church, Giunta's Meat Farms, True North Church, Helping Makes You Happy, St John's Neponsette Church, and St. Elizabeth's Church Huntington.



litimes.org
No good deed goes unpublished

Photo: Options for Community Living

Zebra Technologies volunteers build memorial garden for Options for Community Living

November 13, 2024 | Jared Scot

Seven volunteers from Zebra Technologies spent their day giving back by building a memorial garden at a home owned by Options for Community Living this past month in Ronkonkoma.

The project was coordinated by United Way of Long Island, bringing together Zebra Technologies and Options for a meaningful day of service and team building.

The Zebra Technologies team worked tirelessly to build a beautiful memorial garden, cleaning up the yard, planting perennial flowers, and trimming greenery around the fence, making the space more welcoming and vibrant.

"Zebra takes pride in giving back to the local communities where our employees work and live," said Michele LaBarbera, senior marketing specialist, Zebra Technologies. "It was a pleasure working with the Ronkonkoma home team and their residents to build a memorial garden that enriches the quality of life for all residents."

The rest of the volunteers also found working on the project to be rewarding. "Volunteering at the Ronkonkoma home was an amazing experience," said Harris Ayaz, senior strategic partner, Zebra Technologies. "It was great meeting the residents and assisting them in cleaning up their yard and building a memorial garden for their friend who recently passed."

The project was well-received by the housing organization. "Options is grateful to the United Way of Long Island for making this connection on our behalf and for the team from Zebra Technologies for their time," said Options' CEO Yolanda Robano-Gross. "The garden is beautiful. Projects like these really make a difference to our residents and to us."

Options provides safe and affordable housing for individuals and families in over 160 homes across Long Island and serves more than 2,000 adults and children annually. The individuals served by Options face chronic illnesses and disabilities and often come from challenging circumstances. Most have low-incomes and may have a history of homelessness or have been at risk of homelessness. Options provides for these individuals through affordable supportive housing and connections to healthcare services, entitlements and community resources.

To learn more, visit Options' website at <https://www.optionscl.org>.

National Grid : Teams Up with United Way of Long Island and First Baptist Cathedral of Westbury to Provide Access and Raise Awareness for Winter Emergency Support Programs

December 12, 2024 at 04:19 pm

[Share](#)

Westbury, NY - In a heartwarming demonstration of community partnership, Bishop Lionel Harvey and the [First Baptist Cathedral of Westbury](#) hosted [National Grid](#), [United Way of Long Island](#), and [PSEG Long Island](#) at their soup kitchen to raise awareness about critical winter energy assistance programs. The event aimed to support families in need by connecting them with resources to help manage heating bills during the colder months.

National Grid and United Way of Long Island supported the soup kitchen with generous donations, while consumer advocates from National Grid and PSEG Long Island engaged directly with community members. Advocates provided information and assisted in enrolling residents in programs like HEAT (Home Energy Assistance Target) and HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program). United Way's Project Warmth team was also present, helping residents sign up for the fuel-neutral Project Warmth program.

Aaron Choo, Vice President of Gas Compliance at National Grid, emphasized the holistic approach to community support. "We are out in the communities every day, and we consistently see the need for assistance not only on energy related issues, but food insecurity and general economic relief. We have customer assistance programs available not only to help Long Islanders pay their energy bills but also to help with food assistance. We understand that it all goes hand in hand. National Grid is here to support the community every way we can."

"The church exists beyond the four walls," said **Bishop Lionel Harvey of the First Baptist Cathedral of Westbury**. "Partnerships with organizations like National Grid and United Way support our community. We are thankful they brought information on programs to help with energy bills during this winter season and provided support for our soup kitchen to help feed the community."

Supervisor Jen DeSena of the Town of North Hempstead shared her appreciation: "Thank you to National Grid and United Way for providing support to the Westbury community today and for highlighting programs to help people with their energy bills. Working with the business and non-profit community helps provide more for our communities during this holiday season."

Theresa Regnante, President and CEO of United Way of Long Island, praised the collaboration: "It's through great community partners like National Grid that non-profits can do the work we do to serve the community and try to make everyone's day a little easier. The United Way is proud to provide a donation to the First Baptist Soup Kitchen as well-the food smells great!"

The event also marked the 30th anniversary of United Way's Project Warmth program, which has provided vital heating assistance to over 33,000 families on Long Island since its inception. National Grid and United Way remain committed to ensuring that local families have the resources they need to stay warm and safe this winter.

This partnership underscores the power of collaboration between faith-based organizations, businesses, and non-profits to make a lasting impact on the lives of community members.

For more information on the programs available click here for [National Grid's Emergency Assistance Programs](#), [United Way's Project Warmth](#) and [PSEG Long Island](#).

Attachments





Photo: Paws of War

Beacon House, Paws of War and United Way open new outdoor space for veterans and their service dogs

December 18, 2024 | Jared Scott

In keeping with their common mission of supporting veterans and first responders on Long Island, United Veterans Beacon House, Paws of War and United Way of Long Island hosted a special ribbon-cutting ceremony last week, marking the opening of the Paws of War Relaxation and Dog Training Area on a Beacon House property in Smithtown.

The space is exclusively available to veterans and active military members with service and companions or emotional support dogs who need a quiet place for training and solace. Training equipment, toys, benches and a barbecue are available in the 2,800 square-foot training area.

"At Paws of War, we understand that the journey of healing for our veterans and first responders takes time and extends far beyond traditional support," said Robert Misseri, co-founder of Paws of War. "We appreciate the opportunity to work with our partners Beacon House and United Way on this project. This new Relaxation and Dog Training Area is a sanctuary where our heroes can find peace and strengthen their bonds with their service dogs. This special area will play a key part in supporting recovery and mental wellbeing for our heroes."

Public dog parks can be overwhelming for veterans that suffer with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health illnesses, and for their dogs as well. The new Relaxation and Dog Training Area aims to provide a safe and quiet space where veterans can come to train, play and find peace with their loyal companions and fellow veterans.

"This private training area eliminates overcrowding and potential negative encounters with large numbers of untrained dogs. A quiet and less stressful environment is especially needed for those dealing with PTSD," added Misseri.



Photo: Paws of War

Leaders from the organizations were joined by veterans, their service dogs and local elected officials including Congressman Nick LaLota, represented by Congressional Aide Peter Ganley, New York State Sen. Mario R. Mattera, New York State Assemblyman Mike Fitzpatrick, Suffolk County Comptroller John Kennedy Jr., Suffolk County Clerk Vincent Puleo, Legis. Leslie Kennedy, Legis. Nick Caracappa, Stephanie Stafford, Chief of Staff Suffolk County Legislator, Chad Lennon, vice chair Veterans Committee, chairman, Suffolk County Legislature Veterans Committee, Smithtown Supervisor Ed Wehrheim, Director of Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency Marcelle Leis and Suffolk County FRES Commissioner Rudy Sunderman represented by William Renzetti.

"At all of our facilities, we aim to create a comforting home-like environment for our heroes to thrive," said Frank Amalfitano, president and CEO of Beacon House. "We appreciate the opportunity to work with Paws of War in providing the people we serve with a safe place to train and care for their service dogs."

Beacon House manages 55 residential programs throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties, including group homes, emergency shelters and select single-family residences. Since its inception in 1994, Beacon House has served over 30,500 veterans and assists 1,250 veterans annually.

For more information about Paws of War, please visit www.pawsofwar.org.

To learn more about Beacon House, please visit uvbh.org/.

litimes.org

No good deed goes unpublished

Rising minimum wage puts LI labor and business groups at odds

BY DAVID WINZELBERG

As the minimum wage is set to climb again, small business and labor groups continue to clash on the issue.

The minimum wage will increase on Jan. 1 to \$16.50 an hour on Long Island, New York City and Westchester County, while the minimum wage for the rest of New York State rises to \$15.50 an hour at the same time.

John Durso, president of Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW, which represents over 13,000 workers in grocery and food retail, drug stores, retail pharmacy chains, healthcare and human services, cannabis and others, said it's crucial to raise the minimum wage on a regular basis to match inflation so people don't fall behind.

"Times are tough, and increasing the minimum wage will mean a great deal," said Durso, who also serves as president of the Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, representing 250,000 union members in Nassau and Suffolk counties. "And that money is being reinvested in the community, so when folks talk about raising minimum wage will cost more money, that money comes back into the community. It's a tremendous help for working families and working people. It's great for the economy, it's great for families, so we're thrilled about it."

But for many Long Island small business owners, the minimum wage increase only exacerbates an already

See **MINIMUM WAGE**, Page 4



Those earning minimum wage within Nassau and Suffolk counties will receive an increase to \$16.50 an hour, beginning Jan. 1.

Rising minimum wage puts LI labor and business groups at odds

Continued from Page 1

challenging economic climate.

Francesca Carlow, past president and current legislative liaison for the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce, said the rising minimum wage is a painful reality.

"We're always out taxed from the rest of the state and our expenses are more down here as well. It's going to be painful," Carlow told LIBN. "It will be very challenging for small businesses to constantly be increasing. It's not only the increase for that, but then it goes to your workman's comp, insurance, it increases other things multifold."

The minimum wage increase was part of Gov. Kathy Hochul's Fiscal Year 2024 budget, which brought the minimum wage to \$16 an hour on Long Island, New York City and Westchester County and \$15 an hour for the rest of the state at the beginning of this year.

In 2026, the minimum wage will rise another \$.50 before it becomes indexed to annually increase by the three-year moving average of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the North-

east Region.

Besides New York State, 20 other states will raise their minimum wage on New Year's Day and two additional states and the District of Columbia have increases scheduled later in the year. Currently, Washington D.C. has the highest minimum wage in the country at \$17.50, followed by Washington State at \$16.28, with California, Long Island, New York City and Westchester County at \$16.

Meanwhile, the federal minimum wage has been stuck for more than 15 years at \$7.25 an hour since July 24, 2009—the longest period in history without a raise. The federal minimum wage has eroded greatly since it peaked in purchasing power in 1968, when the minimum wage was worth \$14.76 in 2024 dollars, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator.

"People are struggling," Durso said. "The rich are doing very well and if we can ever get a Congress that will reinstate the SALT deduction, that will be a tremendous boon for Long Island as well. Young people are having a tough time buying homes, and the minimum wage affects everyone else as they move up and continue to move up,

so it's a big, big help. I think it's a win for Long Island, I think it's a win for our economy, I think it's a win for families."

However, Carlow maintains the minimum wage increase is an added burden for small business owners.

"It's another nail in the coffin, because retailing is extremely challenging along with maintaining a staff," she said. "You're not going to hire part-timers at \$16.50 an hour when your full-timers are making even \$20, they're going to want an increase. It goes across the board."

But there are some Long Island business groups that support the rise in the minimum wage.

"The minimum wage should be increased as rising costs on Long Island still remain a barrier to living, playing and working here," said Phil Andrews, president of the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce. "Minimum wage increases along with other investments such as training, and benefits make for



Courtesy of Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW

JOHN DURSO: 'Times are tough, and increasing the minimum wage will mean a great deal.'



Photo by Judy Walker

PHIL ANDREWS: 'The minimum wage should be increased as rising costs on Long Island still remain a barrier to living, playing and working here.'

better employees who are invested in ensuring top notch customer service. The increases will also lead to employees being retained for longer periods of time and going the extra mile building businesses from the ground up with every employee fully invested in the future growth of the company."



litimes.org

No good deed goes unpublished

Photo: United Way of Long Island

United Way of Long Island's VetsBuild program receives \$40K grant from PSEG Foundation

December 4, 2024 Jared Scot

The United Way of Long Island (UWLI) recently received a \$40,000 grant from the PSEG Foundation, helping the organization's mission to empower veterans in their careers.

The grant supports UWLI's VetsBuild program, which provides career training and employment opportunities for Long Island veterans and their families. The funding will be used for a hands-on education in green construction for 20 veterans as they work to transform the United Way of Long Island headquarters in Deer Park into a Net Zero building that produces as much energy as it uses.

VetsBuild is part of UWLI's Workforce Development Training Academy, providing free hands-on training focused on helping Long Islanders to secure careers in the renewable energy industry. As veterans in the program become proficient in the installation of clean heating and cooling technologies, high-efficiency HVAC, heat pumps, solar panels, and EV charging, they are able to transition back to a civilian routine and develop their careers.

"Our thanks to PSEG for providing this important grant," said Theresa A. Regnante, president and CEO of United Way of Long Island. "The VetsBuild program will provide workforce development training to connect veterans with the confidence and skills needed to obtain employment and return to everyday life."

VetsBuild participants will also receive training at United Way's [E3 SmartBuild Training Center](#), a state-of-the-art facility equipped with the latest technology and equipment. Graduates will work toward earning industry-recognized certifications in green building, such as BPI (Building Performance Institute) and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration).

"The PSEG Foundation has a long history of supporting veterans and their families, and this program emphasizes all three of our key pillars – environmental sustainability, social justice and equity and economic empowerment," said Maria Spina, manager, PSEG Foundation and Corporate Social Responsibility. "VetsBuild is the type of program that will help veterans thrive in the new economy, enabling them to better support their families and communities while also caring for our planet."

To learn more about United Way of Long Island's VetsBuild program, visit www.unitedwayli.org/vetsbuild.

Sandy Oliva, leading Long Island advocate for domestic violence victims, dies at 82



Sandy Oliva, a longtime champion of preventing domestic violence, helped establish The Safe Center LI in Bethpage. Credit: Barry Sloan

By Jennifer Fauci
Special to Newsday

Updated December 31, 2024 5:40 pm

To those who knew her, Sandy Oliva, of Northport, was a force to be reckoned with. One of the many Long Islanders she helped out in a generous, lifelong first one.

Oliva, a longtime champion of preventing domestic violence, helped establish the agencies that provide assistance to those at risk — of harm to women and children.

Lending a hand to others in need is a quality Oliva always had, according to her daughter, Jennifer Oliva, of Port Washington.

"She always wanted to help people," Oliva said of her mother. "As a child, I remember sitting on her bed in the middle of the night as she was getting calls about clients who needed to be rescued."

Sandy Oliva, who was born on Sept. 16, 1942, in Brooklyn, died Dec. 16 after battling ovarian cancer, her family said. She was 82.

Sign up for the NewsdayTV newsletter

From breaking news to special features and documentaries, the NewsdayTV team is covering the issues that matter to you.

Email address

SIGN UP

By clicking Sign up, you agree to our [privacy policy](#).

Before that, Sandy Oliva earned a bachelor's degree from Queens College. She taught secondary English in Queens, where she met her first husband, Frank, also a teacher. The couple married in the late '60s and moved to Locust Valley where they raised their daughter and son, David. The couple later divorced. In the late 1990s, Oliva married Bruno LaSpina, and they moved to Northport.

Oliva left the Coalition in the late 1990s and spent 15 years as the vice president of community impact and agency relations at United Way of Long Island. She then went back to the Coalition and assisted in its merger with the Coalition Against Child Abuse & Neglect, forming The Safe Center LI in 2014, a Bethpage-based victim-service agency.

"It was her life's work ... she felt she had a calling to help people," said Irene Hajasava, of Mineola, who attended graduate school with Oliva and worked at the Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Oliva started the Coalition Against Domestic Violence in 1977. She eventually became executive director, during which time she earned a master's degree in social work from Adelphi University.

"Her work meant everything to her. It was part of her identity and something she fought for that she believed in," Jennifer Oliva said. "She really grew the agency to be all-encompassing. They had a 24-hour hotline, a safe house for victims, counseling services."

"She was smart, funny, energetic, just a beautiful person," Hajasava said. "I think she would want to be remembered for her commitment to helping women and children."

Cindy Scott, who formerly served as co-executive director at The Safe Center LI, worked on projects with Oliva and credited her as "a great support, and I wouldn't have worked anybody else by my side."

"She was so open to hearing the dynamics of child abuse and child sexual abuse," said Scott, who now lives in West Beach, Florida. "Her work was truly a life-or-death."

As a mother, Oliva was an incredible role model when it came to a career, according to her daughter, the owner of a public relations firm.

"Her approach meant everything. She modeled strong, smart, is successful, and a lot of my success as a single mom is related to her," Jennifer Oliva said. "She was an amazing grandmother and had a real bond with her grandchildren. She was somebody who they would look up to but she was also a cheerleader for them as well."

Sandy Oliva enjoyed reading and watching TV and was also a dedicated dog lover. She visited Last Clients Review & Care, a nonprofit to help shelters across Long Island. For the past few years, Oliva had volunteered at the thrift shop for the Visiting Nurse Service and Hospital of Suffolk.

The Sandy Oliva Memorial Scholarship Fund has been started in her honor and is run through the United Way of Long Island. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the scholarship fund, which will be awarded annually to a victim of domestic violence.

In addition to her daughter, son and husband, Oliva was survived by two daughters-in-law, Minnie and grandchildren Dylan, Jack and Max. Oliva was cremated. A celebration of life is planned for Sunday at The Safe Center LI.

United Way of LI, Sands NY aid local kids with holiday shopping



Courtesy of United Way of Long Island

In an effort to assist with holiday shopping needs, Sands New York partnered with United Way of Long Island to help children from **EAC Network** and Family & Children's Association, **Housing Help**, and United Way's YouthBuild program. Volunteers from both Sands and United Way accompanied each child during the holiday shopping experience held at Target in Westbury.

The initiative also highlighted the importance of corporate philanthropy in fostering stronger communities, as well as supporting each of the aforementioned nonprofits.



They're stuffed: The **United Way of Long Island** and friends are taking a victory lap after another successful Stuff-a-Bus campaign distributed school supplies to thousands of at-need LI students.

The UWLI's 16th annual Stuff-A-Bus school-supply program – held in partnership with **Suffolk Transportation Service**, with volunteers from **National Grid** and **Zebra Technologies** doing the heavy lifting – has funneled more than \$50,000 worth of essential school supplies to elementary students across Nassau and Suffolk counties. After the regional United Way chapter collected donations of backpacks, pens, pencils, folders and other supplies from 40-plus regional companies, National Grid and Zebra employees gathered Sept. 13 to pack them into STS school buses, which ultimately delivered the goods to **Pronto of Long Island**, the **Hicksville Boys & Girls Club**, the **Community Development Corp. of Long Island** and the Brentwood, Central Islip and Westbury school districts, among other districts and community-based organizations.

United Way of Long Island is “extremely grateful to all our supporters and collaborators that help make Stuff-A-Bus a reality,” according to President and Chief Executive Officer Theresa Regnante. “When we provide quality supplies to our students, we alleviate financial burdens and allow them to focus on learning,” the CEO added.

Noticia

Miles de estudiantes reciben útiles escolares a través del programa Stuff-A-Bus de United Way of Long Island

Noticia Long Island

10 octubre 2024



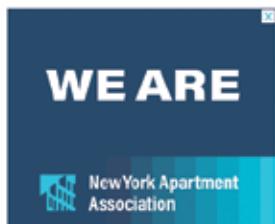
Más de \$50,000 en útiles escolares esenciales fueron donados a organizaciones comunitarias y a los distritos escolares de Brentwood, Central Islip, Copiague, Hicksville, Patchogue-Medford, Uniondale, Valley Stream y Westbury. Foto: Unitedwayli.org

United Way of Long Island celebró su 16vo. año de distribución de útiles escolares Stuff-A-Bus en asociación con Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc., entregando más de \$50,000 en útiles escolares esenciales a estudiantes de primaria en los condados de Nassau y Suffolk.

Esta iniciativa garantiza que los estudiantes de todas las comunidades estén equipados con las herramientas vitales que necesitan para el éxito académico.

Este 2024, el evento tuvo un gran éxito, gracias especialmente a la Red de Jóvenes Profesionales de United Way, que recaudó \$20,000 para apoyar el programa a través de su Torneo de Cornhole y Evento de Networking anual.

Además, durante todo el mes de agosto, United Way of Long Island, junto con empresas locales, recogió útiles escolares para los estudiantes locales.



El 13 de septiembre de 2024, voluntarios de National Grid y Zebra Technologies donaron generosamente su tiempo para llenar autobuses escolares con cajas llenas de útiles, incluidas mochilas, bolígrafos, lápices, marcadores, carpetas, fichas, barras de pegamento y más, y los entregaron a los estudiantes de los distritos escolares de Brentwood y Central Islip.

Su ayuda con la distribución aseguró que miles de alumnos de Long Island estén preparados para el año escolar que comienza.

«Cuando proporcionamos útiles de calidad a nuestros estudiantes, aliviarnos las cargas financieras y les permitimos concentrarse en el aprendizaje. United Way está sumamente agradecida con todos nuestros seguidores y colaboradores que ayudan a hacer realidad Stuff-A-Bus», dijo Theresa Regnante, presidenta y directora ejecutiva de United Way de Long Island.



Por su parte, Victor Vientos, director de ingeniería de National Grid, señaló, «En National Grid, servir a nuestros clientes y a la comunidad es algo natural, pero trabajar con United Way y asociarnos con Stuff A Bus para poder ayudar a los estudiantes a comenzar el año escolar de la manera correcta es realmente un honor».

Varias organizaciones y distritos escolares recibieron suministros de United Way de Long Island para preparar a los estudiantes para este año académico, entre ellos:

ABBA Leadership, Community Development Corporation of Long Island, Colonial Youth, Hicksville Boys & Girls Club, Housing Help, Mineola Ministries, Nassau County Office of Youth Services, Pride for Youth, Fronts of Long Island, Rescue Angel, Restoration Revival, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, SCO Family Services, The Retreat, Wings of Empowerment, Wyandanch Homes & Property, YouthBuild Long Island, y los distritos escolares de Brentwood, Central Islip, Copiague, Hicksville, Patchogue-Medford, Uniondale, Valley Stream y Westbury.

Stuff-A-Bus contó con más de 40 empresas contribuyentes y patrocinadores principales, entre los que se incluyen:

Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc.; Esquire Denic Local 330 RWD5U UICW; Green Acres; National Grid; National Grid Ventures; RXR Merchants Insurance Group; and Sheehan Accountants & Advisors.

Los principales patrocinadores de Stuff-A-Bus de la Red de Jóvenes Profesionales son Dulovas Restoration Inc.; Dethgape Federal Credit Union; The Mosquito Guide; Cas Tec Plumbing and Hearing; RK Pen Care; Riskin Mosrau Faltishek P.C.; Flushing Bank; Clear View Building Services; Dem Insurance Agency & Associates; y G-Rock Handovers Inc.



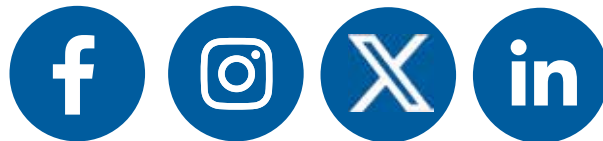
Thank you to everyone, companies, volunteers, and individuals, who helped make Stuff-A-Bus 2024 a success. We couldn't have done it without you! Companies like Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc., & National Grid's commitment to our community is inspiring. #UnitedWay #StuffABus #Education

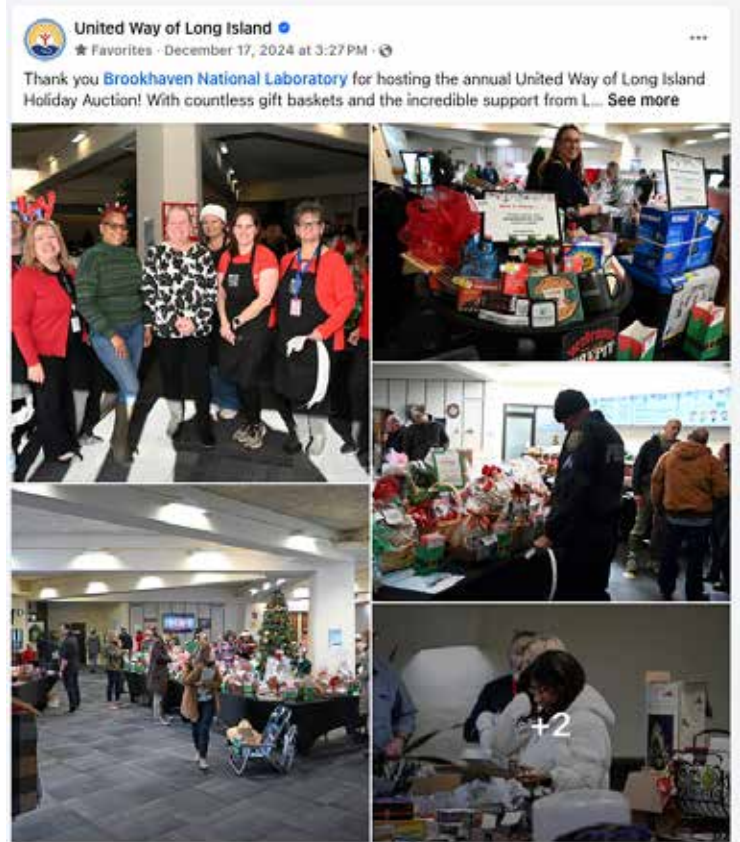
El programa Stuff-A-Bus de United Way of Long Island es parte de un esfuerzo más amplio para fortalecer la educación, un pilar clave en la misión de la organización de promover la estabilidad financiera y las oportunidades para todos.

Desde 2008, Stuff-A-Bus ha entregado más de 1 millón de útiles escolares a los niños. Al proporcionar suministros educativos vitales, Stuff-A-Bus tiene como objetivo proporcionar a los estudiantes las herramientas adecuadas para el éxito académico y, al mismo tiempo, aumentar las oportunidades económicas de las familias de los estudiantes.

Para más información sobre esta loable iniciativa visite <https://www.unitedwayli.org/stuff-bus>.

Social Media





United Way of Long Island
 ★ Favorites · December 16, 2024 at 12:58 PM · 🌐

That's a wrap on our 2024 Workforce Training Development Academy #PowerUp graduates! Thank you, [Bank of America](#), for helping shape the future of employment in Long Isla... [See more](#)



United Way of Long Island
 ★ Favorites · December 12, 2024 · 🌐

👉 This holiday season, 125 children from Long Island experienced the joy of giving, thanks to a generous gift from [Sands New York](#)! Volunteers joined the kids on a spec... [See more](#)



United Way of Long Island
 ★ Favorites · December 13, 2024 · 🌐

Thank you to [Long Island Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence](#) for recognizing our President & CEO, Theresa Regnante, with the inaugural Lillian McCormick Professiona... [See more](#)



United Way of Long Island
 ★ Favorites · December 11, 2024 · 🌐

👉 Spreading holiday cheer! Our Young Professionals Network has come together to sponsor a few families this holiday season, ensuring they have everything they need to ... [See more](#)





United Way of Long Island
★ Favorites · November 1, 2024 · 🌐

Our fantastic Team Mission United Marathon runners will take on the 26.2 mile challenge this Sunday at the 2024 New York City Marathon. Join us to cheer them on while t... [See more](#)



United Way of Long Island
★ Favorites · November 2, 2024 · 🌐

Together, we can unite people to help the individuals and families impacted by the devastating hurricanes and create long-term resiliency for affected communities. Tune... [See more](#)



BENEFIT FOR HURRICANE RELIEF™

NOVEMBER 2 | 8PM ET/PT 7PM CT



FEATURING

- Backstreet Boys · Billy Bob Thornton
- Billy Burke · Blake Shelton ·
- Brittney Spencer · Carly Pearce ·
- Cedric The Entertainer · Chris Ianson
- Clay Aiken · Cody Alan · Jackson
- Dean · JB SMOOVE · Jonathan
- McReynolds · Kelsea Ballerini · Max
- Thieriot · Nate Burleson · Stephen
- Colbert · Taye Diggs · Tyler Hubbard
- Zac Brown Band



819 Grand Blvd., Deer Park, NY 11729
www.unitedwayli.org • 631.940.3700