



Investing in Change

Celebrating over 30 years of helping Long Islanders make a difference

Leading the Mission



David M. Okorn

Over the past year, the LICF board and staff have been diligently reviewing our grantmaking priorities as we continually strive to achieve more measurable results and greater impact in our community. As part of this review, LICF conducted an online survey of community, business, and government leaders to help us to identify the most pressing

needs across our region. The survey, as well as other recently published reports and studies, was used as the basis of discussion for a staff and board retreat last fall. We identified eight priority areas for our competitive grantmaking:

- **Hunger** — to alleviate hunger and increase food access for poor people;
- **Youth Violence Prevention** — to support and strengthen programs that prevent and deal with bullying and gang involvement and to promote juvenile justice reform;
- **Community Development** — to build and sustain strong communities by building and preserving affordable housing;

- **Equal Access to Education** — to support and promote access to quality education for all;
- **Health** — to support hospital programs that provide health care to the underserved and to meet the mental health care needs of military veterans;
- **Technical Assistance** — to strengthen nonprofit operations to achieve greater impact in our communities;
- **Environment** — to protect and preserve Long Island's natural resources, ecosystems and public health;
- **Arts and Culture** — to support and promote projects that emphasize the potential of the arts in regional economic and community development.

Looking ahead, we are confident that these priorities will enable us to achieve greater social impact. Through the continued support of donors like you, LICF remains committed to improving the well-being of the people and communities of Long Island.

David M. Okorn
Executive Director

Inside

2 Responding to LI's Teen Drug Use

A mother's legacy for her son...

3 Not Your Ordinary Food Pantry

4 LICF has a New Donor Relations & Communications Director

For Professional Advisors

The mission of the Long Island Community Foundation is to enhance the well-being of the people and communities of Long Island.



Patricia Galteri

Galteri Elected Chair of the Long Island Community Foundation

The Long Island Community Foundation is pleased to announce that Patricia Galteri Esq., of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C., has been appointed chair of our board

of advisors. She succeeds Lawrence E. Davidow Esq., who will continue to serve on the board.

"The Long Island Community Foundation has been a catalyst for community change and we will continue working to make a difference every day," says Galteri, who has been a board member for more than three years. "At the same time, the Foundation is embarking on a new strategic direction to ensure we meet both the expectations of our donors and the needs of our communities."

Along with chairing the trusts and estates department of her law firm, Ms. Galteri develops estate and family business plans to assure the tax-efficient transfer of

wealth to the next generation while meeting the personal goals of her clients. Ms. Galteri is rated AV Pre-eminent — the highest level in professional excellence by Martindale-Hubbell, an international advisory and networking legal resource center.

Ms. Galteri earned her Bachelors degree in business administration at Hofstra University, and she continued her studies at Hofstra's School of Law. Upon graduation, she was presented with a Citation of Excellence in Community Law Service.

She is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the Nassau County Bar Association and the Suffolk County Bar Association. Ms. Galteri is also a board member of the Nassau County Estate Planning Council and the North Shore-LIJ Health System's Gift Planning Advisory Committee. ■



At a June 24th press conference: Jeffrey Reynolds, LICADD's executive director and families who have lost loved ones to overdose as well as young people in recovery.

Responding to LI's Teen Drug Use

There is a heroin crisis on Long Island — and it's killing our teens at a record pace. The heroin being sold on Long Island is cheaper and deadlier than ever. In our schools and on our streets, a bag of heroin costs about \$6, less than a pack of cigarettes. According to the New York State Office of Substance Abuse Services, the number of teenagers on Long Island in treatment for heroin and other opiates, such as Oxycontin and Vicodin, has *tripled* since 2006. A teen dies every day.

One of them was Natalie Ciappa of Seaford — a National Honor Society member at Plainedge High School, star of school plays, and a cheerleader who sang the national anthem

at basketball games. She was everything a parent could want — but she was addicted to heroin. Natalie died of an overdose at a Seaford house party in June of 2008, just three days before she would have graduated from high school.

"The issue of people not calling for help is especially troubling on the Island," said Jeffrey Reynolds, executive director of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD). "We're in the midst of a crisis. We're losing upwards of a person a day on Long Island due to drug overdoses. Some of those deaths can be prevented."



One in ten high school seniors use an illegal drug at least once a day.

A mother's legacy for her son...



Tim Kroll

On August 29, 2009, my son, Tim Kroll, died of a drug overdose. He took his last breaths in my arms. Tim's death was an unexpected turning point in my life.

My son had been an 'A' student, and, by his own admission, a 'straight edge' kid who did not believe in using drugs, drinking, or smoking. He had suffered from severe headaches and we brought him to an internist (MD) based in Massapequa, literally steps away from Massapequa High School. Unbeknownst to us, he was an MD prescribing and illegally dealing prescription drugs, to which Tim became addicted and fell into a life of despair and torment, ending with a drug overdose.

Shortly after Tim's death we notified the Nassau County Police department about the man responsible for our son's addiction. A few months later, we received a phone call letting us know that the doctor had been arrested and charged with dealing prescription drugs. It was too late for Tim, but as we followed the court case we were introduced to the Long Island Coalition for Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (LICADD).

Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, its executive director, introduced us to PUSH-LI and asked if we would like to attend a meeting. At the first meeting, we knew this would be where we could use our family's experience to make a difference and continue a legacy for Tim.

PUSH-LI has been in existence for just over a year. We meet monthly to discuss what is happening in our own world and how we can take our experiences and make a positive difference. We have a Facebook page with thousands of members from all over the country.

Thanks to the Long Island Community Foundation, we now have an Advocacy Academy that gives PUSH members advocacy training so we can better participate in the legislative process that influences drug-abuse prevention and policy.

I am so proud of Tim's life and this group is a perfect fit — I get to talk about my son and his successes, and I have the opportunity to help families in the throes of addiction and guide them towards the help they need. I have Tim with me every day; I know he is proud of the work I am doing.

I am not the first parent to lose a child to drug addiction; I'd like to be among the last.

Teri Kroll, *PUSH-LI* coordinator

LICF recently awarded a \$15,000 grant to LICADD to develop a parent-led, grassroots group called PUSH-LI (Parents United to Stop Heroin on Long Island); with that grant, the Advocacy Academy was launched.

The Advocacy Academy is mobilizing, motivating, educating and supporting a new generation of leaders on Long Island committed to strengthening drug and alcohol addiction prevention efforts and improving treatment and recovery programs for teens in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Organized a year ago, it has trained more than 75 people, and is ahead of schedule to train 100 additional advocates in 2011. Parents who attend the Advocacy Academy learn how to work with elected officials, how to talk to the media, and learn about addiction and the issues associated with this disease.

As a result of the advocacy training, parents have been working with local legislators on various drug-abuse prevention and treatment issues and on June 6, 2011, introduced the 911 Good Samaritan Policy in the State legislature. The bill, sponsored by Assemblyman Dick Gottfried and Senator John DeFrancisco, encourages people who witness an overdose, or suffer one, to call 911 by assuring them they will not be arrested, charged, or prosecuted for drug or paraphernalia possession or under-age alcohol possession. The bill was passed in June 2011.



As part of the services provided by Long Island Cares Nassau Service Center in Freeport, community associate Sabina Escobosa helps Shamara Gaskin look for a job.



Not Your Ordinary Food Pantry

“When it comes to getting help for someone suffering from a drug or alcohol overdose, we need fewer bystanders and more people willing to get help,” Senate Majority Leader Dean G. Skelos said. “This bill puts a necessary focus on helping an individual in need so that we can save more lives and give people more chances to get on a road to recovery.”

“We are proud that the Academy, the result of our grant, provided training for these parents and armed them with knowledge and tools necessary to participate in policy work — such as the petitioning of this bill,” said Sol Marie Alfonso-Jones, program officer at LICF.

“At PUSH we know we will make a difference. We still have a lot of work to do — but know that we have the drive and help to do it,” said Teri Kroll, PUSH-LI coordinator.

“Now our attention turns to ensuring that this new law is implemented quickly and effectively, as we work to let people know that calling for help is critical,” LICADD’s Reynolds continues. “The fear of being punished is what stopped them from calling for Natalie.” ■

Laid off more than a year ago, Shamara Gaskin, a mother of eight, thought she knew how food pantries worked — until she visited the Long Island Cares Nassau Service Center in Freeport.

.....
“This is not your typical food pantry; it’s more of a triage for the disadvantaged,” said Jessica Rosati, director for programs and community services at the Center. “Yes, we provide a one-time supply of food, but then we take it to the next level. We provide other services that will help them become more secure in the future, like providing information on how to get a job or other social services in the area that may be available to them.”
.....

More than 5,500 people have benefited from the Center since it opened in June 2010. Through the generosity of our donors, the Long Island Community Foundation has made more than \$600,000 in grants to Long Island Cares over the past 20 years.

Shamara was grateful for the help she received on her visit. “I’ve been to food pantries before, but this was the first one that spent time with me to help me find a job. They are really great and took extra steps,” she said.

Founded in 1980, Long Island Cares was the first food bank on the Island. Today, the organization distributes nearly six million pounds of food each year through its network of more than 500 member agencies. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, child-care agencies, and other nonprofits in Nassau and Suffolk counties. The organization also provides an array of programs and services critical to the anti-hunger movement on Long Island, such as nutrition guidance and welfare reform advocacy.

Long Island Cares Nassau Service Center opened as record numbers of Long Islanders were receiving food stamps — more than 125,000 in March of 2010, compared with 91,000 a year earlier.

.....
“The Rhodebeck Fund in the Long Island Community Foundation was set up to support organizations helping the homeless and hungry in Freeport,” said David M. Okorn, executive director of LICF, “The Center provides essential services that are making a real difference in the surrounding community, making it a perfect match for the Rhodebeck Fund.”
.....

To date, the Center has served more than 52,700 meals to seniors, children and adults. Families can choose essentials from the pantry based on the size of their family and volunteers help make the experience feel more like shopping, Rosati adds, “Whatever comes into the pantry flies out very quickly. The shelves don’t stay full very long.”

In addition to housing a pantry with foods, baby products, pet food, school supplies, and children’s clothing, the Center also has a social services referral office and a conference room where its member organizations receive annual food-safety training.

.....
“Outreach is really important and we try all different approaches,” says Sabina Escobosa, a bilingual associate who manages the Center’s outreach. “I walk around the neighborhood and stop in at local businesses, train stations, any place that someone in need might be.” ■
.....

Investing in Change

Published by
Long Island Community Foundation
1864 Muttontown Road
Syosset, NY 11791

www.licf.org

David M. Okorn, Executive Director
(516) 348-0575 x226
dmokorn@licf.org

Marie C. Smith, Director of Donor Relations
& Communications
(516) 348-0575 x223
msmith@licf.org

Investing@change



Marie C. Smith

LICF has a New Donor Relations & Communications Director

The Long Island Community Foundation welcomes Marie C. Smith to the team as the new director of donor relations and

communications. In this position, Smith will focus on providing excellent service to donors while effectively promoting the Foundation's mission and activities.

.....
"Marie has a broad range of experience in philanthropy, building relationships and strategic communications," said David M. Okorn, executive director of the Long Island Community Foundation. "These skills are vital to her new role at the Foundation and we are thrilled to have her as part of our team."
.....

Smith has over 18 years experience in philanthropy, which includes fundraising, grantmaking, community and government relations, database management and volunteerism.

Prior to joining LICF, she was director of strategic partnerships at Con Edison. For 12 years, she directed Con Edison's corporate giving strategy, managing community relations, charitable giving, volunteerism and the company's special events programs. She successfully highlighted the company's role in the communities it serves, offering support and partnerships to local organizations while enhancing its presence in the New York business community.

A graduate of Hofstra University, Smith is a native Long Islander and lives here with her husband and daughter. ■

For Professional Advisors

Planned Giving Design Center is an online resource to help you advise clients in matters of charitable giving, estate and financial planning.

Sign up — it's free! Log into LICF's Planned Giving Design Center by visiting www.licf.org/professional-advisors.

This resource will keep you up-to-date with national and local news, articles from leading authorities, and a calendar of local events. Its member directory enables you to find a professional in another city or locate an old acquaintance. The gift calculator allows you to quickly and easily calculate the exact amount of a charitable contribution deduction, and the resource section keeps federal gift and estate tax rate schedules and forms at your fingertips. PGDC is designed to help you help others give wisely.



The World's largest community of planned giving professionals