COVER STORY

Grants For Long Island’s East End

Patrick attends East End Hospice’s music therapy program for children recovering from a death of a loved one or other painful event. With funding from the All for the East End Fund, it purchased new drums for its summer program.

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ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE
East End Disability Associates in Riverhead provides children with intellectual and developmental disabilities the chance to take acting classes and perform on stage.

3 Questions | Mary Beth Guyther
Mary Beth manages our foundation’s grantmaking in health and mental health for veterans, hunger, arts, and technical assistance. She also oversees giving from our Long Island Unitarian Universalist Fund. Before joining us, she worked for the Enterprise Foundation and Girls Incorporated. She is a graduate of Northwestern University.

How do you help the Long Island Unitarian Universalist Fund make Long Island fair and equitable?
The Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock set up a fund with us 20 years ago to promote fairness and equity for all people. Over the years, we’ve helped Long Island Unitarian Universalist Fund’s board of advisors fund grassroots groups standing up for the rights of minorities, immigrants, the LGBT community, and people with disabilities.

This is Long Island. Is hunger really an issue?
Not only are people chronically hungry on Long Island, but more are hungry every day. National trends show that poverty is increasing in the suburbs, including Long Island, at a faster rate than in cities. The high cost of living and our still-recovering economy leave more than 316,000 people on the Island facing hunger at any time. We fund large food banks that use economies of scale to get food to smaller pantries in the communities that need it most. We also fund mobile outreach programs. Ending hunger means ending poverty, so we also support nonprofits that are helping people get jobs and affordable housing.

What is technical assistance and why is it so important to nonprofits?
Groups that are run well work more effectively. Period. We make technical assistance grants to nonprofits to train staff and board members to operate, plan, and lead better. For example: we’ve funded Center for Nonprofit Leadership at Adelphi to provide leadership training to mid-level professionals to help prepare them for leadership roles as baby boomers retire.

(cover story)
Our All For the East End Fund (known as the AFTEE Fund) recently distributed $50,000 among 20 hard-working charities serving Riverhead, Shelter Island, Southampton, Southold, and East Hampton.

“We received hundreds of proposals that vividly illustrate the need on the East End,” David M. Okorn, executive director of the Long Island Community Foundation.

Named the Building Stronger Neighborhoods Program, an advisory committee of residents, community leaders, and activists help recommend grants to health, environmental, arts, education, youth development, and animal welfare programs.
STRONGER PARENT-CHILD BONDS
Community Action Southold Town serves poor families on the North Fork through its Parent-Child Home Program with developmentally appropriate books and toys that stimulate conversation and learning. Our funding provided books and toys for the program.

SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP
Peconic Community Council is providing overnight supervision at an East End shelter, ensuring that the homeless are safe on cold winter nights.

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH TRIATHLON
Inspirational Triathlon Racing International (known as i-tri) in East Hampton gets girls struggling in school or home life to train and compete in triathlons. The group teaches the power of teamwork while emphasizing healthy relationships and nutritious eating.

“This program provides an important mechanism for sharing knowledge and resources to help those who need it most,” says Laura Anker, advisory committee member and East Hampton resident

Other AFTEE grants:

East Hampton
- Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons – for a program that provides a safe haven for pets whose owners are in crisis or difficulty
- Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center - to integrate science, technology, engineering, and math into a summer program for children age 3 to 5
- Food Pantry Farm - to hire interns to assist with children programming and field visits to the farm
- The Retreat - to provide career guidance and financial education to survivors of domestic violence

Riverhead
- East End Arts & Humanities Council - for promotional materials to engage the Spanish-speaking Riverside community in the JumpstART program
- Hallockville Museum Farm - to provide summer camp scholarships to Latino children
- Open Arms Care Center - to replenish the emergency food pantry

Shelter Island
- Shelter Island Historical Society - to expand an oral history program for students
- Sylvester Manor Educational Farm - to design and install signs on the farm

Southampton
- Children’s Museum of the East End - for a series of family art programs at four East End community organizations
- Lucia’s Angels - to provide non-medical support services for women diagnosed with late stage cancers
- Sag Harbor Community Food Pantry - to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables to supplement the pantry’s food stock
- Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center & Museum - to include community members in the restoration of Wikun Village and promote cultural awareness and stewardship

Southold
- Group for the East End - to organize three East End coastal cleanup projects
- Family Service League - to continue to provide mental health screenings and non-clinical interventions for elementary school children

All For The East End (AFTEE) is an organization that supports and showcases its fellow nonprofits that make the East End a place unlike any other. It created a fund in the Long Island Community Foundation to minimize administration costs and maximize efficiency and transparency in its grantmaking. For more information, visit AFTEE.org.

licf.org
What is the water like in your part of the sound? Over the past two years, the Long Island Community Foundation gave $40,000 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to protect the Long Island Sound and its watershed. Using a model previously established for the Chesapeake Bay, and with input from local universities and other science professionals, its develop report cards that measure the health of the Long Island Sound and two embayments – Hempstead Harbor on Long Island and Norwalk River in Connecticut.

The first-ever ecosystem health report card was released June 8 and shows Long Island Sound earned grades of very good for water quality in Eastern Long Island, earning an “A” to very poor for water quality moving westward near New York City. At a press conference announcing the report, David Okorn, our executive director, said, “a healthy Sound is a vital asset of the regional economy. People should take personal action like reducing fertilizers, pumping septic tanks every three to five years and properly disposing of drugs and toxic chemicals so they don’t migrate back into the Sound.” To read the full report, visit www.longislandsound.ecoreportcard.org.

The Long Island Community Foundation is being recognized by three prominent Long Island organizations in 2015. We are proud to announce that David Okorn our executive director and LICF have been honored as:

**HONORS & AWARDS**

**The Gilbert Tilles Award, Corporate Citizenship Award, Long Island Business News**

Long Island Community Foundation (LICF) has been selected for recognition in Long Island Business News’ Corporate Citizenship Awards program for significant dedication to the community. LICF was presented with a Corporate Citizen of the Year Award on September 10, 2015.

**Caumsett Foundation “State of the Mind” award**

The Caumsett Foundation is honoring David Okorn and LICF at its State of Mind event on October 3, 2015, for support and work on important environmental issues affecting native grasslands.

**Association of Fundraising Professionals**

The Association of Fundraising Professionals will be awarding The Gilbert Tilles Award at Philanthropy Day on November 3rd to David M. Okorn for his strategic and innovative leadership as the Foundation’s executive director.
Career programs that take students out of the classroom and into the workplace help them figure out how to rely on themselves. We gave $20,000 to the Viscardi Center in Albertson for a program that teaches students about possible career paths, what positions are available, and the education needed to secure them.

Isaiah Smith, a student in the program who lives in Freeport, is now considering a career as a police officer. He says "At the Viscardi Center, I learned how to use negative energy as motivation to accomplish my goals."

Ninety-eight percent of those who have completed the program have graduated from high school and gone on to postsecondary education, employment, the military, or vocational training.

Out of Foster Care and Into a Working World

When young people in foster care reach the age of 21, they must get a job and find a place to live. This process can be overwhelming. Without help, many children aging out of foster care end up behind bars, unemployed, or abusing drugs or alcohol.

With our help, Family Residences and Essential Enterprises (known as FREE) in Old Bethpage, is helping young people from two foster-care agencies: Mercy First in Nassau and Little Flower Children and Family Services in Suffolk counties. With our $20,000, the group started a Transition-to-Work program for 60 foster care youth, ages 16 to 25, which includes basic skills training, apprenticeships and internships.

FALL FEATURE

Isaiah Smith learns about animal care and volunteer opportunities available at North Shore Animal League.
Year after year, Dale Lewis made sure that kids learned about music, dance, theater, and the visual arts. When he announced his retirement as Executive Director of Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts, he opened the Arts Reach Fund at the Long Island Community Foundation.

“Launching a fund at the Long Island Community Foundation was a perfect way to advance the arts,” he explained. “At Usdan, I was on the receiving end of the Foundation’s support. Now I have an opportunity to give back.” His fund has three purposes: Providing tools that will allow talented, high needs students to become arts educators, supporting arts teachers with enriching professional development, and providing local arts organizations with strategic help that will allow them to use their resources more efficiently.

We are honored that he chose the Long Island Community Foundation to carry on his great work now and in the future. You can do the same.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE?

Set up a fund that will support your passions — forever. Call Marie Smith at (631) 991-8800, ext. 223