



Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's
2023 Newsletter

Celebrating
our 10-year
milestone

About Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation



Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation was created in 2013 with the goal of helping Long Island reach its potential. Tony Gentile, one of the founding fathers of Adventureland, always wanted to give back to the Long Island community, and this foundation was created to do just that.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our supporters, we have raised over \$1.3 Million for Long Island! We are thrilled to have reached this milestone and to be able to give back to the communities that have made Adventureland a part of their lives for over 60 years!

As Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation celebrates 10 years of neighbors helping neighbors, this report will reflect all that was achieved through the unwavering dedication of our donors over the past decade and how Helping Hands is only just starting on the journey to help Long Islanders build a better tomorrow.

A Message from the Family of Tony and Vivian Gentile

Steven Gentile—As I speak on behalf of my family, I think about Helping Hands and all that our foundation has accomplished over the last ten years and my mind goes back to my dad, Tony. He was an incredible businessman who possessed the talent to see the potential Adventureland had to become a Long Island institution and the tenacity to make that vision a reality.

Upon our dad's passing in 2013, we as a family became committed to making Adventureland a home for Long Island—somewhere comforting, somewhere with family, somewhere safe. We want every Long Islander to experience that feeling of "home" every day.

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation was created in our father's memory with the goal of giving support to Long Island's incredibly special and unique communities. By giving funds and bringing awareness to local nonprofits, we can bring attention and resources to the organizations that are in the community and can identify the needs of our neighbors.

As champions for education, we have always wanted to start a scholarship program, and I am proud to say that through Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation we have awarded over \$267,000 in tuition assistance to nearly 100 Long Island students over the past 10 years.

Approaching the next decade of Helping Hands, our multi-year partnerships with Island Harvest, JDRF, and Catholic Health's Good Samaritan Hospital's NICU will help our foundation continue our commitment to Long Island in ways we never thought possible.

Through our ten-year journey, Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation has taught my family and I so much about our Long Island community. In times of tragedy, we come together. In times of need, we give together. In times of uncertainty, we stand together. In times of joy, we celebrate together.

None of what we have achieved would have been possible without the commitment of our supporters. We cannot thank you enough for believing in us and believing in our mission.

We are so excited to share this report with you—our ten-year review. It's about where we've been, where we are, and where we're going, together. Afterall, all roads lead back home!

Steven Gentile



* Family of Tony + Vivian Gentile



2013

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation is founded by the family of Tony Gentile in his memory

2014

501(c)3 status is achieved

2015

- Memorial/Personalized Brick Program started
- Planter/Carousel Horse program started
- The Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Fund is created



2016

- * **\$5,000** in scholarships awarded to Long Island Students at our 1st scholarship ceremony!
- 1st School Supply Drive hosted, benefitting Long Island Schools
- 10,000 bottles recycled
- 1st Food Drive hosted, benefitting the Town of Babylon Food Pantry and LI Cares



2017

- * **\$11,700** in scholarships awarded to Long Island students from the Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Fund.
- **Sachem Dental Group** awards Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation with a **\$50,000 Endowment**
- **1st Annual VIP Night hosted—over \$110,000 raised!**
- Helping Hands Grant Program is launched with a donation to the Book Fairies
- **\$20,000** Pledge to Stony Brook Children's Child Life Program



*Scholarship Recipients

2018

- * Over **\$33,000** in scholarships awarded to Long Island Students from the Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Fund
- **2nd annual VIP night hosted—\$150,000 raised!**
- Coats and Care Packages donated to Long Island Coalition for the Homeless

*Sal "The Voice" Valentinetti



2018

- Christmas in July! Toys donated to the Ronald McDonald House and Stony Brook Children's Hospital
- 3rd annual food drive, for the Town of Babylon Food Pantry and Island Harvest



2019

- * Over **\$41,000** in scholarships awarded to Long Island Students from the Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Fund.
- **3rd annual VIP night hosted—over \$196,000 raised!**
- Helping Hands Bottle Recycling Program sponsors 2 Splashes of Hope Murals - **\$4,800**
- **\$50,000** Pledged to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation



2020

- * **\$36,000** in scholarships awarded in a socially distanced ceremony
- Thousands of dollars, of PPE donated to local hospitals

2021

- Helping Hands' Bottle Recycling Program proceeds sponsor 2 more Splashes of Hope Murals – donation to date is **\$9,600 (192,000 bottles recycled)**
- 52 Children sponsored through the Town of Babylon Christmas Angels Holiday Gift Program
- **\$16,880** in scholarships awarded to Long Island students from the Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Fund.
- **4th annual VIP night hosted—over \$240,000 raised!**
- **\$15,000** in funds and food donated to the Town of Babylon Food Pantry and Island Harvest



*Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's VIP Night

2022

- \$20,000 awarded to local nonprofits through our grant program
- \$50,000 pledge to the Good Samaritan NICU
- \$56,200 in scholarships awarded to Long Island Students from the Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Fund.
- 5th Annual VIP Night Hosted--over \$250,000 raised! This brings the total raised from our VIP Nights fundraisers to over \$1,000,000!
- Clear the List Program launched—Helping Hands fulfilled \$15,000 in classroom wish-lists for over 80 teachers representing 31 LI School Districts.
- 78 Children sponsored through the Town of Babylon Christmas Angels Holiday Gift Program

2023

- * Over \$66,599 in scholarships awarded to Long Island students from the Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Fund.
- Total scholarship dollars awarded since the founding of the Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Program surpasses \$265,000.
- 6th Annual VIP Night hosted—over \$384,000 raised!
- \$255,000 in support pledged to Island Harvest
- \$200,000 in support pledged to JDRF
- \$35,000 awarded to local nonprofits through our grant program
- \$35,000 donated to the Clear the List Program—Helping Hands clears over 160 teacher classroom wishlists.
- Helping Hands Bottle Recycling Program—over 240,000 plastic bottles recycled!
- 5th Splashes of Hope Mural Sponsored with funds from the Bottle Recycling Program — donation to date = \$12,000! (240,000 bottles recycled)
- 40 Children Sponsored through the Town of Babylon Christmas Angels Holiday Gift Program
- 200 toys donated to the Town of Oyster Bay Toys For Tots collection

2024

- September 6, 2024 – Save the Date for VIP Night!



*Family Fun at Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundations VIP Night!

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Fund Awards Over \$65,999 to Long Island students in 2023



*Scholarship Recipients

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation has awarded over \$265,000 in scholarships since the inception of the Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Program in 2016

This summer, 13 Long Island High School graduates were each awarded \$5,000 to be used towards their first year at a Long Island college or university, with an additional \$1,600 awarded to a graduate of William Floyd High School, totaling \$66,599.

Award winners were selected based on their dedication and commitment to the Long Island community through school programs and community service.

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Recipients:

- Thomas Ely, a Mineola High School Graduate who will be attending Adelphi University.
- Matthew Lourenco, a St. Anthony's High School Graduate who will be attending Farmingdale State College.
- Anthony Barbato, a G.W. Hewlett High School Graduate who will be attending Adelphi University.
- Julianna Holtje, a Smithtown High School West Graduate who will be attending Hofstra University.
- Lauren Dern, a MacArthur High School Graduate who will be attending Long Island University.



*Scholarship Recipients

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's Vivian and Tony Gentile Adventureland Employee Scholarship Recipients:

- Daniel Papillo, a West Babylon High School Graduate who will be attending Syracuse University.
- Melissa Giraldo, a North Babylon School Graduate who will be attending Molloy University.
- Gianna Trotta Centonze, a Division Avenue High School Graduate who will be attending SUNY Oneonta.
- John Collard, a Deer Park High School West Graduate who will be attending University at Albany.
- Jessica Marino, a Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Graduate who will be attending Suffolk Community College/SUNY Westbury.



Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's Vivian and Tony Gentile SACHEM DENTAL GROUP Endowment Recipient



*SACHEM DENTAL GROUP Scholarship recipient

- Thomas DiLeo, a Plainview Old Bethpage JFK High School Graduate who will be attending Stony Brook University

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's Vivian and Tony Gentile Island Harvest Scholarship Recipient

- Madison Salimullah, a Half Hollow Hills High School West Graduate, who will be attending Stony Brook University

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's Vivian and Tony Gentile JDRF Scholarship Recipient

- Jamie Pham, a Farmingdale High School Graduate, who will be attending Molloy University.

An additional award winner selected through William Floyd's Dollars for Scholars Program will receive a \$1,600 scholarship.

VIP Night – September 8, 2023

Over \$384,000 raised at the September 8th Helping Hands Annual VIP Night



*Family Fun at VIP Night

On Friday, September 8, 2023 Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation hosted the 6th Annual VIP Night fundraiser at Adventureland.

Thanks to all your support, the foundation raised over \$384,000, bringing our total from all six nights combined to over \$1.3 million for Long Island!!

Funds raised will support the foundation's scholarship program, grant program, pledge program, and more.

The VIP Night Fundraiser is a friends and family fun night filled with unlimited rides, unlimited food, unlimited snacks, and unlimited fun all in celebration of Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation! This year was extra special as we celebrated 10 years since Adventureland's Helping Hands was founded.

Charlize Tuozzo kicked off the night's event with a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem, which was followed by a blessing by Catholic Faith Network's Monsignor Jim Vlaun. Foundation spokeswoman, Jeanine Gentile, then announced all 13 Vivian and Tony Gentile scholarship award recipients and welcomed them to the front of the stage to be recognized and congratulated by all in attendance.

We then heard inspiring words from our keynote speaker, Island Harvest CEO and President, Randi Dresner, about being united in the battle against food insecurity.

The night continued with an incredible performance by Sal "The Voice" Valentinetti. Our emcee and show runner, DJ Theo, kept the music going and the energy high all night! We thank Brian Rosenberg NY for arranging all the musical entertainment that made the night so special.

Adventureland's Helping Hands President, Steve Gentile, wrapped up the night with reflections on what an incredible 10 years it's been for our foundation, and how excited we are for the next ten years.

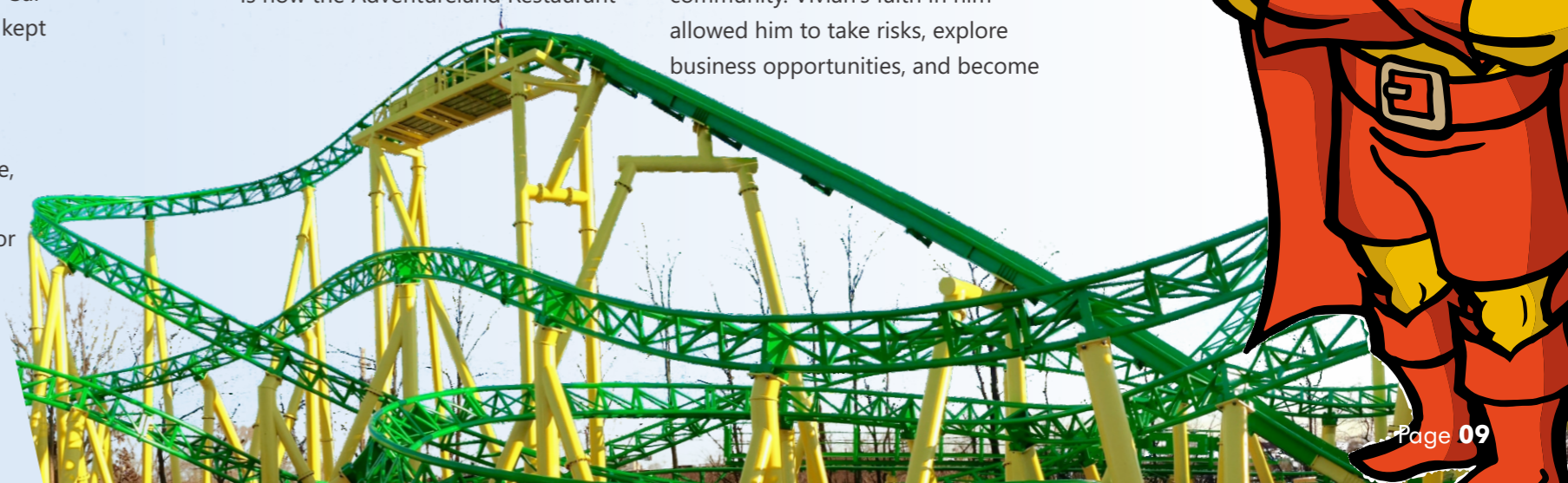
The next VIP Night Fundraiser Friday, September 6, 2024. Email info@HelpinghandsLI.org for sponsorship and ticket information.



Adventureland has been a Long Island institution since 1962; providing a safe place for generations of families to spend time together and to make memories has been the goal of the Farmingdale amusement park since its inception. Although many Long Islanders are familiar with the park's classic rides, only few were lucky enough to know one of the men behind the Adventureland we know and love. Tony Gentile was many things; a risk-taking businessman, an apprenticed butcher, a New Yorker from Brooklyn just to name a few. However, first and foremost, he was a family man. The father of 5, grandfather of 17, married Vivian, the love of his life, after they met in business school. Tony always said that a man is only successful when he can count on the support of his wife, and so with Vivian by his side, and with his dear friends and business partners, Peter Amoruso and Dominic Cosola, and his brother Johnny Gentile, they purchased what is now the Adventureland Restaurant

in the late 1970s. Despite having limited experience in the restaurant industry, the foursome knew they had what it takes to run a successful business together. In the early 1980s the opportunity arose to expand their involvement and invest in the running of the entire amusement park. Fast forward to the 1990s; Adventureland established itself as a local landmark with new and innovative rides, live music, and new games. During this time Tony and his team created community events like Pumpkin Park, designated as a safe Halloween event for Long Island families and developed philanthropic relationships with local nonprofits that continues through Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation today. Tony was a successful businessman because he took chances and trusted in the honesty of people, but he was a great businessman because he was driven to succeed for the benefit of his family, friends, and the community. Vivian's faith in him allowed him to take risks, explore business opportunities, and become

the man he wanted to be. Tony and Vivian and their family wanted to give back to the community and people that supported their dreams. When Tony passed away in 2013, he left behind a legacy for his children to carry on; a legacy that millions of Long Islanders continue to be a part of today. Vivian and Tony's family's philanthropy in the Long Island community continues through Adventureland and the Helping Hands Foundation. Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation Scholarship Recipients embody Tony and Vivian's drive for success, passion for education, and integrity for their community.



Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation pledges \$255,000 to Island Harvest through a 3-year partnership



*Steve Gentile and Randi Shubin Dresner, Island Harvest President + CEO

This past spring, Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation committed to a three-year partnership of \$255,000 to Island Harvest to help the food bank address the critical and ongoing issue of hunger and food insecurity on Long Island.

Beginning in 2023 and continuing through 2025, our foundation will provide funding to help support several hunger-relief initiatives, including Island Harvest's annual Turkey & Trimmings Collection Campaign to help local families struggling

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation pledges \$200,000 to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation through a 3-year partnership.

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation is proud to continue our support of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation with a three-year \$200,000 pledge.

Starting in 2023 and continuing through 2025, our foundation has committed annual financial support, a total of 1,800 Adventureland admission passes, an annual marketing package, and a \$15,000 scholarship program to JDRF.

The admission pass package will help newly diagnosed children and families connect and have fun together in a stress-free family atmosphere. For many families, Adventureland brings memories of joy and happiness, and we are thrilled to be a part of T1D families fun experiences!

Through the marketing package, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation will be featured on Adventureland's marquee and included in email blasts promoting events and fundraisers. We are hopeful that Adventureland and Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's platforms will bring awareness and support to JDRF. This past year Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation awarded the first Vivian and Tony Gentile JDRF Scholarship. The recipient of this scholarship must be a high school senior entering their freshman year at a college or university in New York. They must write a brief essay describing their experience with JDRF and expressing how they feel JDRF supports families and individuals with T1D.

to put a holiday-style meal on their tables during the November and December holidays, and the school pantry program that offers supplemental food support to families in several school districts in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Also, a part of the three-year support agreement includes an ongoing in-kind marketing initiative to help Island Harvest bring light to hunger and food insecurity across the region.

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation will be funding a college scholarship each year of this partnership and donating 100 admission passes to Adventureland to families accessing the services of Island Harvest or its network of member agencies.

"Partnerships with businesses like Adventureland are essential in helping fund supplemental food support and related social services to people who are food insecure," said Randi Shubin Dresner, president & CEO of Island Harvest. "Collaboration between businesses and the nonprofit sectors is vital in helping address some of society's most pressing issues, including poverty and hunger, and we are grateful for Adventureland's generous support."

Adventureland and Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation are proud to support Island Harvest Food Bank. As a family owned and operated Long Island business, we are honored to join the Island Harvest Family in addressing hunger and food insecurity in our

local communities. It is the support we received from our fellow Long Islanders that enabled Adventureland and our Helping Hands Foundation to support Island Harvest in the fight against hunger on Long Island.



Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation is proud to join JDRF in the fight to end T1D and we trust that our commitment to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation will have a lasting impact on Research the T1D Community.



Nonprofit Nights:

This past summer, Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation hosted 8 local nonprofit organizations as a part of our Nonprofit Night Program. Through this program, each organization was awarded a \$1,000 grant and hosted their donation campaign at Adventureland on a night during the summer. Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation also donated giveaways such as a free pretzel, free arcade card, or free game play for donors and Adventureland featured the nonprofit's logo and collection information on the Rt. 110 marquee, email blasts, and on social media.

Here are the organizations we supported and the items we helped them collect!

Foundation	Items Collected
Youth and Family Counseling	Toiletries, Diapers, Baby Wipes, and School Supplies
Options for Community Living	Non-Perishable Food and Toiletries
Family Autism Network	Craft/Toys for Holiday Giveaways
Book Fairies	Gently used and new books
Jericho Cares	Non-Perishable Food and Toiletries
Angels of Long Island	School Supplies
Rachel Quinn Foundation	School Supplies/Backpacks
Family and Children's Association	Non-Perishable Food



Town Of Babylon's Christmas Angels Tradition

40 Town of Babylon Children Sponsored by Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation

This past holiday season we continued the tradition spreading holiday cheer by sponsoring 40 children through the Town of Babylon's Christmas Angels Program. Since 2021, we have sponsored 170 children and donated \$15,000 in wrapped toys and gifts for children of all ages!

New Partnership with the Town of Oyster Bay Toys for Tots



In December of 2023, Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation filled the Helping Hands van mobile with hundreds of toys in support of the Town of Oyster Bays' Toys for Tots Program! Toys were donated to the Toys for Tots Program on December 2, 2023 at John J. Burns Park in Massapequa.

\$15,000 in Funds and Food Donated to Long Island Pantries

This past November, the Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation donated \$10,000 to the 2023 Island Harvest Turkey Drive Hosted by Bethpage Federal Credit Union.

Our foundation also donated 150 Thanksgiving Baskets complete with turkeys and all the trimmings to the Town of Babylon Food Pantry. With the help and support of our friends at DiCarlo Foods, our donation helped over 600 Town of Babylon residents celebrate the holiday season with a nutritious holiday meal!

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation Continues the Tradition of "Clearing the List" for Long Island Teachers:

Our "Clear the List" Program allows local teachers to submit their Amazon Classroom Wishlist for fulfillment by our foundation. Last year we committed \$15,000, clearing over 80 lists! This year, we donated \$25,000 and cleared 125 lists from 50 school districts. We are thrilled to have donated a cumulative \$40,000 to 205 teacher's lists! We are continuing this tradition in 2024 and will start accepting list requests in August!



*Making Food Donation Baskets

2023 Grants

The Marty Lyons Foundation was awarded a \$5,000 grant from Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation.

This grant will help to fulfill wishes for children 3-17 years old who have been diagnosed with a life threatening or terminal illness. The Marty Lyons Foundation was founded in 1982 by former NY Jet, Marty Lyons, and is headquartered on Long Island. The Long Island Chapter is the most active chapter of this nationally recognized foundation—nationwide, the Marty Lyons Foundation has granted wishes for nearly 2,000 children.



GiGi's Playhouse was awarded a \$3,000 grant from Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation towards the GiGi's University Program. GiGi's Playhouse is in Patchogue and offers purposeful, therapeutic, social-emotional, and recreational programs for children and adults with Down Syndrome, all at no cost to the participant. Funds were used to purchase a SmartBoard, which was needed for the classroom learning portion of the GiGi Prep Program—this program also includes a supported employment program. The goal of this program is to develop life and employment skills that benefit both the individuals and the communities in which they live.



Book Fairies was awarded a \$3,000 grant to assist them in their mission to source and redistribute books to underserved communities in New York City and Long Island.

Books have the power to inspire kids, improve literacy, expand opportunity, and empower a community. Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's grant to Book Fairies helps to coordinate the collection, sorting, and distribution of books to get them into schools and organizations. To date, the Book Fairies have distributed more than 3.7million books!

Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck was awarded a \$3,000 grant in 2023. This Center Moriches camp has served children



and young adults with special needs for over 75 years. Grant funds were used towards the purchase of a golf cart, which is used to respond to emergencies, transport campers as necessary, and patrol the grounds for oversight and assistance when needed.

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundations is proud to be able to support Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck in their mission to provide a place "where summer is for everyone" and kids can just be kids, regardless of their abilities.



Moving forward

As Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation moves forward into 2024, our goal is to do more to help Long Island. We intend to award at least \$65,000 through the Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Program, and to increase our commitment to Clear the List. We will continue with our current pledges to Island Harvest, JDRF, and Good Samaritan Hospital's NICU and hope to pledge funds to more nonprofits in 2024. We are so grateful for your support and we wish you and your family a happy healthy 2024!!



Adventureland's Annual Friends & Family V.I.P. Experience

Benefitting Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's Vivian And Tony Gentile Scholarship Fund & Our Local Communities!

Friday, September 6, 2024 | 6:00pm-10:00pm

@

Purchase Tickets:



Event Video:



Visit [HELPINGHANDSLI.org](https://www.helpinghandsli.org) For Ticket Packages And Sponsorship Information



Our Mission

Helping Hands is the non-profit branch of L.I. Adventureland that supports the Long Island community in increasing awareness about local issues, supporting local initiatives, and providing educational resources for community residents.

LI Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit, tax exempt organization and contributions are tax deductible to the extent permissible by law