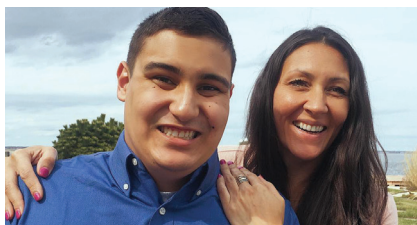


# The Nicholas Center

Innovate, Inspire & Include



## 2019-2020 Impact Report



# A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As I reflect back on the past year, the impact of COVID-19 is ever present as I recollect and report. Collectively, we shared a profound human experience – loss, anxiety and resilience – that continues to test us.

Yet, while we ended 2020 in a fragile state, I am inspired by the strength, adaptability and optimism demonstrated by our small organization.

I am proud to be a part of The Nicholas Center (TNC) - as we work to advance inclusion, bridge gaps in service disparities and support the needs of people with Autism across Long Island, and now, in Westchester! As we approach our 10th anniversary, we continue to work with partner, Spectrum Designs to address pressing issues facing the Autism community and to develop innovative solutions to drive transformational change.

In 2020, TNC served over 100 teens and young adults – providing the means – virtually and in-person – to learn new skills, foster independence and connect with peers. In their time with us, our participants learn vital work skills, and have the opportunity to put those skills to work in jobs and in the community. Socialization techniques allow for more effective communication in both social and work situations. Neurotypical peer to peer connection, enables meaningful community engagement and showcases the capabilities of people with Autism.

There are no words to capture the gratitude and enormous pride I have for the TNC staff, its leadership and governance and the unwavering support for one another and those whom we serve. Despite difficult times, our team stayed true to our mission and core values, forged on and even, reinvented themselves. Nothing short of amazing!

As a result, our future has been shaped by our strong posture and organizational culture and has revolutionized support services for people with Autism. You have been our lifeline during these unprecedented times.

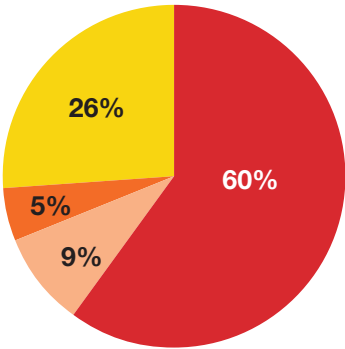
While far from recovered from the economic devastation of the pandemic, we continue to vigilantly monitor and adapt. I hope that TNC has buoyed your confidence to give it your all and give your all today! There are many ways to continue to show your philanthropy and support our programming. Your continued love, prayers and generosity are needed now more than ever.

*With Gratitude,*

Nicole Sugrue, *Co-Founder and Executive Director*

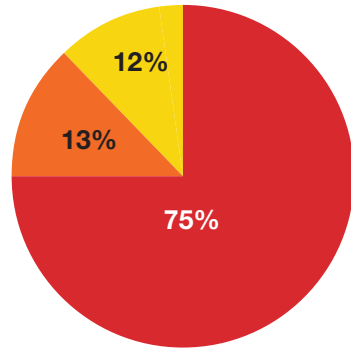
# Celebrating 9 Years!

## Revenue and Expenses



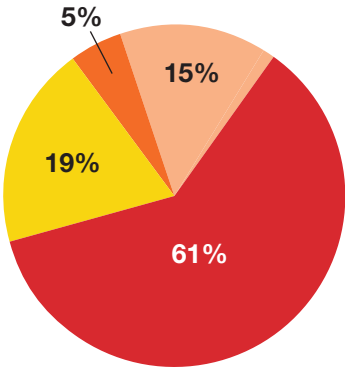
**2018/19 Revenue**

● Medicaid / OPWDD .....	\$1.4M
● School District Contracts.....	\$626K
● Outreach and Fundraising, Donations & Grants.....	\$203K
● Program and other Service Fees .....	\$121K



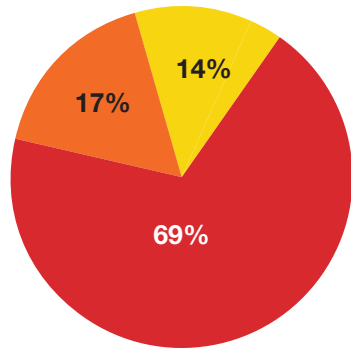
**2018/19 Expenses**

● Program, Staff & Benefits .....	\$1.4M
● Management & General .....	\$249K
● Program Fees, Utilities & Insurance.....	\$243K



**FY 2020 Revenue**

● Medicaid / OPWDD .....	\$1.6M
● School District Contracts.....	\$477K
● Outreach and Fundraising, Donations & Grants.....	\$385K
● Program and other Service Fees .....	\$45K



**FY 2020 Expenses**

● Program Staff & Benefits .....	\$1.7M
● Management & General .....	\$440K
● Program Fees, Utilities & Insurance.....	\$345K

## Participant Impact & Satisfaction Survey 2020

*(72% of the 85 currently enrolled participants responded)*

97%+ Expressed strong satisfaction with the support & services they receive from TNC.

98% TNC has improved their social skills & their ability to relate to others.

85% TNC has helped improve their work-related skills.

96% TNC has helped increase their level of independence & overall self-confidence.

96% TNC has opened doors to develop friendships and meaningful relationships.

# Our Mission

Our mission is to support individuals with Autism to lead full and productive lives in the community.

By the Numbers — Since 2011, The Nicholas Center has provided:

- 120** Individuals support with their transition into adulthood after federally mandated school programs end
- 22** Community partnerships at work with TNC
- 12** Months of full day meaningful programming, community inclusion and work-based opportunities
- 23** Individuals with Autism are gainfully employed
- 85** Individuals receive vocational training daily

The Nicholas Center allows and encourages individuals to follow their passions and interests, hone social and vocational skills and gives them a chance to live productive and fulfilling lives.

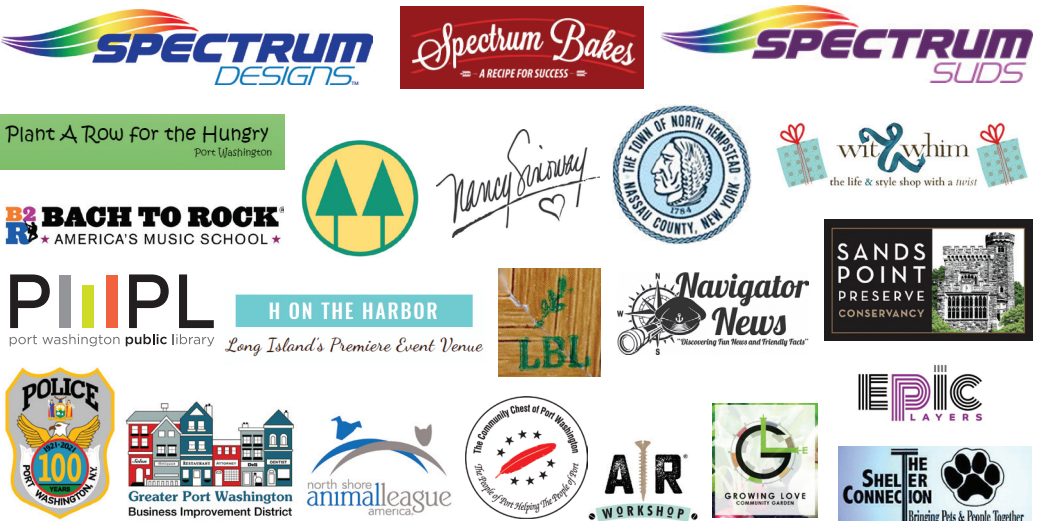
## Board of Directors

Amy Beyer, *President*  
Wesley Smith, *Vice-President*  
John Bowman, *Treasurer*  
Patrick Bardsley, *Secretary*  
Stella Spanakos, *Member*



The Nicholas Center & Spectrum Designs Co-Founders (L-R) Patrick Bardsley, Stella Spanakos & Nicole Sugrue

## Community Partners





# Creating Opportunities

## Connecting with Our Community...

One of The Nicholas Center's most important responsibilities is to facilitate relationships between the individuals we serve and the community. TNC and The Nicholas Center Navigators have forged important connections with local businesses and community organizations. The Navigators are instrumental in carrying our mission into the community, completing tasks and engaging with neighbors and community members.

### North Shore Animal League

The Nicholas Center helps raise awareness of shelter pets working with the North Shore Animal League in Port Washington, NY as National Ambassadors of the Mutt-i-grees Program — our team creates adoption posters, makes chew toys and engages in playtime with puppies & kittens awaiting adoption.

### BID — Keep Port Clean

The Nicholas Center partners with Port Washington Business Improvement District to provide enhanced sanitation services. Our paid work force keeps downtown Main Street looking beautiful!

### Transport Gives us Wings

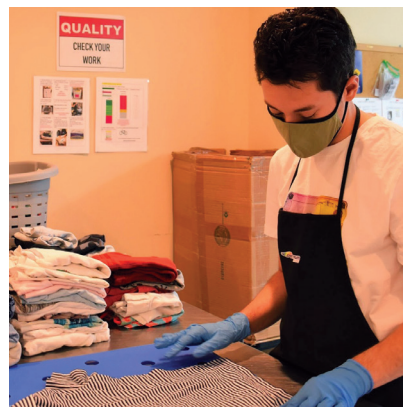
Having our own vans has enabled the team to travel within the community with ease and engage in more activities. Various on-the-job experiences are available through our Navigators program – volunteering at various businesses and organizations.

### Media Savvy — Navigator News

A monthly newsletter – written, designed, produced and distributed by our participants to local businesses. Community partners show support by placing ads and displaying the newsletters for customers to view.

### Work Readiness and Soft Skills Training

Offering an introduction to work and skills training in various industries, partnering with businesses offering the potential for employment and meaningful volunteer-based training. Skills are practiced on-site at our facilities and via our virtual learning and leisure platform, Zoomiverse.



# Exceeding Expectations

## Offering Opportunity...

**Programs Created** At TNC's community-based Vocational Skills facilities, participants benefit from experience in different work settings -allowing for growth, exploration and experiential learning . Aside from specific skills learned for Spectrum Enterprises work, TNC focuses on skills, such as communication and money management. Through a work readiness curriculum, students are engaged in structured and interactive classroom instruction that emphasize preferences, talents, and dreams — not limitations.

**Cruisin' Cantina** This amazing inter-office snack cart, not only delivers treats to our deserving staff, but also promotes business acumen, including math skills and the opportunity to practice stellar customer service! The team also creates, "Cantina-grams," hand-selected treats wrapped in a hand-designed bag offered as a gift option.

**Creative Arts Program** So Creative! This program promotes creative expression, team building, dexterity, imaginative exploration. Projects also partner with local businesses - a local gift shop, showcases and sells our participant's artwork and hosted a community reception to help the budding artists gain exposure.

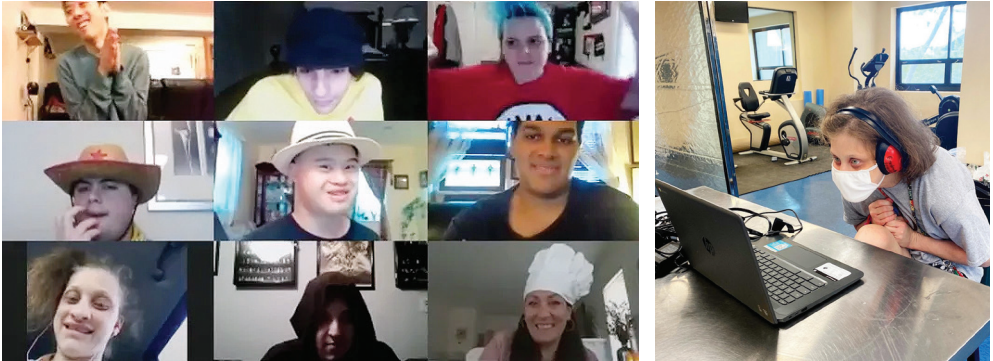




# Expanding Services & Reach

## COVID-19 Pivot — The Zoomiverse...

TNC was not able to meet on-site in person, during the Covid-19 Shutdown. TNC's team of 35 coordinators & Direct Support Staff, pivoted within 48 hours of the shut-down, to ensure 90 participants with Autism had access to a continuum of service, routine, and the comfort of seeing familiar faces — offering virtual classes 5 hours each day, including: communication & social skills, personal health skills maintaining previously acquired vocational knowledge, guided virtual field trips, exploration of new languages, exercise regimens, and dance parties!



## Home & Community Based Program

In June 2020, TNC began providing services to individuals in their homes and surrounding communities. This program has allowed us to offer services to individuals who could not or do not come onsite for programming. Participants are able to continue making progress with personal goals, remain connected to TNC, and discover new opportunities within their own communities. TNC provides over 100 hours per week of service. This support includes life skills, volunteering at job site, and broadening leisure skills.

## Grants

Thank you to our partner organizations and funders who have provided grants to help support our mission.





“The Nicholas Center model is far and away the most vibrant, successful, exciting program we’ve seen. The staff is professional, enthusiastic, and proactively well-trained, and excellent at differentiating instruction to meet each individual’s needs.”

— Mickey C’s family

*The Nicholas Center*  
Innovate, Inspire & Include

382 Main Street, Port Washington, NY 11050

516.767.7177 | [info@nicholascenterusa.org](mailto:info@nicholascenterusa.org) | [www.tncnewyork.org](http://www.tncnewyork.org)

