

Screening sparks dialogue on neurodiversity

The Nicholas Center and Landmark on Main Street recently partnered to host a community screening of the documentary "Life, Animated," bringing together local leaders to discuss neurodiversity and pathways to independence.

The event, part of the "Conversations from Main Street" series and sponsored by the Angela and Scott Jagger Foundation, coincided with the start of Autism Awareness Month in April.

The evening included a screening of the film followed by a panel discussion featuring The Nicholas Center Regional Programming Director Brooke Mellett, self-advocate Robert Valli, sibling advocate Cory Levine and school board member Sandra Alvarez. Panelists shared perspectives on the importance of community-integrated spaces and local support networks.

Speakers emphasized the "scaffolding" provided by The Nicholas Center to support individuals transitioning from school at age 22 into the community and workforce. By focusing on personal interests rather

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The Nicholas Center and Landmark on Main Street partnered together to screen a documentary as part of the Conversations from Main Street Series.

than diagnoses, the discussion explored ways to bridge gaps between school-based services and independent adult life.

"The story of 'Life, Animated' proves that every individual has a voice; we just have to learn the right language to

hear it," said Nicole Ferrara, executive director of The Nicholas Center. "The meaningful dialogue sparked last

night reinforces that Port Washington is ready to lead the way in creating a truly inclusive community."