

The Nicholas Center

Innovate, Inspire & Include

The Community Inclusion Program

The Nicholas Center Navigators – offers individuals with Autism opportunities to participate in unique and meaningful ways in the community.

Our mission: *to create innovative programs and services that allow Autistic individuals to learn, live and work in the community.*

Port Washington Location

Plant A Row for the Hungry – addresses food insecurity in our community. Tasks include: planting herbs, fruits and vegetables, which will be harvested and donated to local food pantries. Skills: participants learn how to garden and maintain plants i.e., pruning, watering, and soil checks and learn the benefits of growing their own food.

North Shore Animal League America – Participants are included as part of the “Mutt-i-gree” program, where they help raise awareness of shelter pets. Skills: participants clean cages, socialize the rescue cats, make adoption packets, make chew toys, and decorate cat houses.

Community Chest of Port Washington – Port Pantry Supply Squad. Participants organize and pack bags with household items for community members in need and deliver them to 5 food pantries. Participants learn the importance of helping members of their community.

H on the Harbor Restaurant – after quarantine, participants helped open the restaurant by cleaning and sanitizing the entire space. They cleaned glasses, put together silverware, squeezed fresh juice for the bartenders, and made sure the space was ready for dinner service. Participants learned the skills required to work in a restaurant setting.

Port Washington Police Department – Make A Child Smile Toy & Food Drive. Items collected and then delivered to the Police Department. Skills: allows participants to spread holiday cheer and give back to families in need from trash found on the beach. Participants also put together project materials for the Preserve Learning Center and special events.

Wit & Whim Shop – every year we do an art project to highlight the talents of our participants, including a “Navigating the Arts” Art Gala in store and “Navigating the Hearts” art installation window display for Valentine’s Day.





Participants were able to showcase their artwork to the community. The Nicholas Center and then deliver them to the Police Department before the due date. Skills: allows participants to spread holiday cheer and give back to families in need in their community.

Twin Pines Thrift Shop – Participants work closely with managers learning the upkeep of a retail store – sorting and pricing items, cleaning the shop, creating social media posts and interacting with customers. Participants also create their social media accounts. Skills: participants gain work and communication skills to learn how to operate a retail shop.

Sands Point Preserve – Annual beach cleanup on the Preserve property. Participants collect litter and separate recyclables from trash. Participants work on projects for special events and organize materials in the Learning Center for their after school program.

Residents Forward – “PW Gives a Litter Bit.” Participation in the cigarette clean-up, collecting cigarettes at each disposal location and recording data on what is collected to calculate how many and how often disposals are being used in the area.

Business Improvement District – “Keep Port Clean.” Skills: teaches individuals how to maintain a clean community and the importance of caring for the environment.

Baxter’s Pond – Seasonal pond and park clean up. Skills: learning park maintenance and the importance of keeping the area clean for community members to enjoy.

Port Washington Chamber of Commerce – seasonal assistance – distributing Chamber event announcements, and handing out flyers/posters to local businesses.

Growing Love Community Garden – seasonal work in the Community Garden, including maintaining our own garden – decorating and planting a variety of flowers and herbs. Herbs are harvested and donated to Plant a Row for the Hungry. Skills: gardening skills, learning





Port Washington Public Library – Books for Dessert Literacy Program – a book club and participation in a class lead by a retired English teacher. The group reads chapter books and analyzes what they've read with their peers.

Spectrum Suds – offering laundry pick-up and delivery, engaging while engaging local customers and employees at the laundry.



Spectrum Designs – Delivering apparel orders to customers in Nassau County, NY.

Bach to Rock – Music studio. Individuals learn an instrument of their choice and skills about participating and how to communicate in a band guided by music professionals. Brings out an individual's musical side in a therapeutic way.

Long Island Science Museum – seasonal projects to help maintain walking trails, including creating a Sensory Walk, while learning about the history of Port Washington. Guided by a teacher, who teaches participants different plants (which are safe and not safe), and shows how to maintain the trail in a safe way.

Lauren B Leaves – works with a local business that presses flowers to make beautiful handmade flower-based artwork at the Sands Point Preserve. Participants learn how to separate and press the flowers while learning that it is possible to turn your passion into a paying opportunity.

The Nicholas Center Navigator News – write, produce and deliver a free recyclable monthly TNC-focused newsletter to community businesses and nonprofits. Skills: creative writing, how to interact and connect with community members and local businesses and the opportunity for paid advertisement introduces sales experiences.

Port Washington Calendar – community events calendar. Participants package Port Washington-based event calendar and delivers them to the local businesses. TNC receives free ad space each month for this service.

Project Hope NY – Mental Health professionals from Project Hope NY address, discuss, and provide group discussions on mental health topics to help us heal during this post-pandemic period. Skills: mental health awareness.



Pleasantville Location

Hillside Food Outreach – Food Bank and Pantry – involves: stocking shelves, compiling food orders and preparing for delivery.

Skills: Participants learn the value of giving back and the importance of helping members of their community.

Pleasantville Community Garden – Community Garden and Center. Involves sorting donated items, including clothing into categories, maintaining a garden, donating harvested food to local pantries and cleaning the facility. Skills: garden skills and learning proper garden techniques.

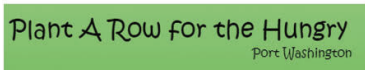
AFYA Foundation – volunteering in a speech pathology office that repurposes medical supplies, including sorting items, checking for expiration dates for items that will be donated across the globe to those in need.

Skills: learning how to maintain an office space, sorting/organizing skills and the importance of repurposing items for those in need.

Speech Office – volunteer in a speech pathology office, performing clerical work, office maintenance, and properly cleaning floors and sensory toys. Skills: learning how to maintain an office space, and sorting/organizing skills.



Our Community Partners



Baxter Pond



SLP EMPOWERED



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