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NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

SPRING 2021



CAST Hosts Inaugural North Fork Festival of Trees

THE FESTIVAL SHOWCASED COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND SPREAD MUCH-NEEDED HOLIDAY CHEER!

CAST'S NORTH FORK FESTIVAL OF TREES, a virtual and live event in early December at Treiber Farms, displayed 21 spectacular uniquely themed trees decorated by local businesses, artists and friends of CAST. The holiday trees and auction items, including art from accomplished local artists, were auctioned off to benefit CAST and our neighbors in need. Attendees were able to meander through a magical tree garden in a charming farm setting while enjoying holiday music and locally baked cookies. It was a festive and uplifting event for the community at the end of a very difficult year.

Congratulations to Designers' Choice Award winners Melissa Hyatt, LLC and Tracy Sutton Design for their *NOFO Beach Vibe* tree and to People's

Choice Award winners Upsculpt and Port of Egypt Marine for their *Octopus's Garden* tree.

Thank you to all of our amazing tree designers: Bridge Lane Wine, Craft Hair, Daniel Gale Sotheby's International in Cutchogue, Mattituck and Greenport, Greenport Harbor Brewing Co., Harbor Pet, White Flower Farmhouse, Old Town Arts and Crafts Guild, Claudio's Restaurant, touchGOODS, Treiber Farms, Alex Vinash-American Beech, Peconic Landing, Shed Textile Co., Pam Ferrari & Christine Makowski, Roric Tobin Designs, Fran Ormand & Jessica Frankel, Peconic Land Trust and *Northforker*.

We greatly appreciate the support of our sponsors: Claudio's, PSEG, Kolb Heating + Cooling, Sheri & Brian Winter

Parker - The Corcoran Group, Barba Bianca, The Bristol Assisted Living, Burner Law Group, PC, Eileen McGuire & John McLane, Sea Tow, Stony Brook ELIH, Sutton Landing at Mount Sinai, Kim West - The Corcoran Group, North Fork Country Club 1912, Beacheeky, The Casey Quigley Family, Alex & George Ciaputa, Craft Hair, The Corcoran Group-North Fork, Gurwin Home Health Agency, One Love Beach, M & T Bank, Mattituck-Laurel Veterinary Hospital, Stephanie & Chuck McEvily, North Fork Side by Side, Peconic Land Trust, Port of Egypt Marine, Karla Saladino, Slow Food East End, Stacy Sonnenberg, *The Suffolk Times* and Treiber Farms.

This successful Festival of Trees will be an annual CAST holiday event bringing joy to many in our wonderful community!

From the Executive Director...

THE PAST YEAR BROUGHT UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES and unexpected, and often unwelcome, change. However, some things remained constant: CAST's mission to provide a safety net for our neighbors in need and the North Fork community's steadfast support of the work we do. Together, we were able to face the challenges with courage and conviction.

According to the Feeding America 2020 Food Insecurity Report, due to the COVID-19 health and economic crisis, those suffering from food insecurity increased from 37 million to 54 million. People of color and rural communities were hit the hardest by the pandemic and are experiencing food insecurity at higher rates. This has been evident on the North Fork. As the first community in Suffolk County to report positive COVID-19 cases, we saw a tidal wave of need as we tried to brave the storm. Although the storm has subsided for many, the most vulnerable in our community will continue to have long-lasting economic consequences.

CAST continues to experience an increased need for food relief and emergency assistance and we are working hard to provide essential programs and services for the community. With new, larger space, we will be able to serve the community more efficiently and effectively. After 55 years in various rented spaces, CAST is excited to have a new permanent home—the former Southold Opera House/Southold Methodist Church—centrally located in the Town of Southold. This new space will enable us to meet the growing needs in the community while offering cultural and arts opportunities in a true community resource center. We look forward to working together to make this dream a reality.

Thank you to all for your continued support. We could not serve our neighbors in need without the many committed volunteers and your kind and generous contributions.



Cathy A. Demeroto, Executive Director



COMING SOON!

May 1st, June 5th, July 10th,
August 7th, September 11th
and October 2nd

FOOD DRIVES

Support the Food Pantry with non-perishable food, personal care items, and diapers at the Southold IGA, 9am -1pm.

May 30th

MIGHTY NORTH FORK TRIATHLON

The race starts and ends at Cedar Beach in Southold and benefits CAST.

June

FEED-A-KID APPEAL

During school breaks, CAST provides food to eligible families when children do not have access to free and reduced-price meals because school is out.

June 3rd, July 1st, August 5th,
and September 2nd

DRIVE-IN MOVIE THURSDAYS

Join us for Family Movie Nights Under the Stars once a month from June - September to benefit CAST and our neighbors in need.

August

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Donate backpacks and school supplies to help local children start the school year right.

Look for details at www.castsoutholdtown.org

CAST SERVICES

FOOD PANTRY
ESL CLASSES
COMPUTER TRAINING
BENEFIT APPLICATION ASSISTANCE
ADVOCACY AND REFERRALS
CHILD TUTORING
CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES
TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

CAST PROGRAMS

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE
DAY OF BEAUTY
SEASONAL FEED-A-KID
FRESH PRODUCE PROGRAMS
CULINARY SKILLS PROGRAM
ENGAGE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER WORKSHOPS
FOOD DRIVES
PARENT-CHILD+ PROGRAM
THANKSGIVING BASKETS
FREE TAX PREP

Ways to Give

If you plan well, your gift can have more impact for CAST and your bottom line. Consider the following ideas:

A GIFT OF STOCK OR FROM AN IRA

A gift of publicly traded stock, or directly from your IRA allows you to take an income tax deduction and to avoid other taxes.

A BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL

A bequest helps to ensure that our vital programs continue, costing nothing now. Please call Cathy Demeroto at 631-477-1717 for more information.

Second Year of the CAST North Fork Culinary Program a Success

DESPITE COVID-19 CHALLENGES,

CAST was able to continue the North Fork Culinary Program for young adults interested in the restaurant and hospitality industry. With modifications ensuring the health and safety of all, eight students participated in the Culinary Program and all students graduated on March 23rd. In addition, all of the students who took the Suffolk County Food Manager's exam passed and received their certificates at graduation.

A big THANK YOU to the local chefs, restaurant owners and volunteers who shared their time and talent with us: Chef Melvin Recinos (Lucia Restaurant), Chef Stephan Bogardus (The Halyard), Chef Noah Schwartz (Noah's Restaurant), Chef Ethan Crook (Barrow Food House), Chef Selvin Salazar (North Fork Country

Club), Chef Amanda Falcone (Barrow Food House), Chef George Giannaris (Hellenic Restaurant), Charlie Manwaring (Southold Fish Market), Keith and Nancy Kouris (Blue Duck Bakery), Deborah Pittorino (Greenporter Hotel), and Eileen Oakley. We also want to recognize CAST's Culinary Program Administrator, Erica Steindl, Program Director Regan Battuello, Program Assistant Director and former CAST client, Tess Wonderling (Timeless Table by Tess), and Advanced Sommelier Cliff Batuello.

We are grateful for the generous support from North Fork Side by Side that made this program a reality in 2020-21. We hope to expand the program in 2021-22 to offer a class for adults. We are so proud of all the graduates and look forward to seeing them working in our local restaurants!

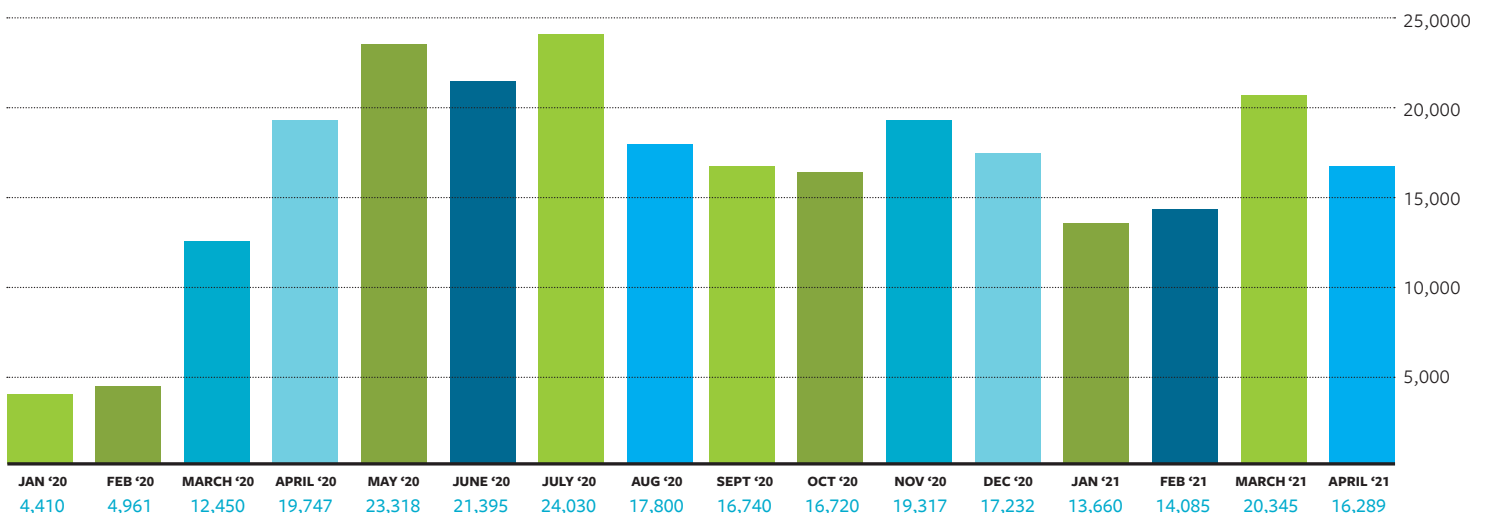


CAST CONTINUES TO SERVE THOSE IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CRISIS

IN 2021, WE CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE an elevated level of need for our food relief programs and emergency assistance for urgent needs, such as rent and electric. In addition to our regular Food Pantry, Mobile Food Pantry and Feed-A-Kid program, we have continued our Feed Southold initiative providing prepared take-out meals with the support of First

Presbyterian Church Southold, Peconic Pediatrics, North Road Deli, and Mas Que Vencedores Church. The economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis continues to affect low-income households and people of color disproportionately. CAST will continue to meet the increased demand to ensure that community members are safe and able to put food on their table.

MEALS SERVED IN 2020 – 2021



DID YOU KNOW?

CAST PLANS TO PURCHASE THE FORMER SOUTHOLD OPERA HOUSE

AFTER MORE THAN 55 YEARS using rented spaces in multiple locations, CAST is proud to announce its plans to purchase the former Southold Opera House which was also the former home of the Southold Methodist Church. Currently, in contract, the larger location will help CAST further its mission to be a true community resource center that will welcome clients, the artistic community, and all the residents of the North Fork. After searching for an appropriate home for CAST for many years and working hard to meet the growing need in inadequate spaces, this new home will be a dream realized, providing all we need to serve the North Fork community, while also offering cultural and arts opportunities for all to enjoy.

CAST's new home, centrally located in the Town of Southold, will be able to accommodate a larger client choice food pantry and sharing room for clothes and household items, room for essential education programs for children and adults, private meeting/interview space, a teaching kitchen for culinary and hospitality training, event space, and a community garden to grow fresh food. We will continue to have a strong presence in Greenport with our Mobile Pantry & Resource Center. This move will ensure that CAST continues to provide opportunities for advancement while serving as a safety net for those in need across the North Fork, now and for generations to come.

Thanks to the generosity of committed donors who recognized our dire need, CAST is able to put a significant downpayment on the property. We also received a \$300,000 NY Empire State Development grant for the purchase of a new home. CAST needs to raise an additional \$2 million with the goal of paying off the mortgage in 3 years and focusing our efforts on vital operations. Naming opportunities are available.

If interested in supporting our *Build What Matters Capital Campaign* and this long overdue investment in CAST and the North Fork community, please contact Cathy Demeroto at cdemeroto@castsoutholdtown.org or 410-693-6692 (cell) Build What Matters Capital Campaign—Community Action Southold Town (castsoutholdtown.org).

“CAST is a critical member of the North Fork community and has met head-on the growing demand for its services despite the challenging environment. Bank of America is proud of our longstanding partnership with CAST, which has included funding and leadership training, all helping them get to this pivotal moment of growth.”

—BOB ISAKSEN, Bank of America Long Island President



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CAST BY THE NUMBERS

A SNAPSHOT FROM JANUARY – DECEMBER 2020

198,120

MEALS PROVIDED TO FAMILIES

37

AT-RISK PRESCHOOL CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN OUR PARENCHILD+ EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM

\$43,701

IN FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE DISTRIBUTED TO FAMILIES

88

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED BY THE MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

446

CHILDREN BENEFITED FROM THE HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

469

CHILDREN SERVED THROUGH OUR FEED-A-KID PROGRAM

82

FAMILIES RECEIVED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Community Brings Joy and Toys to Hundreds of Local Children

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY of individuals, community groups, local businesses and a collaboration with the Town of Southold Assessor's Office and Recreation Department and the Marines' Toys for Tots initiative, CAST was able to provide toys, games, bikes and winter clothes to 446 children in the Town of Southold. Each family also received a \$50 IGA gift card to help provide a holiday meal. During the season of giving, businesses and libraries kindly placed CAST Toy Drive collection bins in their lobbies. Parents and guardians came to Holy Trinity Church in Greenport and "shopped" for their children with the help of dedicated volunteers ensuring that they had holiday gifts to open.

Because of the tremendous support from the community, we were able to raise the spirits of families in need on the North Fork after a year of unprecedented hardship.



CAST Promotes Good Health and Community

CAST HELD ITS INAUGURAL RACE AGAINST HUNGER 5K Run/Walk in April. This virtual event helped us raise awareness of hunger and food insecurity in our community while raising funds to support our essential food relief programs. We had 128 participants, 112 adults and 16 children. They all received a t-shirt and a smoothie from The Giving Room and adults received a 4-pack of beer from the Greenport Harbor Brewing Co. and children received a 1-scoop ice cream from Amazing Flavors in Greenport. "The CAST Race Against Hunger was a great opportunity to help CAST and the perfect reason to get together with friends for a good cause," said Anne Howard. Thank you to our generous sponsors: *The Suffolk Times*, 1943 Pizza Bar, Brix & Rye, Bridget & Eric Elkin-Compass, The Giving Room, Greenport Harbor Brewing Co., Amazing Flavors and One Nature Company. We look forward to more events that promote good health and community building!

CAST Drive-In Thursdays are Back on the North Fork!

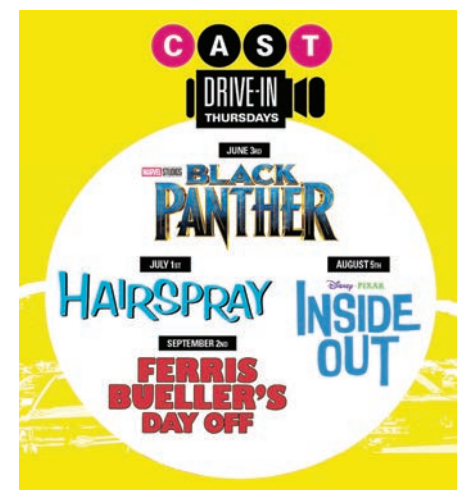
THIS SUMMER'S FAMILY-FRIENDLY movie series will be held the first Thursday of the month at Peconic Bay Vineyards in Cutchogue. It kicks off on June 3rd with Marvel's 2018 megahit *Black Panther*, and then follows the showings of the original musical *Hairspray* on July 1st with a Hairdo Contest, Pixar's *Inside Out* on August 5th with a kids' pajama party, and the 80's classic *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* on September 2nd. Gates open at 6:45pm and movies start at sundown. Tickets are \$50 per carload including popcorn and can be purchased at CastMovies.givesmart.com. Concessions are available and local vendors will be selling their designs and products.

A big THANK YOU to the Soloviev Family for hosting and to Executive Producer Presenting sponsors: American

Beech, Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital, and the Charles and Helen Reichert Family Foundation.

We are also grateful for the support from Director sponsor: Strong's Marine, Leading Role sponsors: East End Financial Group and Kolb Heating & Cooling, Best Supporting Actor sponsors: Claudio's Restaurant, Alex & Georgia Ciaputa, Scott Bortzner-Corcoran, The Giving Room, Arda & Stephen Haratunian, Neil & Lori Kearns, Long Island Cares, Ashley Lostritto, Mattituck Environmental Services, Eileen McGuire & John McLane, North Fork Woodworks, PSEG, Stokes/Esseks Family, Total Dental Care of Mattituck, and Westphal, Inc., and Ensemble CAST sponsors: Allstate-Chris Manfredi, Paul Austin, Burner Law Group P.C., Craft Hair, East End

Pool King, Meredith Little, M & T Bank, North Fork Physical Therapy, Peconic Pediatrics-Allied Physicians Group, Seifert Construction, Slow Food East End, Leigh & Susan Somerville, Southold Fish Market, and Shelley Tupper.



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Who We Are



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Since 1965, Community Action Southold Town, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, has been serving low-income residents from Laurel to Orient Point and Fishers Island. CAST helps individuals and families meet their basic needs in the areas of nutrition, clothing, energy, employment, and education. CAST is a critical safety net for Town of Southold residents and is committed to moving vulnerable populations to self-sufficiency through education and outreach programs. Our continued

goal is to improve child and family well-being through direct services and referrals. We rely on the generosity of the community to support our neighbors in need.

“Our **mission** is to promote self-sufficiency and provide a safety net for North Fork residents in need.”

“Our **vision** is to build a thriving community where every person is free from worry about basic necessities and is able to build a better future for themselves and their families.”

FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR TO
MAKE A DONATION,
VISIT CAST ONLINE AT
www.castsoutholdtown.org
OR CALL
631-477-1717

Cathy Demeroto
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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