



Welcome to our Second Here With Us Newsletter

Hello all. First and foremost, acknowledging the mass undertaking and effort that occurred with the Here With Us Food Drive. The Foundation began collection of food late December and concluded last week. The outpouring of support by friends, or friends of friends was completely humbling. So many were eager to help in any way they could. Food and monetary donations poured in. Jackson's local school district Half Hollow Hills, collected food in both their Middle Schools with representatives delivering it direct to our door. QSAC, Jackson's Day Program and the Suffolk JCC Grow To Discover Program both had their individuals packing food as well as collection. QSAC delivered our food to Helping Hands Rescue Mission, North Shore Community Church Food Pantry, The Rudman Family Food Pantry, Bayshore Emergency Food Pantry, and Saint Cyril Methodius Food Pantry. Quality King Distributors, my place of employment also organized food collection and delivered direct to my door with great love and support for this cause. IMX Pilates in Deer Park NY and its participants collected food for us on a regular basis over the course of three months. At one point the food was coming so fast we started to make individual deliveries just to keep up. In total we provided 1600 liters of food throughout these organizations. It was truly a group effort and shows the goodness in people.

With warmer weather finally here, Jackson, Gian and all other young adults with autism will be taking advantage of the season. It has been a long winter. Like everyone, balancing health and mind is most important for them too. Having that sense of security and routine is paramount to

their success. Whether enrolled in day programs, or receiving self-directed services, we hope they're getting back to a more normalized day and Spring is the best time to create that.

Here With Us stepped up its game with their sponsored Art Class. I was confident that our participants could reach a little further with their creativity. With that in mind, we brought in The Spirit of Huntington Art Center to teach our art class that we've been hosting since our inception. Here, they receive group instruction for each project as well as one-one attention if needed. The projects have been fun, and purposeful. Everyone is thriving in the process. It is wonderful to see.

While we were hoping to get a young adult travel program off the ground this summer, safety still remains the most important aspect of creating such. So, we have decided to focus on that for the Fall. I've already got some great outings in mind.

Please don't forget that April is Autism Awareness Month. It is important to be aware but even more so to understand. Take the time to inquire. Autism now embodies 1 in 54.

Lastly, SAVE THE DATE.

It is with great pride that I announce the Ron Louie Invitational. A Golf Outing to be held on what would have been Ron's 54th Birthday. Monday October 4th 2021. Ron loved golf. He loved to play, he loved to watch. He especially loved to organize and play with friends. I am excited to plan it with some great guys that knew him on the course. I look forward to seeing everyone and hearing stories about him and his golf game. Proceeds from the event will benefit The Here With Us Foundation. Stay tuned for more details.

As always, please stay connected to us. Sign up for our newsletter . Visit our site often to see first hand what we're doing . Follow us on Social.

With Love,

Janine Louie