

# **OUR TIMELINE**

2000

#### **WE BEGAN**

 The Center for Marine Education and Recreation at Oyster Bay (later DBA: The WaterFront Center) was incorporated and education programs began.

2001

#### **GROWTH**

 Launched the first capital campaign and bought the Oyster Bay Sailing School, Optimists, Sunfish, and coach boats.



#### **LANDMARK**

 The National Historic Landmark CHRISTEEN was acquired, and Junior Summer Programs were launched, combining sailing and marine science.



#### **EXPANSION**

 The fleet expansion campaign was a success, and eight used Sonars were purchased. Kayak rentals began.



#### **SAILING**

- Launched an open-to-the-public after-school High School Sailing program.
- The WaterFront Center serves over 10,000 program participants.



### PARTNERSHIP

 We began providing free afternoon programming and summer activities for children part of the Youth and Family Counseling summer program.



### **EDUCATION**

 Partnered with St. Dominic's Elementary School to provide in and out of the classroom STEM education throughout the school year.





#### **GIVING BACK - VETERANS**

- Veterans on Water (VOW), a free program for veterans, launched sailing aboard Sonars.
- The WaterFront Center serves over 15,000 program participants.



#### **GIVING BACK - ACCESSIBLE SAILING**

 ZigZag, a free adaptive sailing program for people with cognitive and physical disabilities, launched.



#### **HONORED**

 Senator James F. Gaughran Honored WFC for service to the community in promoting water sports and safe boating.



#### **WE'RE OPEN**

- Acquired a new launch boat for the safe and reliable transfer of our customers.
- Deemed an Essential Business in the midst of the pandemic, the WFC operated 75% of its programming in accordance with safety guidelines, providing a much needed outdoor outlet for the community.



#### **CHRISTEEN**

- CHRISTEEN receives a new mast and undergoes significant maintenance work.
- CHRISTEEN's National Historic Landmark sign was installed near the pier in the Western Waterfront.



#### **SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**

- The three-year plan to upgrade technology has resulted in a much improved customer experience through an informative website and easy to use rental and programs booking systems.
- The WFC acquires a J105 to enhance training and racing opportunities for the Jr. Big Boat program.



#### **IDA MAY**

• The oyster dredge IDA MAY joined the fleet with plans for exciting new programming.



# A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I approach my fifth season serving as the Executive Director of this wonderful organization, I can truly say that it is a privilege to work within this amazing community. Our community comprises all the people who support or are supported by our mission of connecting people to the water through education & recreation. This community consists of our passionate team members, who work hard each day to ensure that the WFC mission is meaningful and impactful to every single person touched by our mission; the Board of Directors, who dedicate their personal time and energy to helping the organization stay on course and reach ever higher; our partners in the Town of Oyster Bay and State of New York, where without their support we would not be able to execute on our mission; our volunteers, who donate their time and energy to our "ambassadors on the water," CHRISTEEN and IDA MAY; and most of all you, our most committed supporters, who provide us with the foundation that keeps us on task.

Inspired by the support we receive from our community, we constantly strive to make The WaterFront Center even better. In 2023, we embarked on a strategy to enhance our grant funding effort to provide access to comprehensive and sustainable programming for a greater number of people. Our education team has been hard at work reaching new communities of school districts, libraries, home school groups, and scouting organizations, introducing the wonders of the marine environment and STEM principles to young people who are left with a greater understanding of the precious resource that surrounds us here on Long Island. Our adult sailing instruction struggled in the post-COVID environment, as many of our experienced adult instructors moved on to other things. However, adult sail training instruction is a priority for 2024, and our participants are certain to enjoy the benefits. Nevertheless, our community sailing activities are robust, as witnessed by strong participation in Women on the Water, Zig Zag, and Veterans on the Water programs, while junior sailing participation continues to grow in our Optimist and c420 programs, High School Sailing, and Jr. Big Boat, who train and race on our J105.

Weather was a factor for our rental activities in 2023, as soggy weekends dampened participation in our kayak, paddleboard, Hobie and Sonar rental fleet. Weather also impacted CHRISTEEN, our National Historic Register 1883 oyster sloop. However, I am excited to report that we have revisited the process by which the United States Coast Guard certifies vessels for operational capabilities. For CHRISTEEN, her certification from 1999 limited her ability to carry in only certain protected waters, of which Oyster Bay Harbor was well suited. While this has certainly served well CHRISTEEN and The WaterFront Center for 24 years, the route restrictions limited our ability to share CHRISTEEN's mission beyond Oyster Bay. By the time of this publication the Coast Guard will have recertified CHRISTEEN for travel to any harbor and location all around Long Island, both north and south, and New York Harbor too! For our 140-year-old Flagship, 2024 will usher in an entirely new era. As for the IDA MAY, which was launched with much fanfare in May 2023, she spent the summer at the WFC dock receiving finishing touches in preparation for certification by the Coast Guard and will be ready to operate in 2024. As an engine powered oyster dredge, we have many exciting plans at the ready for IDA MAY as she joins CHRISTEEN in serving as ambassadors, not only for The WaterFront Center, but as historical reminders of Oyster Bay's history, with a keen eye towards the future.

As we stand at the precipice of our 25th anniversary, I look forward to an exciting future of endless possibilities. Hope to see you on the waterfront!

With gratitude,

George J. Ellis
Executive Director

THE WATERFRONT CENTER
Annual Report 2023



### **MISSION & PURPOSE**

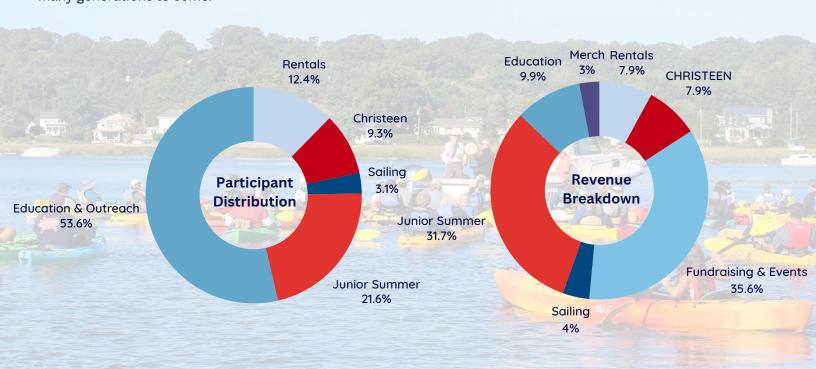
## To connect people to the water through education and recreation.

At The Center for Marine Education and Recreation at Oyster Bay, Inc., operating under the name The WaterFront Center (WFC), we are proud to be a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to offering a wide range of activities for individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Our mission is to enhance well-being and foster a deeper appreciation for the stunning estuary surrounding us.

As a recognized provider of marine education and recreation programs, The WaterFront Center engages participants in a variety of offerings, including marine and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education, both beginner and advanced sailing instruction for adults and juniors, paddle and sailboat rentals, as well as cruises aboard the National Historic oyster sloop, CHRISTEEN, and our newest vessel, oyster dredge IDA MAY.

Our approach is centered around interactive education and recreation. We use Beekman Beach, West Harbor, and the nearby ecosystems as our outdoor classrooms, which allows us to offer boundless experiential learning.

We aim to cultivate a community of environmental stewards through our signature events and core programs. Our fundamental goal is to ensure the marine environment remains a thriving resource, not just for the present but for many generations to come.



# 2023

your contributions enabled us to achieve the following milestones

# Over 10,400 (students



### **Educational Outreach**

Our educational programs reached students, including schools, camps, scouts, and community festivals. We sparked curiosity and instilled a deeper appreciation for the marine environment through hands-on experiences and interactive learning.

# Thanks to your generosity



We have been able to expand our reach and impact, connecting more individuals to the transformative power of the water through education and recreation.

## Youth Engagement

Junior Summer Programs,

863 participants

offering sailing classes, science activities, and opportunities to participate in sailing race teams. These programs not only taught valuable skills but also



fostered leadership and teamwork among our youth.

# Spring Break Science Week

27 students

Enjoyed by all as students immersed themselves in hands-on scientific exploration and discovery.

## **Youth Racing Programs**



40 students

Optis, 420s, High School Sailing, and Junior Big Boat programs are offered during both the spring and fall seasons. The programs not only help develop sailing skills but also foster a love for competition and sportsmanship.

### **Recreational Rentals**

Kayaks and paddleboards are rented for exploring Oyster Bay Harbor. **21 people** joined Wildlife Tours on kayaks and **65** joined Friends of the Bay for Kayak Conservation Cruises.

rented 2,343 times

# CHRISTEEN Excursions

1,899



Our historic oyster sloop CHRISTEEN welcomed guests aboard for harbor tours, sunset cruises, and private charters. Additionally, 615 individuals participated in Marine Education Sails, learning about the rich maritime history of Oyster Bay and the Harbor.

**Adult Education** 

**202** 



We provided learn to sail opportunities through the U.S. Sailing Basic Keelboat Certification program, private lessons, and Discover and Community Sails. Furthermore, our fleet of Sonars and Hobie catamarans was rented 121 times, allowing individuals to experience the excitement of sailing firsthand.

# **Our Core Programs**



Through marine discovery, marine science, and coastal ecology programs, we introduce students to local marine wildlife, fostering their appreciation for, and understanding of, the marine environment. Our programs utilize the vast outdoor classroom surrounding our facilities, as well as hands-on activities on the beach, in the wet lab, and aboard our sailing classroom, CHRISTEEN.

Renta	lls	Communit	y Sailing	Learn t	o Sail
		SAILI	NG		
0	20	40	60	80	100

As a U.S. Sailing accredited facility, The WaterFront Center offers a variety of sailing lessons and programs for adults and youth. From "first experiences" to certifications and instructor seminars, The WaterFront Center has everything you need to become a confident sailor.



Junior Programs prioritize fun and experiential learning. Between late June and late August, summer programs engage children through marine exploration that fosters stewardship for the environment and sailing programs for children of all levels. Qualified, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic naturalists implement all Marine Explorer programs. Activities include seining, sniggling, kayaking, paddling, exploration of the Spartina marsh, etc. Almost all of these activities occur on Beekman Beach, the Mill Creek tributary, and the marsh near West Shore Road.

### **Total Education Participants**

10,414

These interactive programs were developed to meet and reinforce the educational guidelines of New York State and the National Science Standards. Teachers can use these programs as a foundation, reinforcement, complement, or introduction to science. Through our STEM programs, students can make connections across disciplines, including mathematics, social studies, and language arts.

### **Total Sailing Participants**

323

The WaterFront Center helps to make sailing more inclusive with no-cost programs for veterans, at-risk youth, and individuals with disabilities.

#### **Total Junior Programs Participants**

863

Sailing classes range from Beginner level to Race Team ready, as well as Adventure sailing for those who would rather leisurely sail and explore the bay. Our junior sailing fleet includes optimists, C420s, Sonars, and a J105.

Spring & Fall Sailing Programs meet or exceed the high standards for junior sailing instruction set by US Sailing. Students in High School can join our team and compete in local regattas. Opti sailors have the opportunity to experience all levels of sailing.

# PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHT

# Income Statement

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
Fundraising	434,021	408,989	249,494	229,693	369,142
Sailing School	47,570	139,567	153,150	78,228	76,891
Junior Summer	379,406	266,769	329,028	144,812	323,600
Education programs	119,192	116,668	101,659	68,529	118,240
CHRISTEEN	90,656	108,339	95,574	20,636	65,903
Paddle & Sailboat Rentals	101,011	133,496	133,536	184,177	110,872
Merchandise sales		11,706	10,608		
Other revenue	34,155	25,628	52,627	28,415	(17,731)
Gain/Loss on sale of boats	31,621	24,000	24,669	19,650	(17,731)
Miscellaneous income	2,534	1,628	27,958	8,765	
Revenue from programs	1,206,011	1,211,162	1,125,676	754,490	1,046,917
(% of total income)	NA	102%	73%	70%	89%
PPP Loan forgiveness			108,000	132,184	
Realized Gain/Loss	NA	53,898	29,749	80,750	16,678
Unrealized Gain/Loss	NA	(101,367)	256,705	80,619	76985
Interest and Dividends	NA	25,851	21,429	22,675	35,310
Total revenue	NA	1,189,544	1,541,559	1,070,718	1,175,890
Payroll	1,047,736	987,547	793,700	513,035	701,947
Admin expenses	174,251	141,881	85,279	104,174	112,304
Program expenses	223,708	339,462	368,653	312,802	337,214
Boat related expenses	109,326	183,823	133,931	76,423	126,329
Print and Digital Media	10,028	21,780	15,379	5,789	15,718
Insurance	34,909	56,053	54,981	53,146	49,057
Total Expenses	1,599,959	1,730,546	1,451,923	1,065,369	1,342,569
Net Ordinary Income (Rev from prog less total expenses)	(393,948)	(519,384)	(326,247)	(310,879)	(295,652)

# Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023 - Unaudited

		THE WATERERONT CENTER		
384,422				
119,755	Liabilities and Equity	1,278,529		
24,573	Total Equity	1,041,514		
287,832	Note payable	154,170		
421,560	Current liabilities	77,403		
40,387	Accounts Payable	5,442		
	421,560 287,832 24,573 119,755	421,560 Current liabilities  287,832 Note payable  24,573 Total Equity  119,755 Liabilities and Equity		

INCOME

EXPENSES

# EMPOWERING COMMUNITY THROUGH INCLUSIVITY AT

# THE WATERFRONT CENTER

The WaterFront Center shines as a pillar of unity and accessibility, touching the lives of over 15,000 students, families, veterans, and individuals with disabilities each year. Our mission is to dismantle barriers and open doors to enriching on water experiences for all, through a broad spectrum of educational and recreational programs. We are dedicated to empowering our veterans and individuals with disabilities, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive within our welcoming environment. Our blend of hands-on educational experiences and outdoor adventures not only broadens knowledge, but also ignites a passion for the natural world. Our steadfast dedication to inclusivity and community engagement positions The WaterFront Center as an essential resource for personal growth and social inclusion.







# ZIG ZAG & VOW:

# MORE THAN JUST SAILING

In Oyster Bay, an afternoon of sailing can do wonders for anyone, but at The WaterFront Center, sailing is therapy. Our ZigZag Adaptive Sailing brings together individuals of diverse needs for an afternoon of sailing, healing, and friendship through the fun and therapeutic qualities of sailing.

Our teaching methods and custom equipment support individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities. Using our 23ft Sonars, students can safely relax while learning to sail!

The therapeutic benefits of sailing extend beyond our physical condition to remedy our mental health. In addition, The WaterFront Center's Veterans on Water (VOW) program provides former military service members with an often new but liberating experience. Learning to sail while being supported by others on a sailboat exposes new sailors to positive and constructive stress that takes our veterans out of their comfort zones for personal growth and empowerment.

Fred Diblasio retired this year and saw our poster at the Veterans Association in Northport. He can no longer deal with the maintenance of owning a boat, and VOW allows him to continue sailing free of charge and hassle! Lidia Rogers, no relation to Steve Rogers (aka Captain America), has always loved the water. She served in the United States Navy and now gets to share her passion for the water with her son! VOW allows them to spend quality time bonding on the water as they learn to sail across Oyster Bay.

With partners like the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS), our ZIG ZAG program can reach patients treated for conditions such as cerebral palsy, autism, and scoliosis. In 2018, Sabrina Cerciello, a physical therapist in pediatric rehabilitation for HSS, explained that,

"These programs give them the opportunity to move their bodies in a different way. All these kids here today don't have as much voluntary control over their muscles and their movement. Getting on and off the boat and sitting on the boat while the waves are rocking gets their bodies to different movement patterns, allowing them to use different muscles that keep us upright, practice their balance, and keep up their overall endurance."

Whether sailors come to the Waterfront Center to learn how to sail or to relax for therapeutic benefits, we offer something for everyone. Our VOW and Zig Zag programs are here to support our community members. If you know any veterans or friends with cognitive or physical challenges, please tell them about our unique programs at the WaterFront Center. For more information, please email sailing@thewaterfrontcenter.org



# **Volunteers**

From tagging horseshoe crabs during a full moon, to crewing aboard CHRISTEEN, our volunteers provide us with the critical support needed to realize our mission. As a true community effort comprised of high school students to retirees, volunteers have contributed more than 826 hours of their personal time to supporting the mission of The WaterFront Center.

The WaterFront Center is fortunate to have a loyal community of volunteers who devote their energy and time ensuring access to the water for thousands of people annually!

Sue Bello\* Jeanne Beyer\* David Cooper-Boyce Jim Brannigan\* Laura Brannigan\* George Catallo Christopher Colahan Liz Cousins\* Tommy DiMisa Lauren DiSilvio Kevin O'Donnell\* O.J. Donovan\* Doug Durfee\* Penny Gadzini\* Carl Hitta Jack Hout\*

Conor O'Keefe David Kellogg\* Matthew Kleinman\* Ethan Labelson Gerald Lalonde Catherine Markopoulos Scott Massoni\* Alex Mead Jeff Meyer Teri Moschetta Matthew Murcott Roy Murphy Kevin Murray\* David Nieri\* Beth Nugent\* Norman Orenstein\*

Peter Pramberger\* **Linda Robbins** Ron Rourk **Robin Schantz** Richard Schlueck\* Alan Schorn Olivia Schwab Betty Tiska\* **Scott Tschetter** Alicia Tysz Matilda Tysz John Wilson\* Barbara Woo John Woods Melda Yildiz Sam Zhang

826

Our flagship, **CHRISTEEN, is crewed** by volunteers who dedicated more than 826 hours in 2023.

722

As a true community effort comprised of high school students to retirees, volunteers have contributed more than 722 hours of their personal time to supporting the mission of The WaterFront Center.

The WaterFront Center Board Members visit Building J to see the IDA MAY nearing completion. Find out more on page 22.

Annual Report 2023

\*1883 Society Member









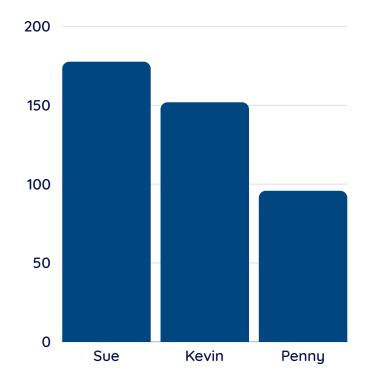






# The 1883 Society

The WaterFront Center thanks our top volunteers, each with more then 99 hours in 2023.



The WaterFront Center has developed a growing community of dedicated and energetic volunteers who best exemplify our goal of building a community of stewards, ensuring that Oyster Bay will be an available resource for future generations.

Though CHRISTEEN was first built in 1883, it was through the work of volunteers that the vessel was restored, modified, and continuously maintained to shepherd students and passengers on education programs in Oyster Bay. Their commitment to our flagship and our organization has earned them the name The 1883 Society.



Congratulations To The 2023 New York State Optimist
Championship Winner: Wills Gandy

The WaterFront Center's Executive Director and PRO of the race, George Ellis, gathered the sailors around 10:30 a.m. for a skipper meeting about the day and course to sail. They would be racing a trapezoid course.

At 11:30 a.m., the Optis took to the water, sailing out to Oyster Bay Harbor to start the regatta. Each kid tightened their main sheet and grabbed their bailer; as they sailed into the choppy water, they were all bundled in their best spray gear!

# 2023 NY STATE OPTIMIST CHAMPIONSHIP

# A DAY OF SAIL AND TRIUMPH AT THE WATERFRONT CENTER

Sunday, October 22, The WaterFront Center hosted New York State's 2023 Optimist Championship.

Sunday brought heavy wind averaging 15 - 20 knots out of the northwest. With thick clouds covering the bright blue sky above, each child knew this championship day would test them as an optimist sailor.





More than 50 children put on their best protective gear before setting sail on the choppy waters.

After completing five races (competitors could drop a race from scores), the sailors returned to The WaterFront Center for the awards ceremony and refreshments!

Thank you to everyone who made the day successful, and congratulations to our 2023 New York State Opti Championship winner, Wills Gandy!

# Sailing Director

# Cormac Murphy: Nurturing the Next Generation of Passionate Sailors



"The WaterFront Center has given me so many opportunities, and to raise The WaterFront Center Burgee on our race boats around the country always feels good. Representing such a great organization is an immense pleasure, and we always hang up our WFC gear everywhere we go!" - Cormac Murphy.

Cormac Murphy, Sailing Director at The WaterFront Center and founder/ skipper of BSR Match Racing, has had a successful year in 2023. With the support from The WaterFront Center, Cormac has led his team around the country to many National and International competitions, competing against the best racers in the world. Cormac has been passionate about sailing and racing his whole life. He grew up racing on his family's J24 sailboat around Long Island. Some of his fondest childhood memories are skippering his family's boat.

Cormac began sailing his boat when his father introduced him to the Opti and taught him how to sail. Shortly after that, he started sailing Opti's at Centerport Yacht Club. He enjoyed it so much that he successfully moved up to the Opti Race Team. When he was 13, he leveled up to the double-handed C420 and the race team. At 15, Cormac took on the challenge of racing the 470. A competitive and successful 470 sailor, Cormac had the opportunity to compete at the Junior World Championship Regatta held in Italy in 2018. The chance to compete internationally was the culmination of hard work and focus for young Cormac.

Cormac's introduction to The WaterFront Center came about while he supported his brother's high school sailing team competing in a regatta at the WFC. Cormac was just a 6th grader at the time when, as luck would have it, the team was short crew members, and they asked Cormac to join them for the regatta. It was a transformative experience for him and the beginning of his relationship with The WaterFront Center. Cormac began as a sailing instructor at WFC at the age of 16. He started as the Opti Race Team coach, then became our C420, high school sailing, and Jr. Big Boat Race team coach!



The coaching Cormac provides to all sailors is excellent. He instills a great deal of knowledge and expertise into them at every opportunity. His favorite programs to coach are race teams because racing is his life's passion. He loves being an instructor and sharing his vast knowledge of everything sailing. According to Cormac, being an instructor helps keep sailing fresh for him, as he not only teaches the children but also finds that he learns from his students.

Starting January 2023, Cormac was 16th in the Open World Sailing Match Race Rankings and has slowly but surely progressed throughout the year. The BSR Match Racing team opened the season at the California Dreamin' Series. BSR finished 3rd in the series after stops in Long Beach, San Francisco, and San Diego. The team then came home to Oyster Bay, NY, for the Spring and Summer seasons, where they trained using all of the local match regattas at Oakcliff Sailing.

With around five regattas under their belt, the team felt confident heading into their first World Match Race Tour event, an elite sailing series with professional skippers. BSR went on to race in the Chicago Grand Slam event, finishing 4th, and the Oakcliff International, missing the Semi-Finals by one race to Gavin Brady, accomplished America's Cup sailor.

Due to a great match racing season, Cormac ended the year with the December Rankings, shooting him to 11th in the World! Cormac and the team will start the 2024 season this January in Perth, Australia, as they take on the Warren Jones International Youth Regatta.

"The WaterFront Center has given me so many opportunities, and to raise The WaterFront Center Burgee on our race boats around the country always feels good. Representing such a great organization is an immense pleasure, and we always hang up our WFC gear everywhere we go!" - Cormac Murphy.

# **WFC Community Programs**

The WaterFront Center has provided free programming to over 1,450 people with our partner organizations

To ensure that everyone has access to the water, The WaterFront Center provides various free programs for our community. These experiences are unique and valuable for building a community of stewards that will continue to ensure that Oyster Bay is an available resource for future generations.

Thank you to the following granting organizations for your support:

The Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation Oyster Bay Forward Grant Program
Community Foundation of Oyster Bay Marin Community Foundation



### **V.O.W. VETERANS ON WATER**

Sailing is often recommended for veterans as a therapeutic outlet that combines the challenge of seamanship with the serenity of being on the water. As an expression of continuing gratitude for their service, The WaterFront Center provides this program at no cost to veterans, retirees, and active-duty service members.



### **ZIGZAG: ADAPTIVE SAILING**

Upon entering the water, these sailors leave their differences behind on the shore. Designed for people of all ages with physical and cognitive disabilities, this program ensures that sailing is an inclusive sport enjoyed by everyone.



### YFCA SUMMER EXPERIENCE

It provides unique on-water experiences to young people, who might not otherwise be able to, enjoy Oyster Bay to its fullest. The WaterFront Center assists the Youth and Family Counseling Agency of Oyster Bay-East Norwich, in their mission to enrich the lives of young people by exposing them to healthy leisure activities and experiences.



### **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

In aid of the Boys & Girls Clubs' quest to help young people reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens, The WaterFront Center provides supplemental activities to programs at the B&G Clubs of Oyster Bay-East Norwich and Glen Cove all year round.



### **MULTI-GENERATIONAL**

Bridging the gap between generations, young people interact and bond with the 55+ community over a variety of experiences and activities based around the waters of Oyster Bay in this partnership with The Life Enrichment Center, Youth and Family Counseling Agency of Oyster Bay-East Norwich, and The WaterFront Center.









# Organizations Served in 2023

THE BEST WAY TO GET CLOSER TO OYSTER BAY IS TO HOLD IT IN YOUR HANDS. THE WATERFRONT CENTER BRINGS MARINE LIFE TO ANY EVENT WITH AN INTERACTIVE TOUCH TANK FILLED WITH SPECIES FRESH OUT OF OYSTER BAY AND THE SURROUNDING WATERS! CATCH US AT THESE PREMIER COMMUNITY EVENTS: ROTARY CLUB OF OYSTER BAY, MILL NECK FAMILY OF ORGANIZATIONS, CSH WHALING MUSEUM, CSH FISH HATCHERY, AND OYSTER BAY MAIN STREET ASSOCIATION.

#### IN ADDITION. WE ARE HAPPY TO SERVE THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

- Abilities
- Adelphi C-Step Program
- AHRC
- Bayville Primary School
- Better Oyster Bay\*
- C.A.P.E Excursions\*
- Cantiague Elementary
- Christ Church of Oyster Bay
- Crestwood Country Day Camp\*
- Oyster Bay Cruise Night
- CSH Beach Club Sports Group\*
- CSH Library\*
- CSH Whaling Museum\*
- Cub Scouts 253
- Culture Play
- East Hills Elementary School
- Faith Nursery School\*
- Family Expedition\*
- Flower Hill\*
- Franklin Early Childhood Center\*
- Friends Academy
- Future Stars-Farmingdale
- Future Stars-Suffolk
- Girl Scout Troop 1714\*
- Girl Scout Troop 1804\*
- Girl Scout Troop 216\*
- Girl Scout Troop 3543\*
- Girl Scout Troop 863\*
- Girl Scout Troop 208\*
- Glen Cove Market\*
- Glen Cove Public Library\*
- Glen Head School
- Glenwood Landing Elementary
- Gribbin Elementary School
- Growing Tree Nursery\*
- Harbor Hill Elementary
   Harborfields Library\*
- Harmony Heights\*
- Herricks HS\*
- Hewlett Home School\*
- Homestead Elementary
- Huntington Lloyd Harbor Preschool\*

- Huntington Public Library\*
- Island Quest Camp\*
- Jackson Elementary School
- Jericho High School
- Jericho Jewish Pre K\*
- Karen's Castle Day School\*
- Kiddie Kollege\*
- Learning Tree Christ Church
- Learning Tree Nursery
- Lee Avenue Elementary
- Lee Rd Elementary
- Lloyd Harbor Village
   Park
- Lockhart Elementary
- Locust Valley High School
- Locust Valley Library\*
- Locust Valley Summer Camp
- Long Island Traditions
- Love of Learning Montessori School
- LuHi\*
- Lynbrook-Voyager Program\*
- Manhasset Earth Day\*
- Meadow Drive East Elementary
- Mill Neck ASL Camp
- Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf
- Mineola Memorial Libraru\*
- Mineola Summer Enrichment
- Munsey Park
   Elementary School
- North Shore Holiday
- North Shore Land Alliance\*
- Northport Library\*
- Ocean Avenue Elementary
- Oyster Babies\*

- Oyster Bay Girl Scout Carnival\*
- Oyster Bay Library\*
- Oyster Bay Market
- Oyster Bay Preschool\*
- Pines Elementary School\*
- Piping Rock Beach Club
- Plainview Old Bethpage School
- Project Exel\*
- Reach CYA
- Robert Seman Elementaru\*
- Roslyn Summer Academu
- Sangha Academy
- Saw Mill Road School
- Seawanhaka
   Corinthian Yacht Club
- Silverstein Academy
- Singha Academy\*
- South Grove\*
- St. Dominics\*Stewart Manor\*
- Success Academy
- Success Academy -Bronx 1
- Success Academy -Far Rockaway
- Success Academy -Rosedale
- Success Academy-Bronx 3
- Teddy Roosevelt School
- Troop 100
- Unqua Elementary School\*
- Wantagh Library\*
- West Side Elementary\*
- Westbury Memorial Public Library\*
- Westbury TLC

\*New addition in 2023

# Partnering with WFC

## **2023 PARTNER SPONSORSHIPS**

In 2023, Partner Sponsorships connected with over 15,000 individuals in The WaterFront Center's community through digital, physical, and event promotions. Season Sponsors received recognition on social media based on their level of support in addition to event acknowledgments. The fundraising efforts in 2023 totaled \$51,000, contributed by supporters listed below.

PLATINUM



SILWER

# **George Baker**



# FUSCHETTO

LICENSED



INSURE

HOME IMPROVEMENTS 516.319.6319







BRONZE









Joseph I. Lopez, M.D., F.A.O.S.

Diplomate American Board of Orthopedic Surgery







# Partnering with WFC

## **LOG Supporters**

The Annual LOG, the signature fundraiser of The WaterFront Center, is a collection of stories, news, interviews, and artwork created by our program participants. The LOG provides an opportunity for local businesses, organizations, and individuals to show their support for The WaterFront Center. In 2023, \$22,550 was raised thanks to contributions from the following donors:













































### **Special Thanks To Our Private Sponsors**

Mrs. Jamie Deming • Mr. Gregory Fitzmaurice • Mr. Joshua Herman JD Vaughn Management • Mr. Billy Joel • Ms. Carla Panetta Ian & Aileen Gumprecht, OBO The PHFFoundation, Inc.
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Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Tantleff • Mr. & Mrs. Robert Warburgh

# Connecting our Community with CHRISTEEN

### **Horizon Fund**

The Horizon Fund was established in 2015 to address the long-term capital needs of The WaterFront Center. Our ability to provide affordable access to the water hinges on our ability to keep assets up to date and running at 100% capacity. The Horizon Fund gives The WaterFront Center the security it needs to approach the future with confidence and a measure of predictability. While one-time gifts are gratefully accepted, we ask that patrons give special consideration to making a three-year pledge at a significant level so that we may most effectively manage our capital budgeting and investment.

### Thank you to the following donors:

The Bahnik Foundation Mr. George Baker Mr. & Mrs. James Bell Mr. & Mrs. Jay Benjamin Mr. & Mrs. Russell Byers Mrs. Jamie Deming

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Mr. Howard Szarfarc & Mrs. Gemma Toner

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Trotman Jr.

## **Connection Cruise**

The WaterFront Center was pleased to host special guests from the North Shore Land Alliance, First Presbyterian Church, Life Enrichment Center, North Shore Community Church, Oyster Bay Historical Society, Town of Oyster Bay, Town Clerk Rich LaMarca, New York State Assemblyman Jake Blumencranz & Office, Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce and more for our Connection Cruises. The Connection Cruise was an idea spurred by The WaterFront Center board members when they were thinking about the best way to let our community know about all the wonderful activities we host. The guests enjoyed a two-hour sunset tour aboard the National Historic Landmark oyster sloop CHRISTEEN. While on board, they learned about marine creatures and had the opportunity to interact with them through a mobile touch tank that contained species directly from Oyster Bay.



# Not Much Better in Life than Sailboats & Sunsets

# **Benefit Regatta**

Sponsors gathered their teams and reignited amiable competitions as they raced to the finish line during The WaterFront Center's Benefit Regatta. Combining support for education and recreation, the event was a thrilling experience on the racecourse and during the celebratory cocktails at the award ceremony. The 2023 Benefit Regatta successfully raised \$7,327.

Ms. Caroline E. Bassett
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Martocci
Mr. & Mrs. Willets S. Meyer
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The Bedi Team, Compass Realty



















# Live Music, Sunset and Friends

# **Annual Benefit**

The WaterFront Center's Annual Benefit is our most important fundraising event. It commemorates over 24 years of providing access to water to more than 15,000 people every year. Our mission is to serve our community, and with the generosity of our supporters, we raised \$127,750 for scholarships, transportation grants, and free programming for veterans and people with disabilities.

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# **Ensuring Access to the Water**

## **Annual Appeal Supporters**

The WaterFront Center is grateful for the financial support from the following donors who helped us remain connected to our waterfront community by collectively donating \$117,570 toward ensuring access to the water for thousands of people.

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Clark

### \$15,000 - \$5,000

Mr. Peter Deming &

Mrs. Jessica Agnew-Blais Mr. Peter Kellogg, in support of IDA MAY Mr. & Mrs. Wright Ohrstrom Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Moore Jr. in memory of Dr. Benjamin E. Wiggins, Jr. and Donald Lee Anthony Ford Charitable Foundation **Bahnik Foundation** Frederic R. Coudert Foundation R.K. Mellon Family Foundation on behalf of Mr. W. Russell G. Byers,

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Stop & Shop Community Bag

Program

# FOR THE LOVE OF LEGACY & HISTORY

Exploring Maritime History and Environmental Stewardship with the WaterFront Center's Historic Vessels

The WaterFront Center is proud to welcome the IDA MAY, a 50-foot oyster dredge based on the original built-in 1925. Now, with IDA MAY, we double our historic vessel fleet, joining CHRISTEEN, a 40-foot gaff-rigged oyster sloop built in 1883. Both CHRISTEEN and IDA dredged oysters during the height of the Long Island oyster trade, but few know that they have a shared history of educating the public.

CHRISTEEN's legacy as a floating classroom began as early as the 1910s when owner Captain William Bond of Southold was said to take children on the boat to tell them about the area's marine ecosystem. In the 1970s and 1980s, Butler Flower, son of Frank M. Flower, partnered with a physics/earth science teacher at Oyster Bay High School to teach lab work to students on the water. Born from the environmental stewardship of community members, the WaterFront Center (WFC) provides a safe harbor for CHRISTEEN, and now IDA MAY, to continue their legacy as floating classrooms.

While on board, school groups learn about the ecology and local history of Oyster Bay and West Harbor. Classes dredge, sort, and measure oysters to understand the legacy of trade in the area and the importance of oysters to the bay. Kids of all ages get insight into running a ship by helping our crew raise the sail. Our educators bring aboard a touch tank full of local sea creatures so kids can get an intimate view of everyday life under the sea. Young scientists catch and observe plankton under a microscope, conduct labs with water samples, and learn about the physics of sailing.

Through our educational sails on CHRISTEEN and now IDA MAY, The WaterFront Center continues the legacy of promoting environmental stewardship to the next generation. In 2024 we plan on continuing our legacy in history by partnering with Oyster bay Historical Society for a History tour aboard Oyster Dredge IDA MAY. This tour will engage our local community to teach them about Oyster Bay's deep Maritime culture.







1 West End Avenue Oyster Bay, NY 11771 Lat: 40° 52.55' N / Long: 73° 32.22' W

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The Center for Marine Education and Recreation at Oyster Bay, Inc. dba: The WaterFront Center (WFC)

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p: (516) 922-7245 f: (516) 922-2901 Info@TheWaterFrontCenter.org

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The WaterFront Center gratefully acknowledges our state and local elected and appointed officials for their support of our programs.



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