



Lending a Helping Hand to our Long Island Communities

Adventureland's Helping Hands

2018 Annual Newsletter

January 2019

There is no us...

...without you!

We're so excited to share our 2018 year-end review with you and our plans for this upcoming year in this newsletter.

The Helping Hands Foundation continues to grow by leaps and bounds year after year, surpassing our every goal, every hope, every dream. With our most recent V.I.P. Fundraiser, we raised over \$150,000 to help support the Tony Gentile Memorial Scholarship Program, fund our annual drives, and implement new strategies to help those on Long Island who need it the most.

When we began this journey in 2013, our focus was to honor the life and legacy of Tony Gentile by helping local Long Island Communities, primarily through the creation of a scholarship program. We would have never thought that by the end of this year we would have awarded nearly \$75,000 in scholarships to the students of Long Island since our inception, but we are ecstatic that this is our reality! This incredible feat is a testament to what happens when dedicated people work together towards a common goal.

We cannot thank our supporters, our team, our family enough for being the driving force behind our Helping Hands Foundation—thank you for believing in our vision—thank you for lending us a helping hand.



On Behalf of the Family of Tony Gentile

For those of you who know me, or know anyone in my family, you know that we never call what we do “work.” We are so very fortunate to each be able to do something we love every day, with the added bonus of working with family. Adventureland is my home away from home, where I get to be with my kids, my brother, my cousins, and with the loyal people that are supposed to be called employees, but I can’t help but call them members of my “Adventureland Family”—it’s the gift from my dad that he gives to me each and every day.

The legacy of Tony is everlasting at Adventureland—he’s honored in every child’s smile the first time they ride a rollercoaster, in every parent’s laughter as they watch their child on the bumper cars, and in every family photo taken and hung on the fridge as a reminder of a warm summer day at our park. The joy people feel when they visit Adventureland is how my dad’s life is celebrated and how his memory is preserved at our amusement park.

The Helping Hands Foundation wants to take that joy—that pure happiness and excitement—to Long Islanders that truly need it. By delivering toys and games to the children at Stony Brook Children’s Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island, we’re able to create that joy and bring those smiles to the children and families who need it most.

By providing hundreds of Thanksgiving dinners to the families of Long Island and hundreds of school supplies to local schools, our foundation has allowed Tony’s memory to reach beyond Adventureland and into the homes of our neighbors.

Through our scholarship program, we are able to recognize students who embody the same values as Tony, and relieve some of the financial burden they are faced with when they begin college. Through our grant program we’re able to support charities like the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, and Nassau-Suffolk Services for Autism.

To see that smile from a child who can finally be excited for her first day of school now that she has her own new backpack filled with all the things she needs to be a successful student, and to see the pride swell in a parent when their child can head off to college with thousands of dollars in scholarships all in memory of my dad—it’s incredible.

And it’s all because you believe in us, you encourage us, and you continue to support us.

Thank you for helping my dad’s legacy spread across Long Island. Thank you for making Adventureland a part of your lives, and thank you for allowing Adventureland’s Helping Hands Foundation to be there for our friends and neighbors who need us most.

We are so thrilled to share with you all we have accomplished and our plans for 2019!

Best Wishes and Good Luck,



Steven Gentile

August School Supply Drive

Supplies from our 2018 School Supply Drive were donated to the Tangier Smith Elementary School in the William Floyd School District, located in Mastic.

School supplies were collected at Adventureland every day during the month of August, and donors received Moe's Bucks from Moe's Southwest Grill.

Those who donated on August 16th, National Roller Coaster Day received free rides on the Turbulence Roller Coaster and the Lady Bug Roller Coaster!

Thank you for helping the students of Tangier Smith Elementary School start class with everything they need for a successful year of learning!



When you donate school supplies on **National Roller Coaster Day, Friday, August 16th**, you get a free ride on the Turbulence Roller Coaster and the new Rattlesnake Roller Coaster!



A special thanks to our friends at **106.1BLI** and **102.3WBAB** for all their help with collecting and delivering the school supplies!



Thank you to Moe's Southwest Grill for providing Moe's Bucks to all donors!



The Tony Gentile Memorial Scholarship Fund Awards over \$33,000 to 17 Long Island Students

2018 Tony Gentile Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Brianna Simon: Graduate of Northport High School, attending Adelphi University
Sebastien Joseph: Graduate of H. Frank Carey High School, attending Hofstra University
Julia Daleo: Graduate of Smithtown High School West, attending Hofstra University
John Armioia: Graduate of Kellenburg Memorial High School, attending Molloy College
Emily Hughes: Graduate of Sacred Heart Academy, attending Hofstra University
Connor Dougherty: Graduate of Patchogue-Medford High School, attending Eastern Suffolk BOCES
Julianna Iovino: Graduate of Smithtown High School East, attending Hofstra University
Dillon Montefusco: Graduate of North Babylon High School, attending Adelphi University
Nicolette Sapochetti: Graduate of Massapequa High School, attending Adelphi University
Timothy Nagosky: Graduate of Smithtown High School West, attending Long Island University



Ten High School Seniors were recognized as the **\$2,000** 2018 Tony Gentile Memorial Scholarship recipients this past summer.

The students were selected from nearly 100 applicants based on their dedication to the greater Long Island Community.

Their passion for education and commitment to their community and to others exemplify the ideals of Tony Gentile, and we are honored to have them represent his legacy as they pursue their degree on Long Island.

Five Adventureland Employees were selected to each receive a **\$2,000** scholarship from the Tony Gentile Memorial Scholarship Fund.

These employees exemplified the ideals and values of Tony Gentile while already supporting the legacy he started at Adventureland.

We wish them luck as they continue their studies and know they will make us proud!



2018 Adventureland Tony Gentile Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Melissa Riback: Member of the Adventureland Family since 2012, attends Stony Brook University
Kayla-Marie Lapitan: Member of the Adventureland Family since 2013, attends Molloy College
Samantha Birkl: Member of the Adventureland Family since 2015, attends Penn State University
Nicole Mikolajczak: Member of the Adventureland Family since 2016, attends St. Joseph's College.
Mark El-Miniawi: Member of the Adventureland Family since 2012, attends CUNY School of Medicine.

Sachem Dental Group Endowment 2018 Scholarship Recipient

Last spring, Sachem Dental Group awarded the Tony Gentile Memorial Scholarship Fund a \$50,000 endowment. This very generous contribution ensures that the Tony Gentile Scholarship lives on in perpetuity to assist future generations of Long Island students in their pursuit of higher education.

This past summer, the endowment enabled us to award a **\$2,000** scholarship to a High School Senior that would be attending a college or university on Long Island in the Fall of 2018 as a fulltime student studying in the fields of biology, chemistry, Pre-Med/Pre-Dental, or another medical profession.

We are pleased to announce that **Asli Pisano** is the first recipient of the Sachem Dental Group Tony Gentile Endowment Scholarship.

Asli is a graduate of Smithtown High School West, and is attending Stony Brook University to pursue a degree in Biology/Pre-Dental Studies.

We thank our friends at the
Sachem Dental Group
for believing in our mission to help
Long Island and thank you for wanting to be
a bigger part of our Adventureland Family!



Paul Gentile, Asli Pisano, Dr. Anthony Gentile, Steven Gentile

William Floyd School District's 2018 Dollars for Scholars Recipient

The Dollars for Scholars Program was created by Tangier Smith Elementary School teacher, Karla Elarde. The students hold an annual fundraiser in which proceeds are matched by Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation to create a scholarship for a graduating High School Senior.

This year, a scholarship for \$1,652.82 was awarded to Amanda Berryman. This will help Amanda as she pursues a degree in Electrical Engineering at Suffolk Community College.



Paul Gentile, Amanda Berryman,
Tangier Smith Principal Toni Komorowski, Steven Gentile

**Applications for the
2019 Tony Gentile Memorial Scholarship and
Sachem Dental Group Endowment
are available at HelpingHandsLI.org**



Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation
2245 Broadhollow Road
Farmingdale, NY 11735
www.HelpingHandsLI.org

Christmas in July

Our Annual Christmas in July Toy Drive was an outstanding success! We collected hundreds of toys throughout the month of July and donated those toys to the children of Stony Brook Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island. As we have done each year, the park was decked out in holiday décor, and Santa and our friends at Cox Media's 106.1BLI and 102.3WBAB visited us each Saturday to help us collect toys.



Although Christmas in July has been a wonderful event, we are going to celebrate a little differently in 2019!

When you donate a toy at Adventureland during Adventureland's opening weekend, March 23rd & 24th, you will receive one Free POP band for unlimited rides when you buy one at full price!



When Mom donates a toy on Mother's Day or when Dad donates a toy on Father's Day they'll receive one Free POP to use that day!

All the toys collected will be donated to Stony Brook Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island in July. Both of these organizations often experience a shortage of toys in the summer months, so with your support, we hope to ensure they'll have toys for their patients all year round!



As always, you can support our toy drive by making a monetary donation on our website, www.HelpingHandsLI.org.



**Ronald McDonald House[®]
of Long Island**



**Stony Brook
Children's**



Thank you to our friends at Chipotle for donating free burrito vouchers for each guest that made a toy donation and a grand prize of free burritos for a year!

106.1 BLI
LONG ISLAND

WBAB
102.3

Thanksgiving Food Drive

This past fall we hosted our 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive at Adventureland.
We collected over 5,500 pounds of food!
That's enough to feed over 18,000 Long Islanders!

We donated **120 turkeys** and **120 Thanksgiving bags** with all the trimmings to help make sure the Town of Babylon residents in need have a great holiday!

We also donated **150 boxes** of breakfast cereal!



Nearly 6% of Town of Babylon residents live below the poverty line.
 The Town of Babylon Pantry is open year-round to all residents in need.

We donated over 4,500 pounds of food to Island Harvest—enough to feed 4,500 families!
 In addition to fresh produce and nonperishable food, we donated
100 turkeys and **\$5,000** to Island Harvest
 during their Annual Turkey Drive in November!



Island Harvest serves over 300,000 Nassau and Suffolk County residents in need.
 Millions of meals are distributed to adults, children, seniors, families and veterans each year.

- Thank you to our friends at Connoisseur Media for helping us collect donations during Pumpkin Park!
- Thank you to BBYO for your donation of food for LI Harvest!
- Thank you to Moe's Southwest Grill for providing Moe's Bucks to all donors!
- Thank you to our friends at Cox Media and "That Meetball Place" for helping us collect donations during Meetball Madness!

Your support means so much—together, we can help Long Island reach its potential!



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 Farmingdale, NY 11735
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