



Lending a Helping Hand to our  
Long Island Communities



# 2020-2021

## Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's Newsletter

December 2021

After a year without fundraising and events, a year filled with uncertainty, Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation is so incredibly thankful to have had your support in 2021. With our most recent V.I.P. Fundraiser, we raised over \$240,000 to help support our annual drives, our grant program, and the Vivian & Tony Gentile Scholarship Program.

### \$715,000

**That brings our total for all the  
V.I.P. events to over \$715,000!!**

In this year's newsletter, we're excited to review all the milestones our Helping Hands Foundation has reached and share our plans for the future.

We cannot thank our supporters, our team, and 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.



Tony and Vivian Gentile

## On Behalf of the Family of Tony Gentile

In January of 2020 Adventureland and our Helping Hands Foundation began our year like any other, full of plans for a successful season and new ways to give back to the community. When chatter about COVID-19 began and the eventual stay at home put in place, we of course thought this temporary setback would be a blip on the radar, and that things would be getting back to normal in a matter of weeks.

Of course, that was and is still not the case at all. COVID-19 and the thousands of lives that were lost to this virus will forever be a part of our lives and our history—Adventureland remained closed for the entirety of 2020, only to reopen under very strict and limiting conditions in April 2021. Thankfully, by this past summer our park was operating at full capacity, and finally laughter and smiles returned to 2245 Broadhollow Road.

During the shutdown of the park, our Helping Hands Foundation was unable to fundraise, however due to your past support and generosity, last summer we were able to award over \$16,000 in scholarships to local students and \$25,000 in PPE supplies to local hospitals. To be able to help our community during such an uncertain and historic time was a blessing, and I am so thankful for your past support that made this possible.

This year has been the most successful year for our Helping Hands Foundation, and I cannot express how grateful I am that you share in our vision and goal of helping Long Island be the best it can be. To think that our Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Program has awarded over \$140,000 in tuition assistance to date is amazing and only possible because of your belief in our mission.

Two very dear friends of mine who were also so dedicated to our goals passed away this year—Peter Amoruso, who alongside my father, helped to make Adventureland into what it is today, and Gregg Hein, a very close family friend who served on the board of the Helping Hands Foundation since its inception. Both Pete and Gregg were dedicated to the Long Island community, and we will do our best to honor their memory through the work of the foundation.

As we embark on a new year, a new season, and for many of us, a new stage of life, I look back on 2021, and I think about how far we've come. Our 4th annual V.I.P. Event held this past September helped us to reach an incredible milestone; to date, our V.I.P. Events have raised over \$715,000!

The funds raised during our event allows us to award over \$50,000 in scholarships next summer, while also increasing the ways in which we support local non-profits. We've tripled our holiday food donation and sponsored over 50 children through the Town of Babylon Christmas Angels Program, ensuring the most vulnerable families in our community can have a magical holiday season.

Thank you for helping my parents' 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 make a difference in the Long Island Community.

We are so thrilled to share with you all we have accomplished and our plans for 2022!

Best Wishes and Gooooood Luck Everyone,



Steven Gentile



# ***\$240,000 Raised***

## ***Our Annual V.I.P. Night Family & Friends***

### ***Event Raised Over \$240,000***

WOW! Words cannot express how incredibly grateful we are to our dedicated supporters, sponsors, family, and friends that attended our annual event or celebrated with us in spirit.

**You helped us raise over \$240,000  
for people in need on Long Island!!  
That's over \$715,000 to date!**

Due to the huge success of this event, we can continue to grow our scholarship program and grant program, making more funds available for the students and local charities that are in need of support. We can purchase more toys, school supplies, food, and coats to support the local community, and explore new ways to help support our neighbors.

Thank you again for making V.I.P. Night 2021 a record-breaking success!

## **SAVE THE DATE FOR 2022**



Perfect Outing For Employees, Clients, And Families!

LONG ISLAND  
**Adventureland's**  
Helping Hands  
FOUNDATION

Ticket Packages Include Unlimited Rides, Unlimited Food, Unlimited Fun!

**Adventureland's Annual Friends & Family V.I.P. Experience**  
Benefitting  
Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation's Vivian And Tony Gentile Scholarship Fund & Our Local Communities!

**Friday, September 9, 2022 | 6:00pm-10:00pm**  
@

**Adventureland**  
LONG ISLAND'S AMUSEMENT PARK  
SINCE 1962

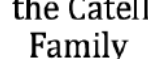
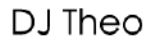
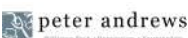
Visit [HELPINGHANDSLI.org](http://HELPINGHANDSLI.org)  
For Ticket Packages And Sponsorship Information

2245 Broadhollow Road Farmingdale, NY 11735 [info@helpinghandslsli.org](mailto:info@helpinghandslsli.org) 631.694.6868





# Thank you to our V.I.P. Night Sponsors





# ***Commitment Renewed***

## ***Helping Hands' \$50,000 Pledge to JDRF: Continuing the fight to end Type 1 Diabetes***

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation and Adventureland have long been supporters of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Through research and education, JDRF offers support to families of the newly diagnosed, information on the latest technology available to those living with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D), and services for people with T1D.

Through monetary donations and in kind donations (like bottled water for walk events, admission discounts and donations, and in-park advertising) our friendship and commitment to ending Type 1 Diabetes has grown significantly over the past 12 years.

We're honored and excited to continue our \$50,000 pledge to JDRF Walks, through Team Paul. Team Paul walks for the Long Island Chapter of JDRF in honor of Paul Gentile, who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when he was almost five years old.

We are confident that our continued support of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation will help advance the mission of this amazing organization.



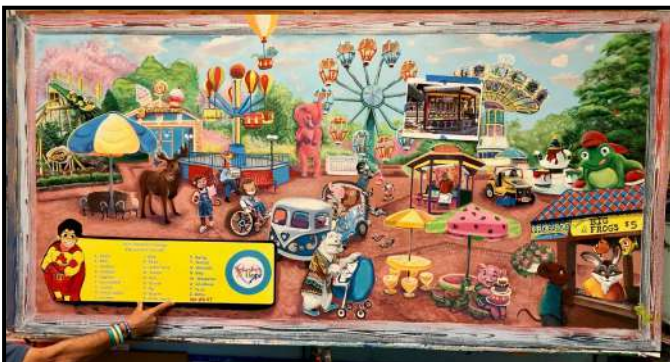
## ***2 Murals Donated***

### ***Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation Donates \$4,800 to Splashes of Hope***



Splashes of Hope is a wonderful and inspiring organization whose goal is to bring color, joy, and happiness to the walls of pediatric hospitals, VA facilities, special needs homes, and more through custom murals. Heather Bungee and her talented team of artists work with medical professionals, patients, facility staff, and art therapists to create these huge works of art that not only are beautiful, but include elements for clients' therapeutic distraction.

Helping Hands is excited to sponsor murals again in 2021 and 2022; one will be placed in Hagedorn Little Village School in Seaford and one will be placed in the Northwell Glen Cove Hospital in Glen Cove. We look forward to continuing our support of and friendship with Splashes of Hope!



## 52 Town of Babylon Children Sponsored *The Christmas Angels Program*

The Town of Babylon's Christmas Angels program ensures that the most vulnerable children and families in our community have a magical holiday season. Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation sponsored 52 children from the Town of Babylon this year—our board members shopped, wrapped, and delivered \$5,000 in gifts all in time for the families to pick up and place under their tree. We are so grateful for your generosity that allows us to spread Christmas cheer to the children in our community!



## Thousands of PPE Supplies Donated *Helping Hands Donates PPE to local hospitals*

In the spring of 2020, the need for medical supplies on Long Island to combat the COVID-19 pandemic was critical, and so Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation donated \$25,000 in supplies to local hospitals. Helping Hands is honored to help medical professionals protect themselves so they can safely continue to treat patients and help save lives.

Items including face shields and face masks were donated to Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in honor of baby Violet Biasi, Stony Brook Children's Hospital in honor of the Child Life Program, Southside Hospital in honor of the Maternity Ward, and St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center in memory of Donna Bragg.

Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation is proud to serve the Long Island Community every day, especially during this unprecedented time of confusion and uncertainty.





## ***19 Students Awarded Tuition Funds*** ***Over \$50,000 in Scholarships awarded to*** ***19 High School Seniors in 2020 and 2021***

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 Vivian and Tony Gentile, and we are honored to have them represent their legacy as they pursue their degree on Long Island.

### ***Ten Scholarships Awarded***

***2020 Drive-Through Scholarship Ceremony;***  
***\$36,000 in Tuition Assistance Awarded***

#### **2020 Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Recipients**

**Victoria Holtje:** Graduate of Smithtown High School West, attending Hofstra University

**Ashleigh Capozzi:** Graduate of Locust Valley High School, attending Hofstra University

**Troy Sica:** Graduate of Bellport High School, attending Hofstra University

**John Vaiano:** Graduate of Wantagh High School, attending Adelphi University

**Daniel Conigliaro:** Graduate of General Douglas MacArthur High School, attending Adelphi University

**Kevin Wilson:** Graduate of Farmingdale High School, attending Long Island University

**Stephanie Berkeley:** Graduate of Riverhead High School, attending Suffolk Community College

**Owen Carrozza:** Graduate of Locust Valley High School, attending Five Towns College

**Jake Iaccino:** Graduate of Walt Whitman High School, attending Farmingdale State College

**Andrea Ortega:** Graduate of Smithtown High School West, attending Stony Brook University

### ***Four Scholarships Awarded***

***2021 Scholarship Ceremony;***  
***\$16,880 in Tuition Assistance Awarded***

#### **2021 Adventureland Vivian and Tony Gentile Scholarship Recipients**

**Bridget Leudesdorf:** Graduate of Smithtown High School East, attending Stony Brook University

**Tristan O'Rourke:** Graduate of Saint Anthony's High School, attending Stony Brook University

**Danielle Henry:** Graduate of Southold Junior/Senior High School, attending Stony Brook University

**Hope Mari:** Graduate of Miller Place High School, attending Saint Joseph's College



# Two SDG Scholarships Awarded

## *Sachem Dental Group Endowment 2020 and 2021 Scholarship Recipients*

In the spring of 2017, Sachem Dental Group awarded the Tony Gentile Memorial Scholarship Fund a \$50,000 endowment. This very generous contribution ensures that the Vivian & Tony Gentile Scholarship lives on in perpetuity to assist future generations of Long Island students in their pursuit of higher education.

In 2020, Keylee Peraza was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship from this endowment. Keylee is a graduate of Roosevelt High School and went on to pursue a degree in the medical field from Molloy College.

In 2021, Ashley Liszewski was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from this endowment. Ashley is a graduate of Smithtown High School and went on to pursue a degree in the medical field from Farmingdale State College.

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!



# Two Employee Scholarships Awarded

## *\$5,500 awarded to 2020 & 2021 Adventureland Employee Winners*

**Christian Lee:** Graduate of St. John the Baptist High School, attending Farmingdale State College

**Julia Desimone:** Graduate of Half Hollow Hills High School West, attending Long Island University



# One Dollars for Scholars Scholarship Awarded

## *2021 Dollars for Scholars Scholarship Recipient Received an \$1,800 Scholarship*

**Lauren Andersen:** Graduate of William Floyd High School, attending Suffolk Community College

Applications for the 2022 Vivian & Tony Gentile Scholarship and  
Sachem Dental Group Endowment are available at [HelpingHandsLI.org](http://HelpingHandsLI.org)



# ***150 Town of Babylon Families Supported!***

## ***Helping Hands Donates \$7,500 to stock the shelves of Long Island Food Pantries***

**150 Turkeys**  
**150 Thanksgiving Baskets**  
**2,500 Diapers**  
**3,600 Baby Wipes**  
**400 Bottles of Water**  
**Donated to the  
 Town of Babylon  
 Food Pantry**



**TOWN OF BABYLON**  
 Long Island, NY



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

# ***250 Long Island Families Supported!***

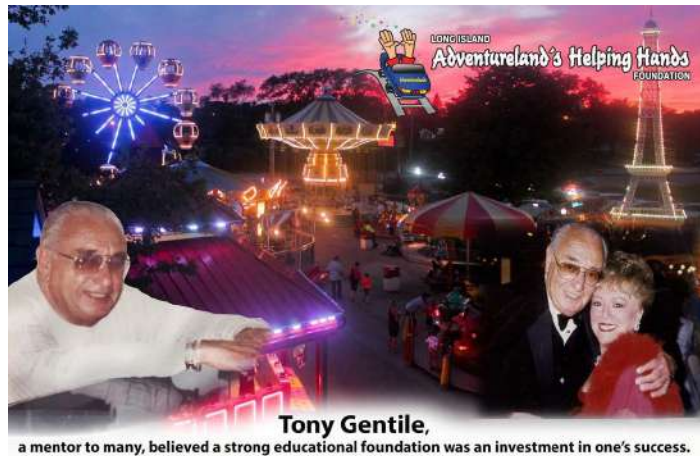
## ***Helping Hands Donates \$7,500 to Island Harvest's 2021 Bethpage Turkey Drive***



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.  
 Every \$30 donated supports turkey and trimmings for a Long Island Family.

## The Life & Legacy of Vivian & Tony Gentile

Adventureland has been a Long Island institution since 1962; providing a safe place for generations of families to spend time together and to make memories has been the goal of the Farmingdale amusement park since its inception. Although many Long Islanders are familiar with the park's classic rides, tasty treats and annual traditions like Pumpkin Park and fundraising nights, only few were lucky enough to know one of the men behind the Adventureland we know and love.



Tony Gentile was many things; a risk-taking businessman, an apprenticed butcher, a New Yorker from Brooklyn just to name a few. However, first and foremost, he was a family man. The father of five, grandfather of seventeen, married Vivian, the love of his life, after they met in business school. Tony began a lifelong journey into the business world, with nothing but the support of Vivian, his family, and his friends. His first job was as a butcher in Brooklyn. By the time he and Vivian were young parents, Tony and his two younger brothers eventually outgrew the small butcher store they worked in and decided to pursue the opportunities in the Brooklyn meat market. However, the grueling hours and the long commute were hard on Tony and Vivian and their five young children. Those issues coupled with the changing atmosphere of the meat industry, prompted Tony and his brother Johnny to answer an ad in the paper that read "Fast Food Restaurant For Sale at a Local Amusement Park." Along with their dear friends and business partners, Peter Amoruso and Dominic Cosola, this partnership purchased what is now the Adventureland Restaurant in the late 1970s. Despite having limited experience in the restaurant industry, the foursome knew they had what it takes to run a successful business together.

Tony always said that a man is only successful when he can count on the support of his wife, and so with Vivian by his side, Tony was able to use his background in accounting to run and operate the financial end of the restaurant, while Johnny and Peter oversaw the day to day operations of the business and staff. In the early 1980s the opportunity arose to expand their involvement and invest in the running of the entire amusement park. The situation of the park was as grim as when the four-man partnership took over the restaurant. They decided this was a rare but wonderful opportunity; the restaurant had turned into a healthy business and they knew they were good partners. It was decided that Tony would manage the park, and Johnny and Peter would run the restaurant.





## The Life & Legacy of Vivian & Tony Gentile

Fast forward to the 1990s; Adventureland established itself as a local landmark with new and innovative rides, live music and new games. During this time Tony and his team created community events like Pumpkin Park, designated as a safe Halloween event for Long Island families, developed philanthropic relationships with local nonprofits like The Helen Keller School and became more and more involved with community groups like Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts and Nassau-Suffolk Services for Autism. The Adventureland team decides to take on new business ventures in family entertainment, and with the help of long time associates Chip Cleary and Udo Stork, they built Splish Splash and Bullwinkle's (now Boomers), both of which were sold in 1999.



*Front: Steve Gentile, Vivian Gentile, Paul Gentile  
Back: Anthony Gentile, Valerie Eger, Chris Gentile*

Tony Gentile left behind a legacy that millions of Long Islanders continue to be a part of today; a legacy possible because of the support of his wife, Vivian, and their family. Adventureland, Splish Splash and Bullwinkle's/Boomers were founded on the ideals of family fun close to home. Vivian and Tony's philanthropy in the Long Island community continues through Adventureland and the Helping Hands Foundation. Today, Vivian and the children and grandchildren of the successful partnership are moving Adventureland forward and continue to bring the local landmark to the next level of Long Island family fun.

Tony was a successful businessman because he took chances and trusted in the honesty of people, but he was a great businessman because he was driven to succeed for the benefit of his family, friends and the community. The support and encouragement Tony received from his wife Vivian was the driving force of not only his career, but of his life. Her faith in him allowed him to take risks, explore business opportunities, and become the man he wanted to be. Tony and Vivian both wanted to give back to the community and people that supported their dreams. Tony and Vivian's drive, passion, and integrity are what the Helping Hands Foundation Scholarship recipients embody.



*The Family of Tony Gentile*



## Mission Statement

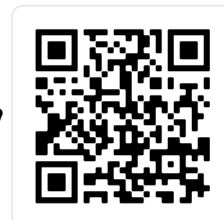
Helping Hands is the non-profit branch of L.I. Adventureland that supports the Long Island community in increasing awareness about local issues, supporting local initiatives, and providing educational resources for community residents.



## 2022 Annual V.I.P. Night Family & Friends Event



V.I.P. Night 2022  
Friday,  
September 9th



SCAN ME



You can help us reach  
our goals!



Donate at [HelpingHandsLI.org](http://HelpingHandsLI.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed made payable to "Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation"

\_\_\_\_ Please charge my: \_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_ Amex

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with payment to:

The Helping Hands Foundation  
2245 Broadhollow Road  
Farmingdale, NY 11735

