

# The Community Chest 90th Anniversary Mid Year Report 2023



This is an exciting year for The Community Chest as we celebrate our 90th anniversary. We have added some new activities to our schedule and expanded our community work to reach new audiences and supporters. This mid-year report is intended to advise readers about some of our activities. We hope that it will spur you on to reach out to us and offer some of your time and your support to grow our activities even more.

## Girls Night Out

In celebration of International Women's Day, a lively group of women supporters joined us at Dimora in Norwood to celebrate the day and support The Chest. The evening featured a fashion show by Max Mara, a special sale by six women entrepreneurs and friendly chatter and socializing in support of three agency recipients, the Young Women's Leadership Award, Women's Rights Information Center and West Side Infant and Teen Program. Many of the women were new friends to The Chest and we are delighted to welcome them to our "family."

## 90th Anniversary Gala

This annual fundraiser, the largest in our year, hosted nearly 250 people. Our emcee, Harry Martin, welcomed our guests to the lovely event held at Montammy Golf Club. We were delighted to honor Visions Federal Credit Union, Mark and Phyllis Kesslen, Reverend Preston Thompson, Jr., Samma Faragalla and Abby Kushman. The establishment of a special fund was announced to recognize the contribution of Barbara Straus, the recently deceased board president of The Chest. Funds raised that evening were used to support The Chest's 2023/2024 allocations.



## Young Women's Leadership Award/Event

The Young Women's Leadership Award is granted to high school seniors and juniors living in or attending schools in our service area, who have demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities through their community service work. Celebrating our 6th year, The Chest was delighted to make 3 awards to high school seniors and 4 to high school juniors.

• The first prize award of \$5,000 went to Samma Faragalla, who will be attending Rutgers Honors College this Fall. The two senior runners up, each awarded \$2,000, were Sofia Bella Huie-Pasigan from Dwight Englewood and Ria Vij from Dwight Morrow Academies.



• The juniors were Lauren Yu from Cresskill High School, Gabrielle Eimbinder from Tenafly High School, Judy Zhang from Dwight Englewood and Victoria Konopka from Dwight Morrow Academies. Junior winners each received a scholarship to the Teen Leaders Program offered this summer by the Bergen Volunteer Center and the opportunity to have an internship in a local business or non-profit organization.

## Allocations - Priorities

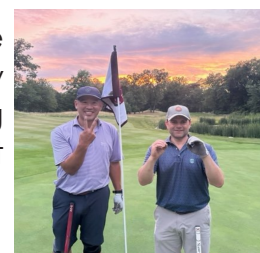
The Community Chest's funding priorities for this year are:

- Food Insecurity and Healthy Eating
- Health and Mental Health Services for all populations
- Home Care (Healthcare Staffing and Services)
- Educational Enhancement/College and Career Prep for students of all ages
- Racial Justice Education
- Emergency Funding

To date we have received 30 applications totaling \$330,000 in requests. The Allocations Committee is in the process of reviewing all the applications and will make funding recommendations to the Board of Managers in the near future. The amount of funding available for distribution will be determined by the total amount raised during the grant year.

## Summer Solstice Golf Outing

A friend of The Community Chest, Roger Chang, hosted a fundraiser called The Summer Solstice. He and a friend, Peter Reiss, competed to see if both could play 200 holes of golf during the longest day of the year. The two succeeded in playing 201 holes and raised \$11,125 from loyal supporters. The proceeds of this event were donated to The Young Women's Leadership Program.



## Golf Outing



On Monday, July 10, The Chest held its Third Annual Golf Outing at Edgewood Country Club in Rivervale. Nearly 100 Chest supporters participated in golf and dinner during what turned out to be a lovely, sunny day.

The Chest would like to thank our generous sponsors -

- Co-chairs, Matt Libien of Wells Fargo Advisors and John Wilkens of Robert Wilkens Insurance Agency, A World Company
- Lakeland Bank, LNS Group LLC, Citibank, Vantage Health System, Land Rover Englewood, Crystal Springs Resort and Signature Kitchens for their generous support. Next year's golf outing will be held on May 6, 2024 at Edgewood Country Club.

## Loneliness Project

To commemorate our 90th anniversary The Chest is undertaking a major community education project called "Connect With". Inspired by the recent report released by the Surgeon General of The United States, Vivek Murtha, MD, we will be addressing the issue of loneliness, the mental health condition identified by that office as critically effecting many Americans of all ages and across all populations.

The Chest will be producing educational materials that can be used by neighbors to reach out to those experiencing loneliness. The materials are designed to give lay people the tools to help their neighbors/friends/relatives to feel more positive and connected. The Chest, in collaboration with Connect One Bank, and other community leaders, will also be offering a conference for local professionals on the topic of working with clients experiencing loneliness and depression. Volunteers wishing to work on either project may contact Shelly Wimpfheimer at 201 568 7474.

For more information about the work of The Community Chest go to our website at [www.thecommunitychestbc.org](http://www.thecommunitychestbc.org) or call Shelly Wimpfheimer at 201 568 7474.