

# Greetings from TIM McLOONE









# Hello again to all our Holiday Express family and friends.

Every year at Holiday Express has always seemed more special than the one before...and then the pandemic arrived. Initially, we could not have been more disappointed, but - amazingly - 2020 turned into a uniquely special year, indeed. Undaunted by the barriers thrown in their way, our office staff and volunteers put together a logistical marvel.

As you probably know by now, we were still able to provide our clients with gifts, food, and a taped musical performance. Unfortunately, we lost some of those clients to this terrible virus and our own families suffered losses, as well, but the spirit of Holiday Express triumphed yet again.

Of course, we all hope for a more "normal" season in 2021, but it was heartwarming to see how everyone rallied to the cause this past year. Thank you all so much for making it truly memorable.

Tim McLoone Founder

# To our Holiday Express family,

What a year it's been! Holiday Express truly came together in 2020 to make sure that those who count on us were not forgotten, and we are incredibly proud of what we were able to accomplish in our 28th season.

Music was virtual, volunteers shopped and held donation drives, and the warehouse became center stage to ensure that no one would be "all alone at Christmas." Our small team of warehouse volunteers worked tirelessly, bundled up from the cold, as they packed duffle bags with our warehouse doors open wide. Trucks and vans were loaded and deliveries were made all across New Jersey and beyond for in-person or Zoom parties held by those groups. Despite the challenges of 2020 and the fact that we were not able to party with them, the Holiday Express show went on!

Even though we could not be together in person, our remarkable Holiday Express family joined forces in a special way to deliver the gift of human kindness. The heartwarming photos, videos, cards, and letters we received show just how important this most unusual season was to those we serve. We are grateful to all of you for making the 2020 holiday season just a little bit brighter, and we can't wait to see you in 2021!

Warmly, Lorrie Klaric **Executive Director** 



# **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

It is the mission of Holiday Express to deliver music, food, gifts, financial support, and friendship to those with the greatest need for the gift of human kindness during the holiday season and throughout the year.

# **2020 YEARBOOK COMMITTEE**

**Graphic Design** Debbie McKenna - MLE Graphics

**Editor** Joanne Colella – Colella Communications

**Coordinator** Ashley Hadar

### Contributors

Joanne Colella Ashley Hadar Lorrie Klaric Debbie McKenna Tim McLoone Phyllis Peterson Amy Robinson Friends of Holiday Express

## Photographers

Friends of Holiday Express

# 2020 HOLIDAY EXPRESS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tim McLoone - Founder Terel Cooperhouse - President Amy Broza - Ist Vice President John Maglione - 2nd Vice President Jane Denny - Secretary Jeff Fraller - Treasurer Peter DeMarco Joseph Gervasi Eileen Higgins Paul Huegel Beth McLoone Jeffrey Rich Maureen Staub Patricia Wotton

# Holiday Express Administration

Lorrie Klaric - Executive Director Amy Robinson - Director of Operations Ashley Hadar - Coordinator of Business Office & Social Media Phyllis Peterson - Program Coordinator

# **LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!**

Now more than ever, be sure to stay connected and look for our Holiday Express updates throughout the year!

FACEBOOK<br/>TWITTER<br/>VOUTUBE<br/>INSTAGRAMImage: Constraint of the sector of the sect

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WEBSITE www.holidayexpress.org

Holiday Express is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Federal Tax ID: 22-3470019

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# **2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

# **A VIRTUAL SEASON BRINGS TANGIBLE JOY**

During the 2020 Holiday Express season, we were unable to embark upon our traditional calendar of in-person events to deliver the gift of human kindness. But, as they say, absence makes the heart grow fonder and the dedicated hearts of Holiday Express were determined to find ways to still make it a special season for those we missed so much and had planned to visit. No matter how hard the Grinch named COVID tried to steal the holiday spirit, it came – it came just the same!

A. Harry Moore School
Academy Learning Center
Alpha School
Ancora Psychiatric Hospital
ARC of Essex County
Bancroft
Bergen County Special Services
Bright Beginnings Learning + Future Foundations
Catholic Charities Housing Services: St. Lucy's (Jersey City) & St. Bridges (Newark)
Celebrate the Children
Center for Lifelong Learning
Cerebral Palsy League
Cheshire Home
Children's Center of Monmouth County
Children's Specialized Hospital - Mountainside
Community Access Unlimited
Community Resources
Community Care of Freehold
CPC Behavioral Healthcare
Crystal Lake
CSPNJ-Collaborative Support
CVR
Dawncil
Daybreak Treatment Care
DCF Regional School - Ocean Campus
Deron School
Developmental Learning Center: Warren Morris Union Joint
Easter Seals
Eastern Christian Children's Retreat

New Hope
New Lisbon Developmental Center
NJEDDA Adult Training Center
NJEDDA High School
NJID Adult Program
Norman A. Bleshman Regional Day School
Ocean Mental Health
Paramus Adult Training Center
Piscataway Regional Day School
Preferred Behavioral Health Group
Red Ribbon Academy
Regional Day School of Jackson
Sisters Academy
St. Ann's Soup Kitchen
St. Francis Inn
St. John's Soup Kitchen
St. Joseph's School for the Blind
Straight & Narrow
The Phoenix Center
The Shore Center for Students with Autism
Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
Trenton Psychiatric Hospital
Trinity Church Soup Kitchen
Unity Place of Atlantic County
Unity Place of Monmouth
Veterans Haven South
Washington Elementary Program (Autism Continuum)
Woodbine Developmental Center





Every Holiday Express season is made possible through the tireless efforts of hundreds of volunteer elves. But operating through the challenges and restrictions of a pandemic required the skills of a very special team of warehouse warriors. Wearing masks befitting their superhero status, these key volunteers and staff members worked day after day at our warehouse to sort countless donated items, pack tens of thousands of gift bags, record virtual concerts, pick up food, load trucks, and make deliveries to each of our beloved clients at locations throughout New Jersey, New York, and Philadelphia.





# **NOT SIDE-BY-SIDE**, **BUT HEART-TO-HEART**

Although we may have been physically distant in 2020, Holiday Express and those that we visit always remain close in one another's thoughts and hearts. We cherish the many notes we've received, letting us know that even across the miles, our love is contagious.

Thank you for continuing the tradition that has brought smiles to the faces of our clients at Hudson Milestones for years. While this year of course looked different, we are grateful we were still able to enjoy the wonderful sights and sounds of the Holiday Express volunteers. This always gets us in the holiday spirit and it was needed more than ever this year. Thank you again for bringing the magic of Holiday Express, even in the middle of a pandemic! ~ Hudson Milestones

Thank you so much for the hard work and dedication that Holiday Express exemplified during this very difficult year. The people of Woodbine Developmental Center are grateful for the gifts. The virtual party is terrific; we are showing it on our in-house channel and it is bringing an extra measure of happiness to all here. ~ Woodbine Developmental Center

Our adult program participants and staff are so very thankful for the warmth, compassion, good music, and fun you provide each year. While you couldn't be here in person with us this year, you did not disappoint with the recording you provided. It included all the elements our participants have grown to expect and love. The only things missing were the hugs! ~ **Children's Center Programs** 

Thank you for your kindness and putting smiles on the faces of our residents during these trying times. Despite our current circumstances dealing with COVID, you were still able to come up with a way to bring much needed joy to our facility! The virtual CD was so entertaining and everyone loved the Grinch's holiday greeting cards! The delivery of gift bags for all our residents, along with the snacks, cookies, soda, and water bottles, was so greatly appreciated! Your group is truly made up of some very exceptional people. ~ Crystal Lake Healthcare

> This year was different for us because we always look forward to the visit from Holiday Express with your staff and characters, but you provided the next best thing - a video! Our staff and students spent the afternoon celebrating with Holiday Express and had a wonderful time. We cannot thank you enough for always thinking of us and lifting our spirits for the holidays! ~ Bright Beginnings Learning Center

Even COVID couldn't stop you from bringing the joy of the holidays to Larc School. Your recorded performance was amazing and this year we could watch it as many times as we wanted! We were touched that you still remembered us even in these uncertain times. You found a way to generously share your time and talent and bring some normalcy to an otherwise difficult year. Thank you! ~ Larc School

When asked to describe the Holiday Express event in one word, I immediately said JOY! The joy that is seen on the children's faces as the event unfolds, the joy felt in our hearts as we celebrate, and the joy of anticipating next year's event. This year, it has been hard to find joy in the world during these difficult times and when life gets challenging. Thankfully, the entire Holiday Express organization gave us this gift again this year, just when we needed it the most. We thank you for the joy you put in our hearts that day and the joy of anticipating future Holiday Express celebrations. ~ Harbor School





The ability to continue the mission of Holiday Express is critically dependent upon the support we receive from so many people, in so many ways. We rely upon the dedicated volunteers and generous donors who help our mission go viral and find various ways to give.



## **BRIGHT LIGHTS**

Donors who pledge recurring monthly donations to Holiday Express are our Bright Lights. Please contact our office or visit our website to sign up as a Bright Light and make a pledge for any amount.

# **COLLECTION DRIVES**

Each and every one of the nearly 30,000 people we assist each year receives a large tote bag as a gift, which has been carefully packed with necessities such as hats and gloves, socks and blankets, toothbrushes and toothpaste, wash cloths and body wash, and more. Collection drives are great projects for schools, scout troops, businesses, organizations, congregations, and other groups.

## **IN-KIND DONATIONS**

We are able to keep our operating expenses low through partnerships with our in-kind donors, who provide Holiday Express with boxes and blankets, tents and truck rentals, meals and beverages, generators and toiletries, graphic design and media coverage, and more. Please let us know if you have services or supplies you can provide.

# MATCHING GIFTS

Corporate matching gift programs can double the impact of every donation an employee makes, and some businesses offer monetary donations or grants in return for their employees' volunteer hours. Be sure to ask your human resources department if your company offers these programs and make your contribution go even farther.

# **RAFFLE PRIZE GIFTS**

Throughout the year, we accept donations of new items to be given as special raffle prizes for attendees at some of our events. These gift bags are filled with customized, sorely needed items such as warm clothing in sizes L, XL, and XXL for both men and women. Please consider buying winter coats, pajamas, and other articles listed on our website for those in need and if you're shopping online through Amazon Smile, you can name Holiday Express as your charity of choice. Donations may be brought or shipped to the Holiday Express warehouse.

# SPECIAL DONATIONS

Donations to Holiday Express make a thoughtful gift in honor of a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, as well as a meaningful legacy in memory of a loved one. Donors receive a grateful acknowledgement of their generosity and a note is sent to their honorees, also.

## THIRD-PARTY FUNDRAISERS

Each year, we are delighted by the many unique third-party fundraisers that are thoughtfully organized and hosted by our volunteers and supporters to benefit Holiday Express. Just this past year alone, they have included hiking challenges, wine sales, jewelry parties, custom coffee and candle sales, and boutique shopping events, with proceeds donated to our organization. If you'd like to plan a fundraiser of your own, we would welcome the opportunity to have Holiday Express as your beneficiary.

# FUNDRAISING EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Holiday Express hosts several hugely popular fundraising events each year in order to raise public awareness of the work we do and to generate a major portion of the funds we need. These annual events - which were still held, albeit a bit differently, in 2020 - include the Holiday Express Golf Classic, the Sunset Benefit Clambake, and two benefit concerts at the Count Basie Center for the Arts. Event sponsorships are a terrific way to showcase your business or organization, as well as your generous support of Holiday Express.











Holiday Express offers an important program for those who would like to lend their personal support to specific events during our holiday season. Our Adopt-an-Event Donors have the opportunity to be very special partners and patrons to the guests at those events and make a tremendous positive impact.



# **ADOPT AN EVENT**

The expenses for each Holiday Express charity event total an average of \$6,000, depending upon the size of the group we are visiting. That amount includes the cost of supplies, musical equipment, and transportation, plus food and gifts for every guest. The generous supporters who participate in our Adopt-an-Event program provide the funds to cover all those expenses for an event or events of their choice. A portion of their donation also covers the cost of purchasing an item from the "wish list" given to us by that group. These items represent a wide range of price points and address a variety of needs, but cannot be afforded otherwise in a facility's operating budget.

We are proud and humbled by the kind generosity of the businesses, organizations, families, and individuals who have become Adopt-an-Event partners with Holiday Express. To learn more about this program, please contact our office at 732-544-8010.

# **2020 ADOPT-AN-EVENT DONORS**

ALPHA SCHOOL	Trudy and Charlie Parton
CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL	The Maglione Family
CSPNJ	OceanFirst Foundation
CVR	OceanFirst Foundation
EVA'S VILLAGE	CWR Electronics - Mike and Maryanne Cohen
FRA	Stephanie and Mark Cartier
JERSEY SHORE RESCUE MISSION	CWR Electronics - Mike and Maryanne Cohen
JESPY HOUSE	Moonlight CGF
LYONS	Moonlight CGF
RED RIBBON ACADEMY	Frank and Linda Belmont - Belmont Productions
SISTERS ACADEMY	Maria and Robert Baker
GIFT BAGS AND OTHER DONORS	American Legion Post 504
	Buttonwood Drive Community
	Robert Hutchins
	Meadow Flower School
	Trish and Don Pignataro
	World Subaru, LLC



# OUR GENEROUS FIRST RESPONDERS

In the midst of such a challenging year, Holiday Express was truly blessed to have the support of donors and event sponsors who were even more generous than ever, as well as warehouse and musician volunteers who went above and beyond, and made it possible for us to continue our mission. The need was great, and the response was tremendous. With your help, we were able to deliver gifts and food to dozens of locations, host our golf outing, and present virtual versions of our clambake and concerts. We offer our deepest gratitude to everyone who provided funding, materials, equipment, and services throughout the season, as well as all those who organized unique third-party fundraisers of their own to benefit Holiday Express.



# **2020 SUNSET CLAMBAKE SPONSORS**

#### **PRESENTING SPONSORS**

McLoone's Restaurants Phil and Marilyn Perricone Tito's Handmade Vodka

### **GOLD SPONSORS**

Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation Tom and Janet Kirwan Robin Jill Schneider, Esq. Shore Point Distributing Company Sheldon and Anne Vogel

#### **SILVER SPONSORS**

Sharon Jorgensen Kenneth Nahum and Ann Marie Walsh David and Catherine Strader Vrola Wakefern Food Corp.

### **BRONZE SPONSORS**

Bayshore Family of Companies Coastal Title Agency, Inc. Inserra ShopRite Supermarkets Maser Consulting Tom and Carolyn Miller Monmouth Medical Center RWJ Barnabas Health Stillwell-Hansen, Inc. Van Winkle Associates Ronald L. Reisner (Ret) and Chryssa Yaccarino, Esq.

#### PATRONS

Amy Broza Gallo Wines Joseph and Freya Gervasi Toby Husserl Frank and Virginia Mazza New Jersey Natural Gas Elmo and Pam Shropshire

### FRIENDS

Anna Bauder John and Amy Brogan Al and Elaine Cangiarella Colella Communications, LLC Terel and Lynn Cooperhouse The Corbett Family Michael and Joyce DeJohn Ronald DeLuca Debra Harmady **Kieran and Eileen Higgins Robert and Kim Honecker** Paul Huegel Joseph and Susan Kyrillos Robert MacPherson Pamela McCoy Mark Murphy Larry and Gail Nelsen Anthony and Erin Perruso

Red Bank RiverCenter Nicholas and Kathleen Scerbo Richard and Karen Spengler Timothy and Peggy Sullivan Susan Wilson Cindy Zipf

# 2020 BENEFIT CONCERT SPONSORS

SANTA SPONSOR Stillwell-Hansen, Inc.

### SOUND AND LIGHT SPONSORS

Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation Friends of Holiday Express

#### **CURTAIN SPONSORS**

Bayshore Family of Companies Investors Bank Wakefern Food Corp. Bill and Kathleen Ward

### **PATRON SPONSORS**

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# 2020 FOOD DONORS



Jersey Mike's Subs McLoone's Restaurants PepsiCo

# GRANT AND FOUNDATION SUPPORT

First Energy Foundation Kroon Foundation Manasquan Bank Charitable Foundation OceanFirst Foundation Sandy Hill Foundation Travelers Foundation

# IN-KIND DONORS AND OTHER SUPPORTERS

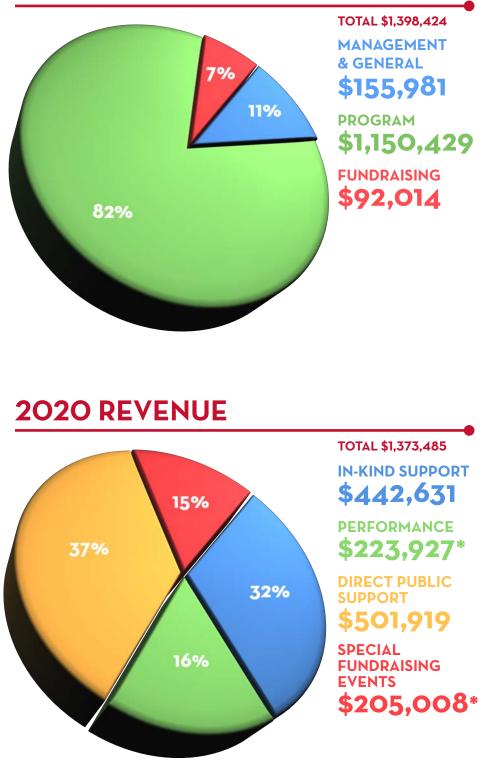
Athlete's Alley Avis Budget Group Beachside Productions Bombas Socks Cinecall Soundtracks & Productions Coffee Corral Colella Communications, LLC Down to Basics GNI Komar Lowy's Moving Service Sharon Midgett MLE Graphics Parametrix Productions, LLC Ronstan Paper & Packaging Anthony Setaro Sickles Market Tito's Handmade Vodka WRAT Radio

Special thanks to all the volunteer elves, musicians, and others who outdid themselves by working in the warehouse, recording videos, filming concerts, conducting fundraisers, organizing collections, dropping off or sending product donations, making daily trips to pick up event subs, and more to support Holiday Express and our mission during this extraordinary year!



# MAKING IT COUNT with HOLIDAY EXPRESS

# **2020 EXPENSES**



\*net of direct costs **Source:** Audited Financials, IRS Form 990 Fiscal Year Ending 04/30/2020





PERFORMING MORE THAN 1,530 MUSICAL EVENTS IN 7 STATES TO DATE

SERVING AN UNDERSERVED POPULATION - THOSE WITH A DIVERSITY OF SPECIAL NEEDS -

27,000 ENTERTAINED VIRTUALLY

VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED



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# **SAVE THE DATES!**











# Please check our website for the latest event updates!

