

Autumn 2019 PRONTO TODAY...

Fall is here; but first, let's review some of Pronto's happenings of the past few months: Our **fundraising day at Anthony's Coal-Fired Pizza in Commack** on April 13th was great. Over 70 friends of Pronto came, enjoyed a delicious meal and supported Pronto while they dined with friends and family. Several weeks later, Anthony's sent us a check for 20% of the total spent by Pronto supporters. Thanks to all who made the trip to Commack. And a special thanks to Anthony's for their great food and generous donation.

On June 5th we hosted our **Golden Gala, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Pronto**. The evening at the Watermill in Smithtown was aglow with lights and music, and more than 360 friends of Pronto sharing in the special celebration. Special recognition was given to our Honorees Jose Avila and Sari Avila Franklin, Sister Jane Reilly, DSJ, Sister Catherine Talia, OSU, Michel Brown Empire Auto Group and Richard Loeschner, Superintendent, BUFSD. In accepting the honors, their words provided a brief oral history of Pronto, and inspired us to continue the mission into the next 50 years. We paid tribute to our beloved Evelyn Cabrera in Memoriam who inspired many of Pronto clients to continue to strive for their improved wellbeing. A video about Pronto's history was shown. It was filled with personal stories from volunteers and community leaders alike. A live band and a DJ provided music for dancing after dinner, and friends, old and new, enjoyed a perfect celebration of 50 years of service. Adding to the scene were sparkling table centerpieces and an abundance of festively wrapped raffle baskets decorating the room. It was a tribute to all those who worked so hard for months to bring it all together. Kudos and a million thanks to them. And thanks to all who attended and those who could not but sent a donation; to all our Sponsors and to those whose ads appear in the Journal. We are deeply grateful.



Summer at Pronto

Pronto doesn't slow down during the summer, we expand to outdoors. Inside, we continue to provide our regular services for our clients, but during July & August, for five weeks, we host **summer camp** for about 45 Middle School girls and boys. Our campers tended the vegetable garden outside #128, planting, weeding, watering, and reaping the benefits of home grown food. They also learned about nutrition and how to prepare their harvested vegetables. In addition to their farming experience, they took field trips to their Community Ambulance Corps and the local Fire and Police Departments. There, the campers saw, up close, the services available in their communities and the people who provide those services, as well as the various ways volunteers contribute to our health and safety.

Pronto's Board Members

Vivian Hart, President
Retired

Michael J. Grant, Vice President
Owner, Grant Funeral Homes

Dara L. Gary, Secretary
CPA, East End Disability Associates, Inc.

Michael McElroy, Treasurer
Retired

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Retired

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Owner, Core Professional Development

Lisa Carfora, Member
Real Estate Agent

631 231-8290

www.prontolongisland.org

128 Pine Aire Drive, Bay Shore, NY 11706

The mission continues...
feed the hungry, clothe the needy,
welcome the stranger and provide
healing and hope to everyone who walks
through our doors.

Pronto's July 4th, **Barbecue and Tree Planting** provided staff, volunteers and community residents a time to remember and celebrate Evelyn Cabrera's unique contribution to the community. We also celebrated our Independence Day. The weather was warm and sunny, just right for a joyful celebration. Our guests enjoyed barbecue, cooling deserts and watermelon under the trees. Tented tables in the parking lot were busy dispensing information and selling thrift items. At noon, we all gathered near the front door on Pine Aire Drive, and amid prayers and tears, a Dogwood tree was planted in memory of Evelyn Cabrera. With luck, it will bloom each year in time for Evelyn's April birthday. Always in our hearts.



On August 3rd, we hosted our **Annual Community Day**. It was another perfect day outdoors, with 20 local agencies staffing tables and providing information on the services available to community residents. DJ Jay (Rodriguez)'s lively music filled the air, and Yaheely Goicochea and her Children's Show engaged and delighted the youngsters with games, costumes and sing-alongs.

Our Day's generous sponsors came through with mementos of the day: the Law Firm of Ariel Amino gave tee shirts with Community Day logo to all who attended; and National Waste Management distributed more than 125 fully supplied back packs for the back-to-schoolers. A wonderful family day!

Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 through October 15th

At the invitation of Suffolk County Hispanic Advisory Board for County Executive Steve Bellone, Pronto's Board President Vivian Hart gave the Keynote Address on September 17th, to open Hispanic Heritage Month. Speaking at the Dennison Building in Hauppauge, Vivian spoke of her family's personal journey from their homeland in Honduras to becoming U.S. citizens. She spoke of her mother instilling in her children a deep sense of pride in their Honduran heritage as well as a sense of being contributing members of their adopted community. Then, the County Executive welcomed everyone, spoke of the county's positions of respect for cultural diversity and awards were presented to recognize contributions made to the county by some of our Hispanic American neighbors.

On October 3rd, State Senator Phil Boyle celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring outstanding residents in his district. Pronto family member, Mayra Amundaray, was recognized for her years of being a foster parent, and continuing to give to the community by volunteering at Pronto. We celebrate, all year, our Pronto members and all our Hispanic American friends.



Golf Outing Fundraiser



On September 16th Pronto held our annual **Golf Outing Fundraising** event where 45 golfers enjoyed the 9 hole course at Heartland golf park. They were joined afterwards by about 25 more guests for the awards dinner. Thanks to all the sponsors, especially Michael Brown from Empire Auto Group, Robert Bud from FREE and Dino Carfora from Morgan Stanley for their support in making this event a big success!



October 4th's, **Donor Appreciation Supper** at St. Joseph's Academy in Brentwood was the site of a delicious buffet supper, music, a salsa dance lesson, basket raffle and the drawing of the lucky ticket for the 2019 Hyundai Sonata three year lease courtesy of Atlantic Hyundai. Bob Wasilko drew the winning ticket that went to John Frieman a former Islip Town resident and car enthusiast. Congratulations! Thanks once more to all our donors and volunteers.



Please join us to support
Pronto of Long Island's Annual

Thanksgiving Breakfast

Date: Friday, November 8, 2019
Time: 8:00 – 10:00 am
Location: Bella Verde
at Heartland Industrial Park
600 Long Island Ave, Brentwood, NY 11717

Day will Include

Breakfast & Networking: 8:00 - 9:00 am
Event Presentation: 9:00 – 10:00 am

Please RSVP by November 5, 2019
to Robert Gonzalez at
rgonzalez@prontolongisland.org

Youth Awards



The Suffolk County Department of Labor paid for four **Summer Youth Workers** to give a hand at Pronto. Two of these young people were counselors for our campers; the others lent much needed clerical support in our office. We are grateful to them for all their hard work and to the DOL for sending them to us. We also congratulate three of our workers, Eric Enman, Izaah Rahman-Bailey and Aniya Simpson who were among 141 of 800 program participants to receive awards from the DOL in recognition of their outstanding "On the Job Performance".

Thanks to a grant from United Way, we were able to offer **Youth Opportunity for Employment training**, coordinated by our very own Sister Cathy. We conducted two 5-week sessions for students 14 to 17 years old. The students were taught skills to help them gain employment, such as resumé writing, how to present oneself at an interview, etc. The students received certificates attesting to their successful completion of the program, followed by paid internships. We were fortunate to have four of the students work at Pronto, two in the pantry, one in the warehouse, and one in the reception office. Congratulations to the students who completed the program and thanks to those who used their skills here at Pronto.

Thanks to our
**Thanksgiving
Breakfast sponsors
and Capital One for
their generous
contributions!**



*Please consider donating to our
Thanksgiving Food Drive and/or our
Holiday Toy Drive that's just around the
corner. As always, thank you for all your
support of our Mission and work as
people helping people!*

Volunteers Needed at Pronto to help distribute Thanksgiving Baskets:

November 18 – 22 & 25-26
9am – 3pm

You can help stock, sort, fill baskets and assist families in filling their carts, cars and transports. **Call 631.231.8290** to schedule your volunteer day!