

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS



THE MAURER FOUNDATION

Nonprofit Dedicated to Breast Health Education Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

Every Sunday, Newsday presents another Community Champions organization — groups that reach out to assist fellow Long Islanders.

How To Reach Us:

The Maurer Foundation for Breast Health and Education
800 Port Washington Blvd.
Port Washington, NY 11050
516-883-6304
1-800-853-LEARN
www.maurer-foundation.org

If you know a group worthy of being a Community Champion, make your nomination on:

Newsday.com

or at Bethpage Federal Credit Union Branches

Newsday's Community Champions are selected by the following committee of distinguished Long Islanders: **Linda M. Army**, Assistant Vice President Business Development, Bethpage Federal Credit Union; **Lance W. Elder**, President and Chief Executive Officer, EAC, Inc.; **Amy Hagedorn**, Horace and Amy Hagedorn Fund in the Long Island Community Foundation; **Celeste Hernandez**, Executive Director, L.I. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; **Jean Kelly**, Executive Director, Interfaith Nutrition Network; **Linda Landsman**, Program Director, Children & Families, Rauch Foundation; **Lynn Needelman**, Executive Director, Long Island CARES; **Eileen A. Nolan**, Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Database, Vytra Health Plans; **John T. O'Connell**, President/CEO, Health and Welfare Council of LI; **David Okorn**, Manager, Community Development, KeySpan; **Diana O'Neill**, Executive Director, Long Island Volunteer Center; **Andrew Rothstein**, Director of Community and Marketing Programs, Newsday; **Theresa Sanders**, President, CEO, Urban League Long Island

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It was 1995 when breast surgeon Virginia Maurer, M.D. founded The Maurer Foundation for Breast Health Education. The undertaking was inspired by her realization that there was a critical need among patients for a better and more detailed understanding of breast cancer. Specifically, Maurer hoped to educate women of all ages on the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of the disease as well as prevention and good health practices.

Over the past decade, The Maurer Foundation has impacted more than 55,000 women through its community awareness efforts and many educational programs. The Young Women's Breast Health Program reaches out to young women in Long Island, Brooklyn and Queens with a 40-minute interactive program conducted at high schools by trained health educators. Last year, nearly 7,000 students participated. The Foundation also offers several other programs, including the Breast Health Educator Training and Certification Program, a Peer Education Program and Community Breast Health Education for adult women. It sponsors "Breast Health Connections," an annual conference for healthcare practitioners, students pursuing careers in healthcare, breast cancer survivors and the general public. The Maurer Foundation also provides informative resources to the community through its newsletter and website.

"Addressing women in schools, community organizations, places of



PHOTO: TONY LOPEZ

Health educators Leanna Mauro and Karolina Bizik of the Maurer Foundation teach students at Cardozo Highschool in Bayside, Queens about the symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of breast cancer.

business and through media outlets, the Foundation's up-to-date educational programs are aimed at dispelling myths and allaying fears about breast cancer while filling the knowledge gap that exists about maintaining breast health," explains Executive Director Kim Rozzi. According to the American Cancer Society, there were 212,600 new cases of breast cancer in the United States in 2003. Despite the alarming statistics, Rozzi says, there is a serious public knowledge gap about maintaining breast health. Millions are spent annually on research but until a cure is found, women of all ages need to know about early diagnosis and lifestyle decisions that can help prevent the disease.

The Maurer Foundation's important contributions to women's health are made possible by a small staff of seven, an esteemed board of directors and approximately 60 volunteers. Many on the organization's team are breast cancer survivors. This April, the Foundation will commemorate its ten-year milestone at its black-tie fundraiser, the Pink Diamond Ball, at the Garden City Hotel.

-Claire Curry

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