

WINNERS

CHRISTINA GOERLER
Account executive

Christina Goerler, of Dix Hills, was honored last month at 26th Annual Golf Outing hosted by CN Guidance & Counseling Services in Hicksville in recognition of her "far-reaching impact generously supporting charitable causes throughout her community," according to the organization. Goerler is a senior account executive at LDI Connect, a Jericho-based company specializing digital office technology, and has held that position for more than 25 years, according to CN Guidance & Counseling Services. She has also been involved with AHRC Suffolk and the Child Center of NY for more than a decade and is a "dedicated supporter" of CN Guidance & Counseling Services who has helped raise "critical funds to support their vital programs," according to the organization.

**SAL FERRO**
Philanthropist, advocate

Sal Ferro, of Commack, was honored last month at the 26th Annual Golf Outing hosted by CN Guidance & Counseling Services in Hicksville in recognition of his philanthropy and public service, according to the group. Ferro is the former owner and CEO of Allure Home Improvements and currently serves on several boards including for the Clark Gillies Foundation, Family Service League and the Ferro Foundation, his charity, which strives to help veterans, first-generation college students and underserved groups, according to its website. He also recently served four years on the Huntington Town Board.



MOLLY FERRO

KATHRYN BEHR
Principal

Kathryn Behr, of Oceanside, has received the 2025-26 Administrator of the Year Award from the Nassau BOCES School Library System for her "student-centered leadership and support of literacy, research and innovative learning," according to the Port Washington Union Free School District. Behr has served as principal of Paul D. Schreiber High School in Port Washington for the past four years. Before that, she was an assistant principal in Jericho and a director of music and arts in the East Meadow and Jericho school districts.

—MICHAEL R. EBERT



PORT WASHINGTON UNION FREE SCHOOL

NOMINATE A WINNER Email information about the accomplishment or honor to winners@newsday.com. Include photo in JPEG format; color is preferred.

HOMETOWN HERO

Her bat mitzvah project fills hospital wish list



BY MICHAEL R. EBERT
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When Hannalee Wilbur began thinking about a community service project to take on for her upcoming bat mitzvah, she knew she wanted to help the charity that supported her family during one of its most difficult times.

Hannalee, who turned 13 on June 8, recently collected more than \$10,000 worth of toys, toiletries and essential items for the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Stony Brook Children's Hospital, which features amenities like a kitchenette and private showers to give families a "restful place to unwind while remaining close to their child" during their hospital stay, according to the hospital. The effort was part of her mitzvah project, a community service initiative undertaken by children preparing for their Bat Mitzvah.

Hannalee chose the Ronald McDonald Family Room because her cousin Jacqueline Schumer, of Rhode Island, stayed at a Ronald McDonald House facility while she was pregnant four years ago and had to undergo fetal surgery. The baby had been diagnosed with spina bifida, a neural tube defect in which a spine and spinal cord do not form properly. The child, Scottie, is now 3 and "thriving," said Hannalee.

Hannalee is a shining example of how one's kindness and generosity can have a big impact.'

— CEO Matt Campo of
Ronald McDonald House
Long Island

"They made her feel very welcome, and it was a very positive space for her in a very dark time," Hannalee said. "I love giving, and I wanted to help other people because of how they helped my family."

To collect the donations, Hannalee created an Amazon Wish List, and her family spread the word on social media during the two months leading up to her birthday. She then packaged the items into baskets wrapped in cellophane, transported them in a van packed "from top to bottom"

and hand delivered them to the hospital, she said.

The response exceeded her expectations. So many items were donated that the entire basement was filled in her family's home.

"Every day after school I would see like 10 packages and the Amazon man would be like, 'Here's another package for your mitzvah project,'" said Hannalee, who is entering eighth grade at Samoset Middle School in Lake Ronkonkoma. "I didn't think we would get so many items. I was so surprised and grateful that so many people wanted to donate."

Hannalee's mother, Cara Wilbur, praised her daughter's efforts. "She knows that giving to others who are unfortunately sick can bring a smile to their faces."

Matt Campo, CEO of Ronald McDonald House Long Island, said, "Hannalee is a shining example of how one's kindness and generosity can have a big impact."

"At just 13 years old, she donated hundreds of Ronald McDonald House wish-list items and care packages that will help so many families experience the comforts of home while their child is hospitalized."

NOMINATE A LONG ISLANDER who goes above and beyond or serves as an inspiration to their community. Send details and photograph to Michael Ebert, michael.ebert@newsday.com (photos should be high-resolution). Photos may be used in other publications affiliated with Newsday.

Hannalee Wilbur, 13, of Ronkonkoma, collected over \$10,000 worth of items for Stony Brook Children's Hospital's Ronald McDonald Family Room.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE LONG ISLAND