

What Is Leadership Huntington?

If you ask any Leadership Huntington graduate to explain the program to you in a sentence, they would tell you the task is impossible. That is because the program is so diverse and encompasses so many facets that brevity does not do it justice.

Essentially, the mission of the program is to stimulate positive change by engaging and inspiring a broad range of citizens to embrace community trusteeship. The organization's cornerstone Flagship Program starts and ends with intensive training in teambuilding and leadership development. The rest of the class is filled with direct exposure to diverse community leaders, lessons in local history, and exploration of local concerns.

The best solutions start locally, with citizens who understand the issues, their communities, and their own vision and values. Leadership Huntington provides that education, fostering individual initiative and community trusteeship, building connections, and inspiring solutions. Over the course of nine months, Leadership candidates meet every few weeks for workshops whose topics range from the arts and government to community challenges and healthcare.

There are well over 2,000 community leadership programs nationwide. Together, Huntington stakeholders have built one of the best, right in the Town of Huntington.



Leadership is a nonpartisan organization founded in 1995 by the Huntington Township Chamber Foundation, which was a philanthropic arm of the Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce. Within that context, long-time community trustees – local notables such as Libby Hubbard, Ken

Christensen, Vaughan Spilsbury, Arthur Goldstein, Jill Tane, Rex Metcalf, Dianne Parker, and many others – came together to preserve what was best about the dynamic, eclectic Huntington community while at the same time embracing the cutting edge of modern community leadership development.

In 2007, the Leadership Huntington Foundation became an independent 501(c)3. Its Flagship Program has created nearly 300 diverse graduates. Many hold leadership positions within businesses, nonprofits, gov-

ernment and civic groups.

Leadership is built with professional, financial and other support from our community. Early support from the Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce enabled the organization to help launch two model childcare centers; to work with Huntington Hospital to establish the Dolan Family Health Center for the medically under-served; to form an elder-care project; and to establish WorkPlus, which assisted transitions due to welfare reform.



Board of Directors

Program Directors: Trudy Fitzsimmons and Katheryn Laible

Sharon Saudino, President
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“Leadership Huntington opens your eyes to many different facets of our community and how a real community works. The program also allows you to make new contacts in a wide variety of fields that you may never have become involved in. While the commitment is significant, the benefits and friendships developed far outweigh the effort.”

RAY HOMBURGER, PSEG, Class of 2013

Meet the Class of 2014

Bill Arasa

Bill, a St Joseph's College Graduate, has dedicated himself to improving the lives of others. His first job while in high school was as a swim teacher at a local YMCA. Little did he know that was the start of a 25-year-plus career with the YMCA at sev-



eral branches serving as director of many departments. He is Senior Associate Executive Director of the Huntington YMCA where, with the help of a great team the YMCA is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children, adults and families. Bill and his wife, Terry, and have three boys.

Melissa Boo

Melissa is a lifelong Nassau County resident who has been fortunate to take her studies abroad to Australia, Arizona, and Mexico. She attributes her entrepreneurial spirit to the Congressional Student Leadership Program, her passion for social justice to her friend Liz



Durante, and her commitment to sustainable development to the Ecosa Institute. Today, she is proud to be a member of EmPower Solar's team as Communications & Outreach Coordinator, and manages the web platform Locally Long Island to connect Nassau County's green living resources with each other and with the community.

Alex Borg

Alex is a Huntington native who is continuing his family's legacy in their local insurance agency. A graduate of Harborfields High School (2002) and the University of Vermont (2006). After teaching in Vermont, he returned to Long Island to work in the family insurance business. Alex is involved with several trade associations to educate and



provide professional service to businesses in the construction, real estate, manufacturing, and retail industries. Alex is the former chairman of the young professional committee at the Huntington Chamber of Commerce and currently serves on the board of directors. Alex is also an active member of the Townwide Fund of Huntington, Alex is married and lives in Centerport.

Joe Cline

Joe has worked for the Town of Huntington Department of Engineering services since April 2012. Prior to joining the town he was a partner in a consulting engineering firm where he started his engineering career



in 1991. Joe has an engineering degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. He is a loving husband to his wife of 22 years, Laurie and proud father of four young boys. He is a board member of the Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce.

Susan Goldberg

Sue Goldberg is the director of Elwood Public Library and a wife and mother of four. She has lived in Melville for over 20 years. Being a librarian is a second career for Sue and she loves the opportu-



nity that librarianship provides to make a difference in the community. She has a master's degree in Library Science and an Advanced Certificate in Library Administration from LIU-CW Post.

Jennifer Cassidy

Jennifer has been in the financial services industry for the past 15 years. She has had experience in all areas of banking. She is Financial Services Manager, Assistant Vice President Peoples United Bank in Northport. She serves on the board of directors for the Huntington Township Chamber of



Commerce and chairs its Young Professionals Committee. Jennifer is a member of Enterprising and Professional Women and served as president for the Long Island Chapter in 2013. She is a member of the Young Executives Resource Group and co-founder of the MaryJayne Casillo Foundation for Cancer Research.

Brandon Herlihy

Brandon is the downstate manger for the 'New York State Deferred Compensation Plan' and has been in



Financial Sales for almost 10 years. He grew up in Huntington Station and now resides in East Northport with his wife, Danielle and daughter, Maeve.

Erik Forni

Erik is the on-site project manager of the plaster division at Ernest Neuman Studios. He oversees the restoration of St. Patrick's Cathedral, specifically the restoration of all plaster elements which include the ceilings and walls



of this historic landmark. He is also the president of Undefined Knowledge Incorporated (UKI), a company passionately creating new card games, while releasing designer decks of standard playing cards.

Pete Hornick

Pete is a marketing professional with a deep background in the automotive industry. He serves as marketing director for Total GraphicsHis work has taken him to many far-flung places. He now concentrates his efforts on Long Island



and works with a team of graphic artists and copywriters that specialize in branding small businesses and creating marketing collateral materials for a wide variety of local industries and charities. He enjoys spending time in the Adirondacks with his wife, Rachel, and his dog, Moose.

Meet the Class of 2014

Trish Rongo

Trish (Pfeifer) Rongo was recently named executive director of the Townwide Fund of Huntington. A graduate of Fordham University, she spent several years after college travelling Europe while working on films and music videos in London as a Production Assistant and an Assistant Director. Upon her return to Long Island, she joined the editorial support staff at Sports Illustrated where she was promoted through



several departments finally landing the job of Editorial Production Manager. She most recently served as Marketing & Development Manager at the Whaling Museum & Education Center in

Cold Spring Harbor. She is the immediate past-president of the Junior Welfare League of Huntington. She serves on the Women In Business and the Multicultural Business committees in the Huntington Chamber. She has three boys.

Alexis Zilletto

Alexis began her educational career at Professional Performing Arts School in New York City where she majored in Vocal Music. Her education continued with computer engineering courses at DeVry Institute of Technology. Alexis' business career began to take off at Arc Light Design, LLC a New York City based architectural light-



ing design company. While working as an office assistant Alexis went to LIBS/Empire Beauty School where she became a licensed cosmetologist. Alexis spent eight years at Arc Light Design, LLC

moving up in the company to become their bookkeeper and office manager. In 2011 Alexis moved to Huntington. She is a staff accountant at Chwast and Kilbrith, CPA, P.C.

Lauren Perry

Lauren grew up in Woodbury. She has a bachelor's in Communications from SUNY Oswego. She is the Downstate New York Community Coordinator for National Grid. Prior to



joining National Grid in 2008, Lauren held numerous positions in Communications, Retail Operations, Advertising, Finance and Human Resources. Lauren lives in Huntington with her husband and two daughters, and lizard, Moose.

Elissa Oransky

Elissa was born in Queens and raised in Syosset. She graduated SUNY Brockport with a B.S. and began working with her family at Broadfield Distributing. A resident of Huntington Station since 2012, she happily immersed herself into the community. She is excited to have a



role in the revitalization efforts in Huntington Station, and proud to be a part of the crowd-sourced placemaking model used by Source the Station.

She is on the Huntington Chamber of Commerce Multicultural Business Committee and is a founding member of DestinationLI.org.

Carlos Hilton

Carlos James Hilton Jr. moved to Huntington in 2001 with his family. He is one of seven children and the first-born son. He says he doesn't "have an education above high school;



school is just not my choice in life that I can sit through." But he does like to write, which brought him to Huntington Buzz, where he worked from 2011-2014. He works at Meehan's of Huntington village as a dishwasher.

Helping The 'Cow'munity



In an effort to raise awareness of Leadership Huntington while raising money for organizations serving local youth, the Class of 2014 pooled its resources and substantial talent, and took advantage of the opportunity that one of Long Island's most eclectic and creative hamlets presented: Cow Harbor Day in Northport.

The class built an enormous 20-foot cow and drew

supporters to walk with it along the parade route for the event last month. The "Cows for Kids" project tapped into what the class decided early on was its shared value: humor, and what we saw they shared: sharp minds and warm hearts.

The project raised more than \$3,000 for the kids at the Tri Community & Youth Agency (Tri CYA), Northport YDA, and REACH-CYA.

Celebrate the Class of 2014 at Our Gala on Oct. 22!

Catch up with Leadership grads and supporters, celebrate another amazing Leadership Huntington Class, and honor some very worthy community stewards on Oct. 22 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. at the Crest Hollow Country Club. In addition, several people will be honored, including: outstanding community trustees, the full-time staff of the Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce, Ellen O'Brien, Linda Mitchell and Courtney Bynoe (Class of 2013); Graduate of Distinction Paul Mandelik, chair of the Huntington Planning Board (Class of 2002); and Esteemed Founder Craig Rider. Ron Stein (Class of 1998) gives the keynote address. Visit www.leadershiphuntington.org for more information.



Be A Leader In Next Year's Class!

Make a difference personally, professionally, and in your community... Sign up now for the Class of 2015 and be a part of what everyone is talking about. The class starts in January. To learn more about the Leadership Huntington Flagship Program, call Trudy at (516) 521-3206 or email info@leadershiphuntington.org

Or be an angel and sponsor a candidate...

Help nurture the next generation of Leadership Huntington and make the program accessible to all. Call 631-235-2739 to inquire about supporting the Christensen Family Memorial Fund and the Lawrence A. Kushnick Memorial Fund.



"I am so impressed by the diversity of people who make up my class. We have a great mix of life experience, professions, and personalities, and everyone is eager to be here. Everyone has been open-minded and earnest; it wouldn't be the same experience without these individuals."

- MELISSA B00, EmPower Solar, Locally LI, Class of '14