



**2023-  
2024**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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# ANNUAL MESSAGE

Creativity, education, and connection – these are important building blocks of a healthy community and a fundamental aspect of why people of all ages and walks of life come into the public library. Public libraries are the heart of a strong community – they help to create a vibrant, informed working class and allow the middle class to thrive. Where there is a library, there is growth and possibility.

Through its efforts to anticipate shifting community needs, Middle Country Library Foundation has cultivated and expanded the role of the public library. Regardless of the challenge, the Foundation has inspired ingenuity, curiosity, and inventiveness, driving the far-reaching initiatives that have propelled Middle Country Public Library to national recognition, even as it remains essential to its local community. Through core initiatives – the Miller Business Center, 211 Long Island Database, and Family Place Libraries™ – the MCL Foundation continues to do all it can to support and nurture the families, individuals, and businesses that make our community strong.

**The Miller Business Center** continues to provide skill-building programs and resources for job seekers and entrepreneurs. With many networking opportunities, job fairs, and the increasingly popular Business Networking Open House, there are always opportunities to create relationships and forge strong connections with local and regional businesses. Strictly Business and Women's EXPO continue to grow in popularity, welcoming more than 3,000 people in combined attendance. Additionally, the Center provided over 50 workshops, 260 career counseling appointments, and a variety of literacy programming designed to generate a stronger, business-ready workforce.

As the region's most comprehensive information and referral resource, **211 Long Island** Database connected over 400,000 unique visitors to the health and human services they needed and supported the 211 Long Island call center, which helped an average of 350 callers each month. By providing information and referrals to those in need of food, rent payment assistance, utility payment assistance, job training, and much more, 211 Long Island Database acted as a lifeline to thousands of Long Islanders in need of the basic necessities of daily life.

**Family Place Libraries™** continues to be a transformative and highly effective model for early childhood and family support services. Family Place expanded to over 500 libraries in 33 states. National and regional professional development opportunities were offered to over 350 librarians in 20 states through webinars, workshops, and the Foundation's Distinguished Speakers Series.

Enclosed is our annual report. The annual report press items are available for viewing at [www.middlecountrylibraryfoundation.com](http://www.middlecountrylibraryfoundation.com). We are grateful for the generous support from our wonderful donors, partners, and friends who have helped us achieve so much during the year. The Middle Country Library Foundation seeks to enrich our diverse community, support small businesses, and encourage families as they face new challenges every day. We thank you for your enthusiastic and unwavering support of these efforts!



Sandra Sprows  
Chairperson



Sophia Serlis-McPhillips  
Library Director



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# MISSION STATEMENT

**The MCL Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization that raises funds to advance the development of innovative library-based programs created at the Middle Country Public Library that can be replicated regionally and nationally, enabling community libraries to better meet changing social and economic needs.**

# VISION STATEMENT

**The MCL Foundation embraces collaborative, innovative, and replicable initiatives that benefit Middle Country residents, the residents of the Long Island region, and public libraries nationally.**



This unique, fun-filled evening for adults features a word casino with games, activities, raffles, live music, and excellent local cuisine provided by the Fifth Season restaurant.



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# Strictly Business



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## **PARTNERS**

Holiday Inn Express-Stony Brook

Island Federal Credit Union

Strictly Business is a joint initiative of the Greater Middle Country Chamber of Commerce, the Miller Business Center, and the Brookhaven Chambers of Commerce Coalition—three organizations that share the vision of promoting economic development on Long Island.



**550 visitors  
&  
80 exhibitors**



Over 2000  
attendees!!

More than 70  
exhibitors

## **TOP SPONSORS**

BankUnited

People's Alliance Federal Credit Union

TD Bank

## **SUPPORTING SPONSORS**

Greater Middle Country Chamber of Commerce

Corporate Synergies

NYS School Facilities Assoc.-Suffolk County Chapter



The Women's EXPO is a showcase and a marketplace for Long Island women entrepreneurs. Each year the audience grows for what has become a very popular Fall event. The goal of the EXPO is to provide support and a venue for women entrepreneurs on Long Island to market their products, serving as a vehicle to promote economic development and collaborations among women entrepreneurs and women in the business and not-for-profit world.



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Elizabeth Salerno  
Keith Stewart - SCG Recruiting



# Nature Explorium



Middle Country Public Library is proud to be the first library in the nation to offer the Nature Explorium, an outdoor learning space for children and families. The Nature Explorium, a certified Nature Explore classroom, contains a variety of areas, all geared toward connecting children to a different aspect of nature. Whether they're reflecting on a poem under a willow tree, climbing on a tree stump, or expressing artistic talent through song and dance on the Play It stage, children will discover the gift of nature.



**24,837  
Visitors!**

## Sponsor

NYS School Facilities  
Association -  
Suffolk County Chapter



# Distinguished Speakers Series



Originally created in 1999, the Distinguished Speakers Series was designed to support Long Island families by providing a forum for Long Island practitioners focusing on young children and families featuring specialists in the field. Produced in collaboration with Long Island health and human service professionals, and community corporate sponsors, the series fills an important continuing education need on Long Island.

## SPONSORS

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### **Autism and Attention Deficit Disorder: Similarities and Differences**

Presented by: Judith A. Crowell, MD

Distinguished Service Professor, Interim Division Director, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Stony Brook University, Clinical Director Stony Brook Autism Initiative

### **Sibling Abuse**

Presented by: Dr. Amy Meyers, PhD, LCSW

Professor of Social Work at Molloy University

### **Executive Function**

Presented by: Kimberly James, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, Licensed Psychologist

Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health-Child and Adolescent Division

Stony Brook University



# Annual Contributions & Grants 2023-2024

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### Sandy River Charitable Foundation

#### \$1,000-\$9,999

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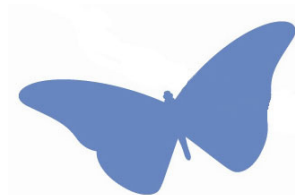
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Family Place Libraries™ • 2-1-1 Long Island Database • Miller Business Center  
The MCL Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) organization