

## Thanks to All Who Supported WHS Helping Hands This Summer

This past summer, the Westfield High School (WHS) Helping Hands (WHSHH) Fund received a generous gift from the WHS senior class of 2013. Rob Cassie and Alex Ying, coordinators of the 2013 Senior Assasin game, donated \$1,680 to WHSHH. The board of the WHSHH Fund are honored that the students chose the fund to make their donation.

We wish to acknowledge their donation and assure these students that the board promises to be thoughtful and prudent in the distribution of funds to individuals who have shown a credible financial need.

The fund was established as a reaction to the financial need of various staff and student families, who had suffered through illness and death. The initial funds for Westfield High School Helping Hands Fund were the result of the fundraising effort by the 2011-2012 WHS PTSO. During the 2012-2013 academic year, the fund grew as a result of various fundraising efforts by the WHS PTSO, the Community Service Club, the Student Government and the class of 2013. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the WHSHH fund.

If you wish to make a donation to this fund, please send your check, payable to the Westfield Foundation with Memo: WHSHH Fund directly to: Westfield Foundation, P.O. Box 2295, Westfield, N.J. 07091. Questions? E-mail the WHS Helping Hands Board at whshhfund@gmail.com.

Below is the letter, which accompanied the donation to WHSHH. We wish to print the letter in its entirety.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

**Peter Renwick, Principal; Maureen Mazzaresse, Counseling; Warren Hynes, Service Club; Thom Hornish, Faculty; Kathy LaMastra, WHS PTSO; Ingrid McKinley, Cindy Gallagher, WHSHH Board**

This has not been an easy year for the Town of Westfield, especially the Westfield High School Class of 2013. In addition to working through the anticipated obstacles of senior year — college applications, difficult classes, social and emotional stress — we have faced reality in more ways than are typical for most people our age.

We lived without power, heat, or communication during the havoc wrought by Hurricane Sandy.

We questioned our security when our homes were destroyed by storm, fire, or other disaster. We considered our own mortality when our lives and those of our loved ones fell into disarray in the face of the tragic illness and death of those dear to us.

However, despite all this misfortune, we created a network of support that grew from the Westfield High School

community. When we were down, we could count on everyone at WHS to help pick us back up again.

And so it is only fitting that the collected funds from the Class of 2013 Senior Assasin game be donated to the Westfield High School Helping Hands Fund, so that the WHS community can continue to support those affected by tragedy. We sincerely hope that our gift will help to ease the suffering of families in need. The Class of 2013 had its share of struggles, but here's to hoping that it can be easier for those who come after us.

The Westfield High School Class of 2013 presents a donation of \$1,680 to the Westfield High School Helping Hands Fund, in memory of our dear friend and classmate, Allison Harth.

**Rob Cassie, Alex Ying  
WHS Class of 2013**

### On The Sunny Side Of The Street

Trying to enjoy the last days of summer, my wife and I headed for the Jersey shore. I was reading and she was soaking up the sun when an 8-year old girl came over to us and in a most lovely and kind manner asked if we would purchase a \$5 key chain to help her friend in the fight for a cure for breast cancer. We readily made the purchase and thanked her for coming by.

I then thought why is it that the many people who do such good deeds generally do not make the headlines, but that the people who do all sorts of heinous things do.

I also thought that were the people who do such good deeds to make the headlines more often we would be better off because goodness and kindness are contagious.

But when the focus is more often than not on evil doing then society is worse off.

Hope requires feeding with the knowledge that indeed there are far more people doing good than doing evil.

No one should wear rose-colored glasses, but no one should wear glasses through which cannot be seen that life with all its difficulties is still filled with sunshine.

The famous Louis Armstrong with horn in hand would sing "On The Sunny Side Of The Street," which has these words.

"Grab your coat and get your hat  
Leave your worries on the doorstep  
Life can be so sweet  
On the sunny side of the street."

There's something to be said for walking in the sunshine. At least now and then!

**Stephen Schoeman  
Westfield**

## Letters to the Editor

### Stop Dangling Pilot Program In Front of Raritan Valley Riders

The recent news that NJ Transit's Raritan Valley Rail line riders will be getting limited direct-to-NYC trains, the so-called one-seat ride, is like tossing crumbs to a starving man. This "pilot program" wouldn't start until next spring and would only be for non-peak trains. There are no plans to provide even one such express train during the week in the morning or evening rush hours, the periods when this service is needed most.

As someone who commuted by train from Fanwood to NYC for 15 years, I can tell you the amount of time, energy and stress that is generated by the twice-daily ritual of changing trains at Newark is staggering—the mad dash up the stairs from Track 5, across the terminal floor, then down the stairs to Track 1, in hopes of making a connection to New York. Sometimes you make it, sometimes you don't. The trek home is the same—train riders treated like cattle.

I understand that the single, two-track rail tunnel under the Hudson River has capacity limits, a situation that was locked in place when Governor Christie pulled the plug on the new rail tunnel project three years ago. I understand that it means NJ Transit will have to make some hard decisions to make room for Raritan Valley riders, who now account for almost 10 percent of NJ Transit rail customers, many of whom moved to the towns along the line specifically for the benefit of the NY trains.

I urge NJ Transit to stop dangling a "pilot program" in front of Raritan Valley riders and make the decisions necessary to get peak commuters the single seat ride they deserve. In doing so, do they really need a "pilot program?" I'm sure NJ Transit knows how to bring a train all the way into NYC by now.

**Tom Kranz  
Candidate for Fanwood Council**

### It's Time to Outright Reject Progressive Movement Concept

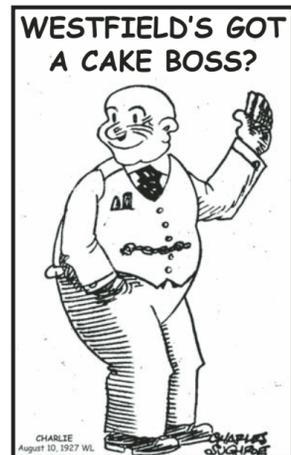
There are many progressives in the media, in academia, in politics and elsewhere that have this belief that for the good of society and for the good of the nation, one must surrender his or her liberties and rights for "the common good." That one must surrender one's right to own and have property for "the common good," that one must surrender his or her privacy for "the common good," that one must surrender his or her conscience, speech and thoughts for "the common good," and that one must surrender his or her own individuality, being and body for the so called "common good."

What these progressives, both on the left and on the right, mean by "the common good" really entails "for the good of the state" and nothing more. They believe that the individual, his or her hopes, dreams, rights and aspirations must coincide with the state and that he is nothing more than a subject to be molded like clay.

The rights of the individual and the rights that are guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution and the rule of law are not subject to negotiations or elimination. To say otherwise would be like saying that the individual is not important, nor autonomous. For more than 100 years, the progressive

movement has tried to replace the individual with the collective. It is time that this belief be rejected outright and come to the realization that the individual and his or her rights are sacrosanct and not privileges as the progressives would have us believe to be taken away at their whims for their so-called "common good."

**Alex Pugliese  
Kenilworth**



Pictured L to R: Ross Zimmerman, Senior Vice President, Managing Director, Commercial & Private Banking; William D. Moss, President & Chief Executive Officer; Alan B. Turner, Executive Vice President, Senior Loan Officer

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