Vision
The Theresa Foundation has a vision of the world where artistic expression and physical recreation are just as important to adults as they are to children. We believe in a world where every child, regardless of ability or challenging conditions, is free to communicate through and participate in every art or recreational activity.

A society without art is a society without soul. Art enables us to express our inner thoughts, fears, joys, and sadness. Our artistic expression—whether written, danced, painted, or sculpted—tells us who we are, what is important to us, and how we relate to the world.

Likewise, physical recreation, in all its forms—from individual and team sports, to dance, and yoga—is good for the mind and the body, forming an essential component of health and wellness.

Because children are our future, we believe in nurturing each child, and the inalienable rights of artistic expression and physical recreation for all.

Mission
The Foundation honors the memory of Theresa Alessandra Russo by touching the lives of children with special needs and their families.

The Foundation fosters each child’s unique abilities by supporting programs focusing on art, music, dance, drama and recreation.
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Dear Friends,

As I write this letter and reflect on the heroes and heartbreaks of 2020, I am thinking of the many ways that we, as a foundation community, have continued to meet our responsibilities over this past year. And I am amazed, humbled, and full of gratitude for the generosity of our supporters and for all the arts and recreation programs that we touch through the impact of our grants.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a busy year. During our January and July funding periods, we supported 24 programs in the arts and recreation, meeting the needs of students in seven U.S. states, and reaching as far as India. As you read this report, you will find highlights of these amazing schools, camps, libraries, theatres, and recreation centers—all of whom adapted their programs to serve children with special needs while under the stressful, once-in-a-lifetime condition of a global pandemic.

I have always believed that the arts are “elastic,” and that they can meet the physical, emotional, and social needs of all human beings regardless of culture or ability. This was strongly evident to me as we watched our funding recipients exhibit their creativity, resilience, and perseverance to move forward, adapt, and meet the challenges of serving their communities while remaining safe and socially distant.

Some programs quickly adapted their curriculum into a virtual format, while others shifted from in-person camp to “camp-in-a-bag,” serving their students by providing all the equipment that would be needed to safely remain active and participate in the camp program. Art and music teachers were able to continue their lessons via virtual platforms, while dance programs offered online classes as well as “socially-distanced” drive-way dance classes.

The arts and recreation communities intentionally listened to one another, shared ideas, and created resources as they advocated for their participants. We at the Theresa Foundation will continue to do our part in supporting arts and recreation for all with funding and support.
Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a busy year. During our January and July funding periods, we supported 24 programs in the arts and recreation, meeting the needs of students in seven U.S. states, and reaching as far as India.

In addition to our grant program, last year the Theresa Foundation funded the renovation of the asphalt and walkways at Theresa’s Fun Place at the Children’s Learning Center in Roosevelt, New York where over 240 students can play freely and joyfully using adaptive equipment on the playground. We also began selling masks on our website, shared dance and art tutorials using our amazing teaching artists from our TAPA@ program, and doubled the amount of money raised in our “Giving Tuesday” program.

This upcoming year, the Theresa Foundation will continue providing opportunities for programs to apply for funding to support initiatives that serve people with special needs in art, music, dance, drama, and recreation, ranging from equine therapy to sleep-away camp for students who are blind or deaf/blind, and inclusive dance classes, to name just a few of the many unique programs we fund. Site visits to funding recipients will resume as soon as it is safe to travel and be together again.

We are continually amazed and impressed at the variety and number of programs reaching out to us for assistance. In fact, requests for support and funding doubled in 2020. The need is real. And so we are honored to be able to continue serving this population during these extraordinary times, and we thank you, our supporters, for your steadfast dedication and unyielding belief in our mission.

From my family to yours, I am wishing you all the best. Be safe.

Susan S. Russo
BOARD AND COMMITTEES

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Annual Report
Melanie Castillo
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MEET THERESA

Theresa Alessandra Russo was born on May 5th, 1986. She was a “surprise baby” in more than one way: not only did we not know the sex of our third child, but we had no idea that she would be born with a severe handicapping condition known as microcephaly. She was a beautiful miracle.

The hospital staff, social workers and neo-natal doctors all told us that she would be a “burden” and that we should place her in an orphanage, or a home for disabled children, but we did not, and so her legacy began.

Theresa loved music, movement, and art. Her eyes lit up when playing on the playground! Next to home it was her favorite place to be. Theresa was quickly incorporated into all the activities and travels of our close-knit family, wrapped in the love of her two older siblings, her younger brother, and extended family.

Theresa passed away on December 23rd, 1991—outliving every doctor’s prediction and enriching our lives in untold ways. Theresa was an inspiration to all that knew her, and her legacy lives on through the Theresa Foundation, which was formed a year after her passing.

The Theresa Foundation provides grants to support classes and recreation programs that focus on music, dance, art, and drama for children with special needs, locally, around the country, and internationally. Our family felt a need to assist in bringing the same activities in the arts and recreation that Theresa enjoyed to all the other children like her.

Thank you for all of the support that you give to the Theresas of the world. Without you, none of what we do would be possible.

SIGNATURE PROGRAM:
Gift of Love

Established shortly after the Foundation’s creation, our Gift of Love program enables individuals and entities to make a donation in honor and/or in memory of an individual. Following the donation, a card from the Theresa Foundation is sent to the family or friends of the individual, recognizing the donation and sharing the Foundation’s mission.

At the celebration of a particular event, such as a birthday, anniversary, bar mitzvah, or sweet sixteen, a donation to help others in honor of your loved one is special and unique gift, and upon the passing of a loved one, it is a meaningful way to celebrate a life well-lived. The Gift of Love provides comfort, hope, and positive inspiration.
Theresa Foundation Responds to COVID-19

In early 2020 the Theresa Foundation increased its total allotment of grant funds for the year, making it possible to expand our support for programs in the arts and recreation for children with special needs. In January 2020, the Board of Directors approved grant requests for twelve programs to be implemented in the spring/summer season. Then in March 2020, our country—and our world—was placed on pause while we began our fight against COVID-19, a once-in-a-century global pandemic.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted all lives and livelihoods, individuals with special needs have sustained a disproportionate impact. It might be another year before we get the final data, but it is clear that individuals with special needs face a potentially higher risk of contracting the coronavirus due to underlying health conditions and/or added difficulty engaging in preventative measures such as mask wearing and social distancing, tragically resulting in higher infection and death rates.

The Theresa Foundation was born out of immense loss. We lost our Theresa, and in the face of that pain and grief, my parents sought to do good and to spread love. The Methodist theologian John Wesley preached: “Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can.” And that is what we, as a Foundation, strive to do. We are not strangers to pain and grief, and we are committed to doing good and spreading love. So when the events of March 2020 unfolded, amid unprecedented fear, pain and grief, the Theresa Foundation swung into action.

As Executive Director, I immediately reached out to the twelve programs who received funding for the spring and summer to offer our support and ask: “what can we do to help you?” Whether it was an extension to utilize the funds, approval to use the funds differently to reach the children, or a conversation about how the departure of services might affect the children physically and emotionally, we listened and we stood ready to assist.

By and large, these programs and organizations responded in remarkable ways. They stepped up. They reimagined. They created. They answered the call of their communities. And they came together to serve. Out of the hysteria and fear, I began to see hope and enthusiasm emerge as these programs adapted to virtual programming, driveway dance classes, and “camp in a bag” approaches. Soon photos came streaming in of children in masks but with a twinkle in their eyes, and computer screens filled with happy faces of students in drumming and art classes.

The Theresa Foundation swung into action to help programs adapt to the challenges of COVID-19.
As a Foundation, we looked to support our far-reaching community of supporters, grant recipients, TAPA® artists, and donors. Once the spring/summer 2020 grant recipients were organized and coordinated, we turned to our supporters. The sense of isolation was profound. To combat that, the Foundation began creating videos of cooking lessons, yoga classes, art projects, music classes, and a tour of Theresa’s Fun Place to share online and remind us all that while we may be separated as a community, we are never apart.

In his book, *The Best Care Possible: A Physician’s Quest to Transform Care Through the End of Life* (Avery, 2012) Ira Byock wrote:

Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones. But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal. A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said.”

Helping someone else through difficulty is, indeed, a cornerstone of our human civilization. It is not our privilege to do so, it is our duty and our obligation. And it is our commitment to you, our supporters, our grant recipients, and our community.

As the COVID-19 pandemic surged on, grant requests doubled in our most recent grant period. The Board of Directors response was to once again increase the total amount of funds available for programming in the arts and recreation for children with special needs. It is our obligation and our commitment, and we will meet the challenge as long as ever we can.
ANNUAL EVENTS

Theresa’s Fun Day Bowling Fundraiser
Our first fundraiser every year, a great afternoon for the whole family to benefit children with special needs.
Swinging' Fore Theresa Golf Outing

The Swinging’ Fore Theresa Golf Outing, typically held the last Thursday in June, is an annual fundraising event.
When Rick Shonter decided to coach a local high school football team, he had no idea where it would lead. Twenty years ago, while looking for a way to become “engaged in life again”, Rick was introduced to a friend of the Theresa Foundation, Leo Govoni, also coaching football at the time. The two got to talking and soon Rick was introduced to the Center for Special Needs Trust and the Theresa Foundation. Over the course of the next 15 years, Rick joined the Board of the Theresa Foundation and became one of our strongest advocates through his work protecting and advancing the financial position of New York residents with special needs, including the elderly.

As Rick notes, the Pooled Trust has “done a lot of good for a whole lot of people” allowing older individuals to remain in their homes while receiving care and supporting those with special needs who have needed help managing personal finances to ensure a more secure future. Also important is the fact that all of the funding through the Pooled Trust remains in the state of New York and assists special needs residents of the state.

Rick retired from the Board in December of 2020 after nearly a decade of service. He recently shared, “I feel good about what we’ve done so far with the Theresa Foundation, but I’m feeling really good and hopeful about where it is going.”

For more information, please visit www.theresafoundation.org/pooled-trust

What is the Theresa Foundation Pooled Trust?

The Theresa Foundation Pooled Trust of New York is a special type of trust that allows a beneficiary of any age to become financially eligible for public assistance benefits, such as Medicaid home care, while preserving their monthly income in trust for living expenses and supplemental needs. The Center for Special Needs Trust Administration, Inc. (The Center) is the trustee that administers The Theresa Pooled Trust (Trust).
Our grant program supports organizations that focus on art, music, dance, drama, and recreation. It is our privilege to help these worthy organizations and programs that improve the lives of individuals with special needs through direct service.
2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Art Programs

AIM Services Inc.
Saratoga Springs, NY
Formed in 1979, AIM Services, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing residential and community-based services to people with disabilities including those with traumatic brain injuries and those who are looking for nursing home transition or diversion. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($5,000) was used to purchase art and recreation supplies for their ongoing respite program.

Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc. (CP Nassau)
Roosevelt, NY
CP Nassau is a not-for-profit health agency serving over 1,800 children and adults with cerebral palsy, developmental and other disabilities. The 2020 TAPA@ grant from the Theresa Foundation ($8,800) provided art classes for young adults with special needs enrolled in CP Nassau's Adult Day Habilitations programs. This comprehensive grant included TAPA@ teaching instructor and materials.

Long Beach Schools Creativity Camp
Long Beach, NY
Living Resources is dedicated to providing life enhancing services to individuals challenged by intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as those who are brain injury survivors. The 2019 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($67,000) provided resources for upgrading and purchasing framing equipment, as well as hire an art director enabling the artists to continue to create. This grant was made in partnership with the Theresa Foundation Pooled Trust of New York.

Music Programs

Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc. (CP Nassau)
Roosevelt, NY
CP Nassau is a not-for-profit health agency serving over 1,800 children and adults with cerebral palsy, developmental and other disabilities. The 2020 TAPA@ grant from the Theresa Foundation ($8,000) provided music classes, with the specific focus of a drumming curriculum, to children and young adults with special needs enrolled in CP Nassau's Children's Learning Center and Adult Day Habilitations programs. This comprehensive grant included TAPA@ teaching instructor and materials.

Oswego County BOCES CiTi Program
Mexico, NY
The mission of the Center for Instruction, Technology, and Innovation (CiTi) Program at Oswego County BOCES states, “We embrace innovation and creativity. We make student-based decisions with honesty, respect & integrity. We collaborate, focused on quality service, expertise & student success.” The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($5,184) was used to support the Step Up to Music Program.

St. Mary’s Foundation for Children
Bayside, NY
St. Mary’s Healthcare System for Children is committed to improving the health and quality of life for children and families with special needs. The team of pediatric specialists at St. Mary’s Hospital for Children provides specialized, interdisciplinary care to hundreds of children with complex medical conditions. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($5,000) provided support for the ongoing music therapy program for medically fragile children who are receiving long-term nursing care and therapies at St. Mary’s Hospital for Children to help manage their conditions.
Dance Programs

**Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation**
New York, NY

The mission of Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation is to further the pioneering vision of the choreographer, dancer, and cultural leader Alvin Ailey by building an extended cultural community which provides dance performances, training and education, and community programs for all people. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($3,000) provided funding support for the AileyDance Kids SOAR (Success Opportunity Artistry Respect) program which delivered workshops for students with special needs in grades Pre-K through 12 in the greater New York area.

**Aspiring Attitudes**
Oklahoma City, OK

Aspiring Attitudes is a non-profit dance studio where special needs and typical students take classes and perform side by side. The 2020 TAPA@ grant from the Theresa Foundation ($6,870) provided a two one week dance camps for children of all abilities and where students with special needs are accepted for who they are as people and not excluded because of limitations.

**Joyce Theater Foundation**
New York, NY

For over three decades, The Joyce Theater Foundation has advanced its mission to serve the art of dance and choreography, promote the richness and variety of the art form, and enhance the public interest in, and appreciation of, dance and the allied art of music, design, and theater. Comprehensive educational programs for schools and families enhance the public’s appreciation of dance and serve more than 1,500 local students annually. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($3,000) provided The Joyce Theater Foundation, in partnership with Parsons Dance and NYC’s District 75, to deliver a modified dance education curriculum through workshops for students with special needs culminating in a sensory-friendly matinee performance of Parsons Dance.

**National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)**
Silver Spring, MD

NDEO provides professional development, networking forums, honor societies, journals, research and advocacy tools for teachers, administrators and students in the field of dance education centered in the arts. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($5,000) was used for three workshops developed and implemented by the NDEO Dance and Disability Task Force, including Dancing Wheels: Physically Integrated Dance Teacher Training, and two performances at the virtual October 2020 NDEO National Conference.

**New Haven Ballet**
New Haven, CT

New Haven Ballet’s Shared Ability Program pairs young adult artists with physical and/or mental disabilities with intermediate/advanced New Haven Ballet School students for interactive dance workshops. Shared Ability culminates in a performance on stage, as part of New Haven Ballet’s Spring Performances. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($5,000) was used to support the Shared Ability Program.

*Student rehearsing at an Aspiring Attitudes dance class*
Drama Programs

Arts for All Abilities Consortium
New York, NY
Organized in 2007, the consortium provides a means by which professionals and key stakeholders involved in Arts Education for students with disabilities in New York can share perspectives, determine needs, develop ways to meet them, and deepen practice and understanding. Its purpose is to build capacity, understanding and value, and do so as a whole-School/Arts/Home-community. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($5,000) was used for four professional development sessions for adults working with students with disabilities to be interspersed throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. One such workshop was entitled, “The Virtual Theatre Teacher’s Tool Kit.”

Southampton Fresh Air Home (SFAH)
Southampton, NY
SFAH is a not-for-profit residential camp offering summer sessions and year round programs and opportunities for youth with physical disabilities for over 119 years. The mission of SFAH is to provide an enriching, recreational camping experience. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($5,000) provided funding for arts and crafts workshops and classes in dance and drama during the 2019 summer camp season.

Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs
Fairfield, CT
Rooted in Gospel values that affirm the dignity of every person, Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs fosters the educational, spiritual, and social well-being of people with disabilities through direct services at Saint Catherine Academy and our Adult Day Program, and support for faith formation in the parishes and inclusion in Catholic schools of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($10,000) was used for ten months of music, art, and yoga classes at the Academy and twelve months of music, art, theater, and yoga classes at the Adult Program.
Recreation Programs

Boarding Apostolate of Sagar Diocese
Madhya Pradesh, India

The mission of Diocese of Sagar is to develop simple values of life in the child’s educational levels, ensuring promotion of rich Indian values. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($9,500) was used as part of the Community Based Empowerment through Rehabilitation Center for the Differently Abled of Sagar Block of Sagar District (CBERC-PROJECT) to purchase assistive devices and mobility aid to allow children with special needs to be a part of the main stream society.

Camp Abilities
Brockport, NY

The mission, or purpose, of Camp Abilities Brockport is to empower children and teens with visual impairments to be physically active and productive members of their schools, towns, cities, and communities, as well as to improve the health and well-being of people with sensory impairments. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($3,840) was used to support the 2020 summer camp season as well as purchase sneakers and hiking poles to implement the new hiking program.

Camp Maverick Rec n’ Read
Minnesota, MN

Rec n’ Read Programs and Services is a collaborative practice in which multiple health and educational disciplines work together in order to provide recreation and literacy support to all children regardless of socioeconomic status or disability across a variety of clinical service models. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($5,250) was used to provide full scholarships for ten youth over three weeks of summer camp.

Long Beach Schools Active Parenting Support Group
Long Beach, NY

Long Beach Schools in partnership with Family and Children’s Association and Long Beach Aware provide on-going training and support to Long Beach School District Parents. Half of the participants have children with special needs. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation was used to support workshops in art, literacy, recreation, and mindfulness for the children while their parents are in the support group. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($5,000) was used for the Shared Ability Program.

Mephibosheth Farms Angelic Riders, Inc.
Marshville, NC

Mephibosheth Farms Angelic Riders, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) PATH certified therapeutic horseback riding facility dedicated to providing the many benefits of horseback riding with children and adults who have physical, psychological, and developmental disabilities. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($9,000) enabled Mephibosheth Farms Angelic Riders to provide 300 riding lessons for 30 children, ages 3-18 years old, through scholarships to families unable to pay for therapy.

Middle Country Library Foundation
Centereach, NY

The Middle Country Library Foundation is a 501(c) (3) organization established in 1997 to raise funds and provide the governance structure for the Library’s initiatives that extend beyond the local community. The Nature Explorium is an interactive 5,000 square foot outdoor learning environment. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($3,200) was used to support the school district’s PRAISE (Promoting and Reinforcing the Acquisition of Independence Skills Effectively) program as well as Go Outside! Sessions at the Nature Explorium for the districts special education students.

UCP of Sacramento and Northern California
Sacramento, CA

The mission of UCP Sacramento and Northern California is to provide programs and services that improve the independence, productivity, and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families. The 2020 grant from the Theresa Foundation ($3,000) was used to support the Saddle Pals program. Specifically as a scholarship for four children to participate in the nine week session of therapeutic horseback riding lessons.
NAELA Award Grant Recipients

Pacific Autism Center for Education (PACE)
Santa Clara, CA
Founded in 1989, the Pacific Autism Center for Education (PACE) provides high-quality programs for children and adults with autism. PACE serves individuals who live with moderate-to-severe autism, especially those who struggle with communication. The mission of PACE is to enhance the lives of people impacted by autism, through innovation, exceptional education, and compassionate care. The 2020 Theresa Award Grant ($2,500) was made in honor of Michael and Myra Gilfix.

Life Services Alternatives, Inc.
San Jose, CA
Life Services Alternatives’ mission is to provide exceptional community living and programs for adults with disabilities. Life Services Alternatives believes all people with developmental disabilities have the right to live life to its fullest in our community. Through personalized programs focused on skill-building, we make a difference in the quality of our residents’ lives, enabling them to reach their true potential. The 2020 Theresa Award Grant ($2,500) was made in honor of Michael and Myra Gilfix.
The Theresa Foundation presents an annual NAELA (National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys) Theresa Award honoring a NAELA attorney in recognition of his or her outstanding efforts and advocacy for individuals with special needs. Theresa Award Honorees are given a grant allocation for which they can choose the recipients.

Mike and Myra Gilfix
2020 Theresa Award Recipients

Michael and Myra Gilfix received the 2020 Theresa Award in recognition of their longstanding support of the Theresa Foundation’s mission to foster the unique abilities of each child through creative outlets including art, music, dance, drama, and recreation.

For years, Mike and Myra have been involved with the Russo Family and the organization they have created and built, according to them, on the “amazing integrity, intelligence, caring, and patience” of the entire family. Attending the various awards dinners and later visiting Theresa’s Fun Place to see just one way in which the vision of the Foundation has been realized, Mike and Myra recognize the multi-disciplinary approach the organization takes when working with various organizations that support the mission.

“There are so many organizations that address special needs kids. The level of energy is unsurpassed in the way the Theresa Foundation is able to get support and impact to those that want to help and get involved. The Theresa Foundation shows and not just tells what can be done for special needs kids.”

A very special thanks to Mike and Myra for all the support and energy they have provided over the years.
AIM Services, Inc.

Chris Lyons, the Executive Director of AIM Services, Inc. believes the services AIM provides to individuals with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries “imparts meaning on their lives based on their terms” and not anyone else’s.

Through the Theresa Foundation grant to provide art and recreation supplies for their 1:1 respite program, a newly developed initiative due to COVID 19 restrictions, AIM continues to promote the arts through the collaboration and engagement with community resources. By customizing services that meet the specific needs of those they serve, AIM is able to explore individual interests and offer a way for individuals to make the connections they so crave and to break the barriers which previously prevented this. Aligned with the Theresa Foundation’s philosophy of simply supporting a positive outcome regardless of the process, Chris Lyons and his team are famous for never saying “no” but instead asking “how”? 
Sidiki Conde

Sidiki is a TAPA@ teaching artist. He is a fabulous drumming instructor from Guinea. Sidiki is also differently abled and the value of his optimistic personality and drumming talent to students with special needs is priceless!

The connection Sidiki Conde is able to make with his differently abled students is attributed to the fact that, in his words, he “understands their journey”. Having lost the use of his legs at the age of 14, Sidiki has spent much of his life sharing the joy of music through song and drumming.

A 2008 Theresa Award Honoree, Sidiki has shared a relationship with the Theresa Foundation for nearly two decades. He cites the success of the affiliation as being a shared vision of how music and the arts can positively influence the lives of those managing various disabilities, giving them the opportunity to work through challenges and figure out what each is capable of achieving. He also notes that the Foundation understands everything about the work and is truly appreciative of what is being done to support the participants in the CP Nassau program. The grant funding provided by the Theresa Foundation allows participants of CP Nassau to experience the benefits of music, especially drumming, and to learn from someone they trust.

Currently, with the financial support of the Foundation, Sidiki works with 48 students across six different classes each week. During COVID, these classes were done via Zoom, but he has recently begun seeing students in person in the Queens location. Despite having to be creative in delivering his classes virtually, Sidiki attributes the consistent contact with his students as being the key factor in maintaining relationships and nurturing the students’ love for music. Of the work with his students, Sidiki says, “It is the pleasure of my world.”
New Haven Ballet- Shared Ability Program

The Shared Ability Program at New Haven Ballet School pairs differently abled young adult ballet artists with traditional NHBS students at the intermediate and advanced levels, giving both dancers the opportunity to learn from each other and experience the dance in a unique and meaningful way. With a grant through the Theresa Foundation, the tuition for this program is subsidized for many of the dancers, generally 20 – 22 per year, removing financial means as an obstacle to participation.

In addition to the artistic experience this dance program offers, “it also provides a safe space for families to come together” notes Lisa Sanborn, the Artistic Director at NHBS. The development of a community and the relationships that grow from this experience last beyond just the season, with many partners returning year after year, secure in knowing the program will continue to nurture the artistic expression of all dancers.
St. Catherine Center for Special Needs

As first time grant recipients, St. Catherine Center for Special Needs is excited about the relationship with the Theresa Foundation, especially, as Executive Director Helen Burland puts it, “We don’t have to explain the importance of theatre and the arts to the Theresa Foundation, they already understand it.” Finding this type of synergy with a beneficiary allows for a very different partnership where the focus can be on the participants and the benefit they receive from the program versus ensuring compatibility with goals and objectives.

With grant funding support from the Theresa Foundation, St. Catherine Center will be able to serve approximately 40 individuals in their school and adult program, all of whom have either a developmental or intellectual disability, or both. With programs that span across various artistic modes – art, music, theatre – there is the opportunity to reach and benefit many individuals. Due to COVID restrictions, many of the in-person offerings had to be adjusted and offered virtually, however as Helen says, “The arts are a way for our participants to find and share their voice” regardless of the format. St. Catherine Center is also excited to use some of the funds to expand their programming to include more virtual offerings in an effort to include a larger group of individuals who would benefit from any of the programs through St. Catherine Center.
Camp Abilities

Camp Abilities has been a Theresa Foundation Grant recipient for several years. The work that Lauren Lieberman and her team have done with campers of different abilities for the past 25 years is largely reliant on philanthropic funding. The goal of Camp Abilities is to help kids see their potential for improving motor skills, fitness, and any other skill they may want to improve over the course of the program. In a “normal” summer, Camp Abilities hosts 55 campers, each with a 1:1 support person. There are generally 175 people at each meal!

While the original grant was made to purchase 55 pairs of sneakers and hiking poles, due to COVID restrictions and the need to adjust the program, each camper received a “camp in a bag” consisting of different balls and pieces of equipment that could be used during the virtual camp day. Notes Lauren Leiberman, “The Theresa Foundation never waivered in their support, even when we had to completely change gears.”
OUR SUSTAINING DONORS

This group of sustaining donors and supporters are individuals and organizations that have provided a comprehensive level of support, financial and otherwise, over many years, allowing the Theresa Foundation to grow from a small, local family foundation to one with a nationwide and international reach, along the way ensuring our longterm financial stability.

- Lisa & Randy Brodwin
- Anthony & Millicent Caporrino
- Harley Gordon
- Leo J. Govoni
- Grodsky, Caporrino & Kauffman, P.C.
- Fred Klein
- John and Anita LaSpina
- Joseph M. Liana
- Rebecca Morgan
- Kelly Piacenti
- Marie Elena Puma & Michael Re
- Joan & Charlie Robert
- Russo Law Group, P.C.
- Stephen & Robin Silverberg

Special Mention: Anthony Caporrino

There is no one with a bigger heart than Tony Caporrino. While his amiable and low-key manner are his trademark, Tony is fiercely committed to helping people, especially children with special needs.

At the very beginning of the Theresa Foundation, Tony stepped in and offered his accounting services at no charge. Thirty years later, his accounting firm still continues to service the Theresa Foundation, all gratis. Tony’s spirit of giving is rooted in strong family values, and his desire to share a little sunshine with the many children and families who cross his path. In 2002, we honored Tony with the Theresa Award for all that he has done and continues to do for the Foundation.

A few years later, when we needed to find a new location for the “Swingin’ for Theresa” Annual Golf Outing, Tony stepped up once again and offered to host the outing at his country club at North Hills. Over the years, he has been an integral member of our golf committee, bringing golfers and supporters to our annual event. And, as ever, Tony is always the last to leave the gala, ensuring that everyone has a good time.

Tony Caporrino is an angel of the Theresa Foundation. He never seeks recognition for the quiet and generous work he does behind the scenes, but we are grateful to him every day for his many years of support and friendship.
2020 DONORS

PLATINUM $5,000–above
Anonymous

GOLD $2,500–4,999
Harley Gordon
Gotham City Networking Foundation
Joseph Liana
MassMutual SpecialCare

SILVER $500–2,499
All City Switchboard Corporation
Corey Bearak
Thomas Begley
Frank and Mary Caporaso
Connie Frank Foundation
William & Ann Conway
CP Nassau
Danna and Associates PC
Eucalyptus Foundation, Inc.
Facebook Donations-Network for Good
Stuart & Carolyn Gruber Family
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John and Anita LaSpina
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Paul Martin
Professor Rebecca Morgan
Cathryn Musk & Peter Nelson
Dante and Josephine Russo
Russo Law Group
Richard and Claire Shonter
Philip Simone
Michael and Melinda Sims
Timothy and Lynn Takacs
Triple Crown Fundraising
Anthony and Margaret Veziris
Gertrude Adrian Vollmer
Peter Wacht
WealthCounsel
BRONZE $100–499

Anonymous
Jonathan and Dana Acquafredda
Albert Weiss Air Conditioning
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Bacon & Wilson PC
Robert Becker
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Mimi and Jim Broner
Amol and Kim Christian
Keon Clinton
Helen Cohn Needham
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Davidow, Davidow, Siegel & Stern
Mark Deal
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Futuristic Homes
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Lori Laporte
Levine Family Charitable Fund
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John Newman
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Stefanie Robbins
Lindsay Rogan
Anthony Russo
Bennett and Stacy Russo
S&P Global Foundation
Charles and Christin Sabatino
Richard Scher
Frances and Joseph Setaro
Mary T. Schmitt Smith
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Starr Vander Linden LLP
Thomas and Christine Stay
Judith Ann Stein
Vincent Tipaldo
Hillary Topper
Joseph and Rosemary Vecchio
Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust
Jimmy Whalen
Ira Wiesner
Charles and Paula Williams
Law Offices of Stuart Zimring
FRIENDS $1–99

American Cool Air Corporation
Paula Arrington
Melanie & Joshua Berzak
Christine Blank
Lainie Bontzolakes
Laura Correa
Janet Corsetti
David and Anna Delane
Deanna Eble
Elizabeth and Eric Einhart
Marguerite and Edward Ezer
Joseph and Joan Formisano
Christella Francois
Pamela and Jerry Fusco
Johana Guarini
Meryl Henry
John and Annamari Impagliazzo
Mary Alice Jackson
Zachary Johnson
Arthur and Marianne Jurgrau
Linda King
Tracy LaStella
Joshua and Jessica Mack
Susan and Murray Malise
Catherine Maroney
Mariel Matthews
Mondschein and Mondschein PA
Sheila Mulvey
Pia and Christopher Pavlowich
Palma Polizzi
Susan Rieff
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Josephine Sfarr
Richard and Beryl Smith
Angela Sorensen
John and Susan Tame
Abby Tedesco
Jamie Tedesco Cohen
Robert and Ellen Tolle
Dawn Tortora-Morici
Dakota Waller
Lisa Williams
Linda Wosczyk
Barbara Zwerman

In addition, thank you to all who have supported our fundraising events.
# Theresa Foundation Balance Sheet

(as of 12/31/20)

## ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$40,368.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$2,564,880.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets, net</td>
<td>$27,270.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,632,518.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### Liabilities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liability</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accrued TAPA payroll</td>
<td>$91,649.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$91,649.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Assets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Asset Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, restricted</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, non-restricted</td>
<td>$2,440,869.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,632,518.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theresa Pooled Trust*</td>
<td>$646,297</td>
<td>(89.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Events</td>
<td>$29,888</td>
<td>(4.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Donations</td>
<td>$42,758</td>
<td>(5.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>(0.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>$97</td>
<td>(0.01%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$723,040</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$141,135</td>
<td>(54.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
<td>$89,679</td>
<td>(34.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General Expenses</td>
<td>$29,734</td>
<td>(11.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>$260,548</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Due to increased contributions from the Theresa Pooled Trusts in 2020, our Board of Directors has increased the amount of money we are providing for grants in 2021, which will be reflected in next year’s annual report.*
St. Mary's Foundation for Children
music therapy program