

2021 WATER LANTERN CELEBRATION

Lighting the Way for People
of All Abilities



September 25, 2021 • 6:30pm - 8:00pm



A fundraiser for:



www.thenestcoffeehouse.org

Our Mission

A Little Compassion Inc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that aims to change the lives of neurodivergent young adults, including those with autism and intellectual/developmental disabilities. We achieve this by creating employment and social opportunities that nurture their unique skills, strengths and preferences. We also take the lead in increasing public awareness and acceptance that young adults with disabilities are vital and valuable community members.

Our Board of Directors

Jane Moen, Executive Director
Steve Little, Acting Chair
Amy MacMillan Winchell, Secretary
Kate Cryder, Acting Treasurer
Ken Chmielewski, Director
Gale Dilger, Director

Mary Jo Helchowski, Director
Maxwell Jones, Director
Cheryl Ritacco, Director
Charlene Voyce, Director
Carol Zierhoffer, Director

Your Support Matters

Your dollars make it possible for young adults to work, gather and grow together at The Nest. Donations can be made via our website below, at The Nest Coffee House or mailed to us at 162 Main Street, Deep River, CT 06417. We thank you for being there for us and our amazing young adults.



www.TheNestCoffeeHouse.org



[Facebook.com/TheNestCoffeeHouse](https://www.facebook.com/TheNestCoffeeHouse)



[@NestCoffeeHouse](https://www.instagram.com/@NestCoffeeHouse)



[Meetup.com/Nest-Gatherings](https://www.meetup.com/Nest-Gatherings)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Sarah Cody, WTNH



Sarah Cody is a reporter and anchor for News 8 who lives right here in Essex. She produces and hosts a segment called Connecticut Families, where she covers many special needs issues. The good work being done at The Nest was recently highlighted in her work. Sarah is thrilled to be part of this evening's program and we are thankful for her support bringing this program to you this year.

LIVESTREAM INSTRUCTIONS

- Find a comfy spot on your couch.
- Grab your computer, laptop, tablet or phone.
- Open your Watch Party Bag for snacks and activities.
- At 6:30 PM go to www.alittlecompassion.org
- Click on the livestream button and enjoy the show!

If you get stuck, call a friend. Or better yet, someone under 30... these young adults are tech experts!

A Message From Our Founder

What an incredible year it has been. We truly believe that tonight's Water Lantern Celebration will be just what we all need to lift our spirits. With over 400 lighted lanterns floating on the pond, we will honor those we love as well as individuals of all abilities who wake up each day and make the world a better place just by being themselves – unique, diverse and valued.



There has been so much to be thankful for this past year! We've not only stayed strong but have found silver linings that show us that there is light and hope even in hard times. Our social gatherings have reached out virtually to include folks across the country and even into Canada to tackle the lonesomeness and isolation of COVID that has grabbed hold of so many.

Our sensory friendly Compassion Face Masks were given to hundreds of individuals in need across the country; and our new Possibilities Boutique at The Nest showcases the artistic talents of so many of our young adults. None of this change and growth would have happened had we not navigated COVID with you, our community by our side. In the end, there really is only one thing that matters – that we all remain kind and compassionate in all that we do. Your support and caring have made our journey not only possible but impactful, meaningful, and full of hope.

Our community is bright and strong because we are together. I hope that tonight's beautiful glowing lantern display reminds you that together we will indeed come through this pandemic with renewed energy, compassion, and strength. Thank you for being part of our Nest community.

With Gratitude,

Jane Moen
Executive Director

Our Talented Young Adults

We could not be prouder to feature the talents of the young artists in our Nest Community. When we look to the future we see a more vibrant, caring, creative and inclusive world because these young adults are a part of it.



Katie Alsback
Dancer



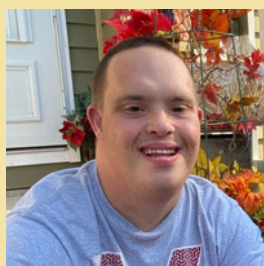
Jillian Noyes
Filmmaker/Writer



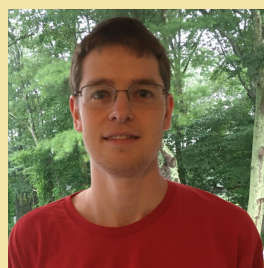
Eric Johnson
Singer/Musician



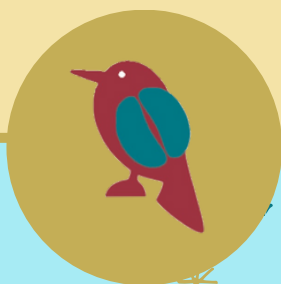
Abbey Weiss
Artist



Sam Wollschleager
Soaper



Aaron Krell
Artist



Thank you to our volunteers!



Water Lantern Committee

Ken Chmielewski, Chair
Donna Dione, Secretary
Maura Carver
Lisa Enright
Mary Jo Helchowski
Joy Lootsma
Jane Moen

Jillian Noyes
Marjorie Russell
Victoria Taylor
Pam Visel
Amy Winchell
Charlene Voyce

Volunteers

Morgan Bakoledis
KC Cole Brake
Marina Capezzone
Jenn Costigan
John Costigan
Kate Cryder
Jennifer Damato
Jane Dion
Gale Dilger
Brian Enright
Emma Fanelli
Mary Beth Hammond
Mike Hammond
Noah Herrick
Sarah Herrick
Danielle Hoff
Max Jones

Donna Krell
Aaron Krell
Wayne Lootsma
Zoe Matthiessen
Jill Merola
Debbie Millspaugh
Luther Moen
Maya Moen
Janet Nelson
Kristen Olson
Cindi Perugini
Darcey Sampson
Jo Schaller
Hannah Staskelunas
Brian Winchell
Sam Wollschleager

In-Kind Donors

Sarah Cody, WTNH
Jenn and John Costigan

Essex Printing
Staples - Old Saybrook

A Message from Our Water Lantern Chair

So much passionate effort goes into giving life to such a wonderful event as our Water Lantern Celebration that it's difficult to know where to begin with the "Thank Yous". So, let's start by thanking YOU! If you're home enjoying the magic of this evening right now via live stream, then chances are you either decorated lanterns or you were one of our amazing sponsors. The beautiful images you're enjoying right now would not be taking place without your generous participation!



As much as we had originally hoped to have each of you join us so that we might all truly feel the energy of this event as a "Nest Community", our concerns for the health and safety of all involved took us once again down this path of "virtual" celebration. This in no way changes the spirit of the celebration or the impact that you have made through your participation!

It's so important that we also thank the many individuals whose time and effort made this celebration possible under some particularly challenging conditions (in case you hadn't noticed). The people listed as volunteers in this program are your friends, your neighbors, your fellow community members who have generously shared their time and skills in order to create an event that we all can feel incredibly proud to be a part of.

And the Thank-You's continue...How about the talented young adults who were so happy to share their musical and artistic talents with us tonight? We're so blessed to have such vibrant creativity in our community! And finally, to everyone who has ever enjoyed a visit to The Nest, Thank You! To us, you are so much more than simply another customer. Your visits are a validation of our mission. Your future visits will help sustain a "soft place to land" for the many young adults we are so committed to.

Thank you once again for joining us and for sharing in this magical celebration!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ken Chmielewski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and "C".

Ken Chmielewski
Water Lantern Celebration Chair



At the Possibilities Boutique, every item is handmade by a local artist and has its own story to tell. Whether it be overcoming obstacles, finding your way, branching out, fitting in or celebrating differences. Each maker has chosen to be a part of “Possibilities” because they believe in opportunity and inclusion.



Thank You to our Sponsors!

We are so grateful for the support and partnership of our sponsors. Please visit their shops or businesses to thank them.

BONFIRE (\$2,500)

The Taylor Family

BLAZE (\$1,000)

Clearview Consulting	Jane and Luther Moen
Edward Jones	Sound Rigging Services
Miller Shah LLP	Town Fair Tire

BEACON (\$500)

Adams IGA	Salon 154
Chapco	Sean Scott Masonry
Clark Group	Stop & Shop
Jack and Chip Frost	Tower Labs
Masonicare	Sherri and David Weiss
OverAbove	William Cole
Riverline Pool Service	SPARK at Yale
Safe Harbor Deep River Marina	

FLAME (\$250)

Affiance Financial	Halloran & Sage LLP
Bogaert Construction Co. Inc.	Infiltrator Water Technologies
Brown Paidiris & Scott	Stuart and Carol Johnson
William Budds	Liberty Bank
Colanar Inc.	Maus & Son, Inc.
CP Burdick & Son Inc.	Michael Maus
Deep River Jewelry Design	Olsen Sanitation Co LLC
Essex Savings Bank	Pasta Vita
Greenwald Industries	Paulson Training Programs

Principle Wealth Partners LLC
Walgreens – Deep River
The Wellspring Fund of Triangle
Community Foundation

Sydney Williams
Paul Winslow

LANTERN (\$100)

Acer Gardens
Anchor and Compass
Ashleigh's Garden/PRP
Atwood's Auto Appearance
Beacon Fine Home Inspection, LLC
Bill and Peg Camosci
Cartier Optical
Maura Carver
Kate Cryder
Deep River Garden Club
Deep River Hardware Store
Deep River Pizza
Deborah Dembo, APRN, LLC
Patrick and Gale Dilger
Ding Doctor LLC
Lisa Enright
Essex Pilates and Wellness
Essex Steam Train & Riverboat
Fireworks Hearth and Home LLC
The Helchowski Family
Iron House Fitness
John Zanardi Oil Co Inc
Max Jones
Donna and Josh Krell
Michael L'Italien

Lee Company
Steve Little
Janet Lustig
M&J Bus Inc.
Linda McGirr
The Moen Family
Movia Robotics
Kristen Olson
The Paint Shop
Blair and Dave Pattek
The Perfect Pup
Polished Medspa
Polito & Harrington LLC
Nutmeg Pharmacy
Red House
Riggios Garden Center
Riverview Lodge Inc
Rotary Club of Deep River
Shore Discount Liquors
Hannah Staley/John Petr
Sunflower Developmental Pediatrics
Teen Zone
Top Notch Electrical Services LLC
Wollack Lewitz LLC CPAs





"THE NEST"

a poem by jillian noyes

Fly high, my friends
against the currents of stigma & rejection
Sing your song to the world,
show them all that you can soar

Take care and you'll find it
A place to land, a place to flourish, and
envelop yourself in love
Bask in the warmth of a cup of tea served
with sugar and smiles
And laughter that, for the first time
is not at your expense

You belong.



"It is important for the community to understand what an asset these young adults can be ... and all the community needs to do is have some sensitivity and A Little Compassion."

Steve Little, ALC Namesake and Angel Donor

www.alittlecompassion.org

Donations always needed and appreciated!

Thank you to Todd Fairchild for the photos