

Cindy Tischer has a superpower she inherited from her mother.

“My mother was fabulous. She taught me how to volunteer. I learned you showed up early, you set up the tables and chairs, you worked the event, you broke everything down after the event, and you swept the floor. She gave me the superpower of seeing what needed to be done.”

When she moved to Port Jefferson in 1992, she wasted little time using that power.

“I walked into town that fall and saw a sandwich board that said “Auction.” It was the Port Jefferson Historical Society Annual Country Auction. I love auctions. It was the only day I had with my mother by myself. It’s a special memory for me. I realized that they could use an extra pair of hands, and I have volunteered every year since.”

After that she found the Infant Jesus Parish Outreach Barn sale. “I started helping by selling items. Then I ended up helping move things into the community center, setting the items up, selling the items, breaking down and packing up.”

When her daughter was graduating high school in Port Jefferson in 2009, she learned about the senior prom, an annual tradition. “I went down to the rifle range and started painting. I had so much fun in 2009. I’ve been helping for over a dozen years. I learned the term ‘prom perfect.’ The parents and community come together to create this magical event for the seniors. It’s amazing.”

Port Jefferson Rotary Club came next. “After a few meetings I realized that the Rotary mission was a perfect fit for me. Rotary does work locally, nationally, internationally.” The Port Jefferson Rotary Club does service projects with Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck in Center Moriches and for Habitat for Humanity. They hold fundraisers for scholarships and donations to local and international charities.”

Her association with Northwell’s Mather Hospital began when she bought a ticket to the hospital’s annual gala. It continues when she volunteers at the walk to benefit the Fortunato Breast Health Center, now called the Northwell Walk to Raise Health at Port Jefferson. “I have family and friends that have lived with cancer, and I decided to volunteer.”

“Volunteering is good for the heart and soul. I feel like I’ve received more than I’ve given. I’m exceedingly grateful to the community of Port Jefferson for teaching me, embracing me, and making me feel welcome.”