

# SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**WILLIAM R. SPENCER**  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR  
EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT  
15 PARK CIRCLE, SUITE 209  
CENTERPORT, NY 11721



CONTACT: **JENNIFER MISH**  
LEGISLATIVE AIDE  
OFFICE: 631-854-4500  
Fax: 631-854-4503

[Jennifer.Mish@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Mish@suffolkcountyny.gov)

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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Legislator Spencer with volunteers from Gifted Hearts. From left to right: Marko Ventoras, Rebecca Epstein, Bella Manfuso holding Lucy the dog, Anthony Dang, Anderson Dang, Legislator Spencer, and TJ Manfuso.

## ***Gifted Hearts Charity Collects School Supplies for Local Huntington Students in Need!***

**Huntington, NY** -Local students from the Gifted Hearts Charity got in the giving spirit at their "Christmas in August" party where they were busy assembling backpacks filled with school supplies for children in need as the school year approaches. At the event, the students packed 60 backpacks with essential items needed to start the school year off right. The packages will be donated to the *Backpacks for Success Program* through the Junior Welfare League for local children living at or below the poverty level in the Town of Huntington.

"I continue to be impressed by the giving spirit and hard work that the children participating in Gifted Hearts put into making a difference in the lives of their peers in need." said Legislator Spencer. "The compassion and wisdom displayed by this group goes far beyond their years."

Gifted Hearts is a 501(c) 3 charity founded "by kids, for kids" by brother and sister duo TJ and Isabella Manfuso. The mission of the organization is to provide pediatric care packs and school supplies to children locally and around the world. Since March 2015, Gifted Hearts has provided medical and school supplies to children in Huntington, NY, Ecuador, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica. To learn more about this charity, log onto [www.GiftedHearts.org](http://www.GiftedHearts.org).

If you would like to participate in the *Backpacks for Success program* to help enhance the learning and confidence of children in need, the Junior Welfare League continues to collect donations. A \$30 donation allows them to provide a brand new backpack with top quality supplies to a child in grades K-12. Visit <http://www.jwlofhuntington.org/18693/Page.aspx> for more information.

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