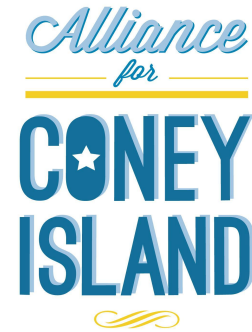


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For Immediate Release:

**OVER \$25,000 WILL BE AWARDED TO LOCAL CONEY ISLAND NON-PROFITS
BY THE CONEY ISLAND POLAR BEAR CLUB AND THE ALLIANCE FOR CONEY ISLAND**

Coney Island, April 18, 2022 – The Coney Island Polar Bear Club and the Alliance for Coney Island have announced the recipients of the 2022 Coney Island New Year’s Day Polar Bear Plunge donations. The monies raised through the 119th Annual Coney Island New Year’s Day Polar Bear Plunge will be distributed amongst eight organizations that are helping make a positive impact in the Coney Island community.

“The Coney Island Polar Bear Club is once again excited to offer financial support to non-profit organizations within the Coney Island Community as we acknowledge the great work happening among them and the benefits they bring to the community. We appreciate the generosity of all the attendees of our traditional annual New Year’s Day Plunge. Not only did they participate in a life-changing, challenging winter dip, but their donations help support and revitalize Coney Island. We look forward to continuing the tradition in 2023 and hope all our attendees return and encourage their friends and family to participate in this awesome New York tradition.” said **Dennis Thomas, president of the Coney Island Polar Bear Club.**

Among the awardees are the **New York Aquarium** which runs a variety of conservation initiatives for our local wild and marine life. The donated funds will help support the Aquarium’s work including the local marine conservation constituency which will help keep New York’s waters safe for wildlife and people. Additional awardees include, the **Coney Island YMCA** will use their donated funds towards their summer youth program which allows children from the community to attend summer camp, and local arts non-profit group **Coney Island USA** which produces the coveted and world-famous Mermaid Parade and operates the Coney Island Museum and Sideshows by the Seashore will put funding towards keeping the arts alive in Coney Island where visitors can experience the thrill of a traditional ten-in-one circus sideshow. The **Coney Island History Project** will also be receiving a donation which will allow them to continue their work in helping to increase awareness of Coney Island's legendary past by providing access to historical artifacts and documentary material through educational exhibits and events. Other organizations being awarded are the **Coney Island Brighton Beach Open Water Swimmers (CIBBOWS), Parachute Literary Arts, New York State Marine Education Association, and City Parks Foundation.**

“We are ecstatic to partner with the Coney Island Polar Bear Club to be the fundraising partner for the New Year’s Day Polar Plunge. Through this collaboration and being able to raise and regrant funds to our neighboring nonprofits to bring resources and support their work. We look forward to sending out these funds and seeing the support helping to fund these programs and activities for the youth,” said **Alexandra Silversmith, executive director of the Alliance for Coney Island.**

To plan a trip to Coney Island and stay up-to-date on all Coney happenings, make sure to visit **ConeyIslandFunGuide.com**, sign up for our weekly newsletter, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, **@ConeyIslandFun**.

Alliance for Coney Island

The not-for-profit Alliance for Coney Island, Inc. is a private-public partnership dedicated to continuing the year-round revitalization of Coney Island. The Alliance represents local businesses, nonprofits, and the community, with support from the New York City Council, the Brooklyn Borough President, and New York City Economic Development Corporation. More info at www.AllianceforConeyIsland.org.

The Coney Island Polar Bear Club

The Coney Island Polar Bear Club is the oldest winter bathing organization in the United States. We swim in the Atlantic Ocean at Coney Island every Sunday from November through April. Since 1903, we have been hosting a public New Year's Day Plunge for all brave souls to welcome the New Year. While the event is free, we do encourage plungers to make a donation to our charity sponsors. In the past decade, the Club has raised over \$500,000 to support charities. This year we are supporting the NY Aquarium, the Alliance for Coney Island, and local non-profit community organizations in the Coney Island Community.

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