



Making a Bigger Impact

Charity Foundation previews regional grant-giving

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The ACBL Charity Foundation has revised its grant-giving strategy to better serve non-bridge-related 501(c)(3) organizations within ACBL districts and to increase awareness of the foundation.

Historically, the foundation provided smaller grants to more districts. However, in 2025, the foundation has allocated a total of \$150,000 to five districts in the northeastern U.S. – 3, 4, 5, 24 and 25 – offering each the opportunity to receive a more substantial \$30,000. The foundation will continue to provide grants to districts on a rotational basis.

The foundation receives its income primarily from monies raised through ACBL Charity Foundation club and tournament games. Greater participation in these charity games allows the foundation to increase funding, turning a love for bridge into a powerful force for good.

This article highlights the innovative and inspiring ways districts are using funds, and involving their members, creating excitement and impact



Long Island Cares grants specialist John Probert and Unit 242 board member Jon Kirshner

for the benefit of their communities.

District 24's Jon Kirshner grant coordinator for Unit 242, arranged for a \$10,000 donation to Long Island Cares, a local food bank. Thanks to a special request and an opportunity for a matching gift, the food bank received a total of \$20,000. The check presentation, which took place at BRIDGEExpress, in Great Neck NY, created a celebratory atmosphere, with players expressing their appreciation for the foundation's efforts.

New England's District 25 launched an inspiring new program called "Operation Community Connection," orchestrated by Sue Miguel, district president. The initiative encouraged each of the district's units to submit proposals for grants to local charities, resulting in an impressive 24 submissions.

The grant recipients were announced at a "Make Your Own Sundae Pro-Am" event during the Ocean State Regional in Warwick RI. To build excitement, the finalists' names were put on raffle tickets, and five players were randomly selected to choose the five grant recipients. The event was made even more special when a generous member offered an added \$250 donation to a charity of each of the five selected players' choice.

"I've coordinated lots of fun bridge events but this one was simply the best," said Miguel. "Not only did the pro-am have a wonderful vibe, but everyone was excited about choosing the charity grant recipients. This really was the quintessential bridge experience – a unique synergy between the ACBL Charity



These players picked the recipients of Charity Foundation grants for District 25: Robin Hillyard, Sharon Stanfill, Barbara Webb, Peter Clay and Lauren Doherty

Foundation, District 25, its units, and our players!"

Lois Fuini, appointed by District 4 President Betsy Cutler, coordinated the grant process for their district. Through local involvement, they named four charities to receive grants. One notable recipient was Lehigh Valley Active Life, a senior center in Allentown PA, which hosts sanctioned bridge games twice a week. Jim Kenny, president of Unit 133, worked to secure a grant for the center, which is using the funds to repair and upgrade its women's restrooms and install new safety features critical to preventing accidents.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the grant process in 2025 so successful. And thanks to all the ACBL members who play in ACBL Charity Foundation games and encourage their clubs to hold them. Without the income from the games, none of this would be possible. ■