

Not in Our Town (NIOT) Northport

by Meghan Saporita



On October 16, Not In Our Town Northport held its annual "NIOT in the Park" in Northport Village. We are a local chapter of a national non-profit which stands together against hate, intolerance, and bullying. This year's theme was commUNITY as a celebration of what we have come together to accomplish in the past 3 years since NIOT Northport's founding and all of the positive impacts we can have moving forward when we come together. Many community groups including the HABTF, LI Pride PTSA, the Northport Native Garden Initiative, Youth Directions and Alternatives, the Northport-East Northport Public Library, the Northport Historical society, Ink'd Art Studio, ArtPop, and local sustainable brazilian jewelry boutique Raizes had tables at the event and engaged with members of the community. Local children's authors Bill Kiley and Valerie Goldstein also had tables selling their books, "Hope and Freckles" and "Violet's Victory," respectively.



Children made beaded bracelets at a table run by members of Northport Middle School's 5th grade, contributed to a mural drawn by Clark Ruggieri of Ink'd, as well as small paintings on canvas with Tiffany Assadourian of ArtPop. Sprinkling of Coco generously donated themed cookies for this event with all proceeds going to NIOT. The Northport Police Department, Village, Town, School District and State officials were also present in support at this community-building event.

To see the photo album of NIOT Northport in the Park, click <https://photos.app.goo.gl/GtXX5NL9WE4RE5eG6>

NIOT presented the community mosaic which was made in

partnership with Northport Arts Coalition at August's Art in the Park. Hundreds of members of the community each put a piece of tile in the candle mosaic over the course of one day - coming together in unity to build something beautiful. Northport Mayor Donna Koch accepted the mosaic to be displayed in Village Hall on its first stop of what we hope will be many throughout this community.

Feel free to find NIOT on Instagram @niot_northport, Facebook "Not In Our Town Northport" or contact us through our Web site www.niotnorthport.org. So grateful for all of our amazing allies throughout this extended commUNITY.