

Newsday

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food



Watermill Caterers gives away free desserts to families who bring an unwrapped toy for its upcoming Toys for Tots event.

Restaurants where the spirit of giving is served in every meal or drink

BY JIM MERRITT
Special to Newsday

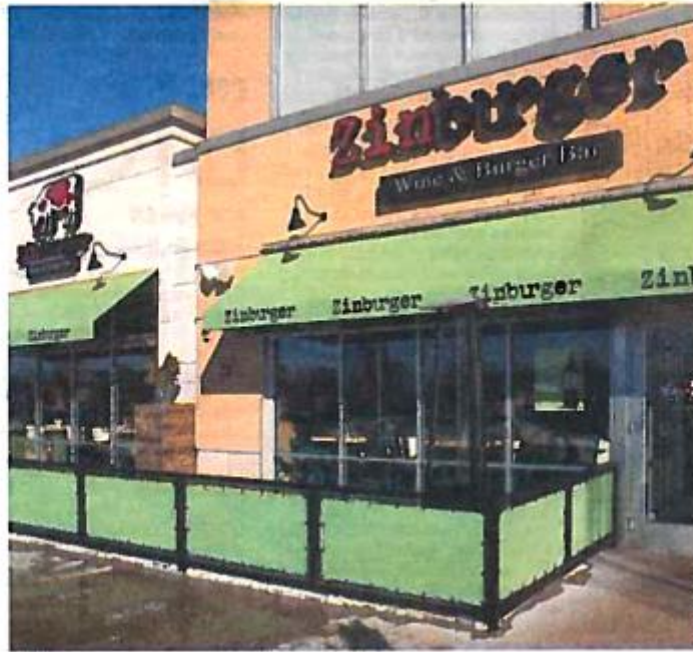
Charity is on the menu and on tap this holiday season at dozens of Long Island restaurants — from big chains to independents — that give back to the community. Some host fundraising events, donate a dollar, a free meal or a drink, and even provide tons of prepared food to soup kitchens and food banks.

Here are some of the most generous givebacks and the worthy causes that benefit when you sit down to dine or have a drink after a day of shopping, or gather with friends to enjoy a bit of holiday cheer.

RAISE YOUR GLASS

Several restaurants pledge to donate a dollar to charity when customers order a drink from a special menu. **The Zinburger Wine & Burger Bar in Huntington Station** will donate \$1 to ZERO — The End of Prostate Cancer, for every Pumpkin 'Stache Shake sold through the end of November. The \$6 shake blends vanilla ice cream and house-made pumpkin pie filling, topped with freshly whipped cream and pumpkin seed brittle. Customers can donate an additional \$1 to add a souvenir "Stache" straw to any shake or float.

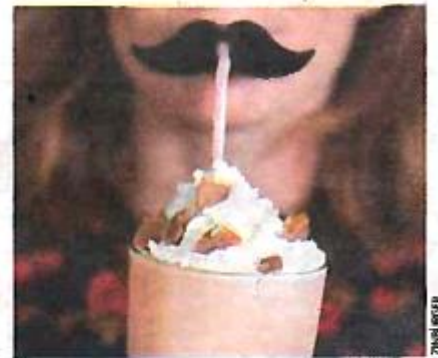
Walt Whitman Shops, 160 Walt Whitman Rd., Huntington



Station; 631-271-3891; zinburger.com

The Gallery at Westbury Plaza, 1002 Old Country Rd., Garden City; 516-228-5400; spuntinowinebar.com

Lessing's Hospitality Group in Great River is pouring out holiday cheer with its Wine Not campaign at **Post Office Café** in Babylon, **Maxwell's** in Islip, **Library Café** in Farmingdale, **Finnegan's** in Huntington and **Southside** in Bay Shore. Until Jan. 1, for each glass of wine purchased from a special list, a meal is donated to Feeding America hunger relief. Order a bottle — the equivalent of four glasses of wine — and an equal number of meals is donated, said Jennifer Cantin, Lessing's director of marketing.



The Zinburger Wine & Burger Bar in Huntington Station will donate \$1 to ZERO — The End of Prostate Cancer, for every Pumpkin 'Stache Shake, above, sold this month.

VETERANS' CAUSES

Outback, the Australia-themed American steakhouse chain, is joining forces with San Antonio, Texas-based Operation Homefront to support military families making the transition to civilian life. For every sale of a Patriotic Punch (\$7), a dollar goes to the At Outback, We Serve Those Who Serve campaign for veterans struggling with housing payments and other essential household expenses. In addition, for every purchase of a Foster's Lager Big Bloke, Miller-Coors will donate \$1 to Operation Homefront.

Outback.com

The Capital Grille upscale steakhouse at Roosevelt Field mall in Garden City lends a helping hand to Carlo's Legacy in Hempstead Village, which operates a soup kitchen and provides housing and support services for homeless veterans. The Grille has donated more than 76,500 pounds of food to Carlo's Legacy as part of parent company Darden Restaurants' Harvest campaign, said company spokeswoman Vanessa Tostes.

630 Old Country Rd., Garden