



BIOGRAPHY



Frank Buonagurio: A History of Giving

Frank Buonagurio, the man behind Frank's Pharmacy, a beloved business for 23 years in Jackson Heights, does not take his success lightly.

"I feel blessed by the support of my neighbors, so I want to give back to customers who have supported me all of these years."

While this modest man makes it a point never to crow about his philanthropy, he has been a consistent donor to causes that benefit both his neighborhood and all New Yorkers.

A successful family-run business — marked by old-fashioned personal service and prices competitive with the corporate stores — has meant that Frank has the opportunity to give back to the community. He contributes to numerous neighborhood causes and charities.

Among the beneficiaries of his charitable contributions:

- Tasmia is the local Sri Lankan social club. Frank has donated to underwrite the trophies for their annual cricket championships.
- St. Joan of Arc Church. Frank completely underwrote the price (\$3,000) of the new digital scoreboard for the basketball court. A sign attesting to his generosity appears on the board.
- For years of donations, Frank received a 2008 certificate of appreciation from The American Legion.
- Each Halloween, the Jackson Heights Beautification Group holds a parade for the neighborhood children. Frank's Pharmacy donates money to the annual event, and also provides grab bags of candy for all children who participate.
- Frank's Pharmacy donates personal care items — soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste — to the Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility on Roosevelt Island, which provides care and rehabilitation for children and young adults. Coler-Goldwater recently honored Frank Buonagurio with a plaque, commemorating a decade of donations to the patients.

When fire demolished the Bruson Building on April 21, 2014, Frank's Pharmacy was one of several tenants whose businesses were completely destroyed. But neighborhood support was swift, a testament to their affection for Frank and his staff. City and state officials helped Buonagurio locate a new building to restart his business: 77-01 37th Avenue. Coincidentally, this is the former home of Maram Pharmacy, where Frank Buonagurio worked in the early 1990s.