



Peter & Jeri
DEJANA
FOUNDATION



2026 Introductory Overview

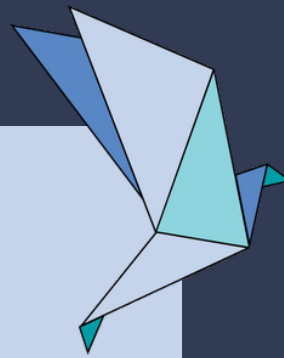


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Our History

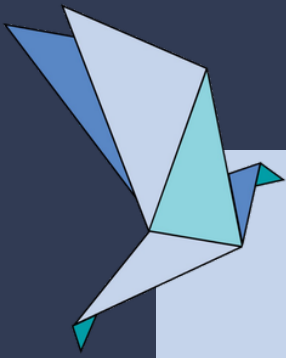


The Peter & Jeri Dejana Foundation traces its origins to the life and work of Peter Dejana, an immigrant entrepreneur whose story is deeply connected to the community of Port Washington. Founded in 2010, the foundation emerged from decades of community involvement and business success. Its mission reflects the values that shaped Peter's life: hard work, commitment to his community, and the belief that prosperity should be reinvested to improve people's lives.



Peter immigrated to the United States in 1955 at the age of 15 from Sardinia, Italy, arriving on the Cow Neck Peninsula with ambitions for a better life. As a teenager, he worked a series of labor-intensive jobs—including landscaping and snow clearing—while learning English and building relationships throughout the North Shore. These early efforts eventually laid the groundwork for a successful career in a myriad of private and public outdoor contract services.

Through the creation of Dejana Industries, Inc. and Aero Snow Removal Corp., Peter & his wife, Jeri, built the largest municipal services contracting operations in North America. The Dejana companies provided essential services across major U.S. cities, including snow removal, highway cleaning, waste disposal, and catch basin maintenance. Peter also advanced the field through innovations such as high-capacity snow melters and improved debris-collection technology.



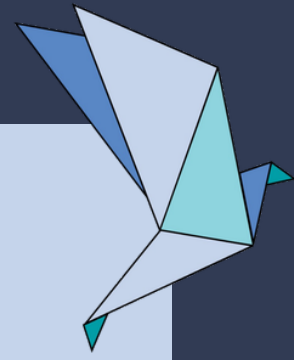
A Modern Legacy



Even as his businesses expanded, Peter never lost sight of his roots. In 2010, Peter and Jeri established the Dejana Family Foundation to support local and regional charitable organizations, with a deep commitment to the Port Washington community. Early philanthropic investments focused on hyperlocal initiatives & institutions that the Dejana family had long supported.

Following the sale of Dejana Industries in 2017, the Foundation expanded significantly, with assets growing to approximately \$80 million. The organization broadened its grantmaking while maintaining a strong commitment to the Port Washington community. Peter remained deeply involved in both his business and philanthropic interests until his passing at the age of 84. After his death, the Foundation was renamed the Peter & Jeri Dejana Foundation, Inc., with Jeri continuing its leadership and charitable mission.

A Vision for 2026



Today, the foundation supports a wide range of causes while maintaining its community-centered roots. As of 2026, the organization has distributed more than \$35 million in grants to hundreds of non-profit organizations.

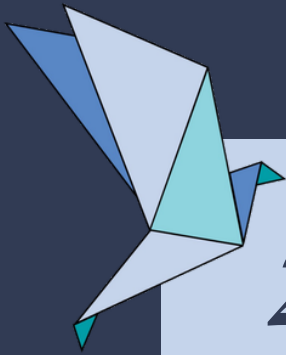
“We’re deeply committed to strengthening communities, especially in its hometown of Port Washington. Through its enduring generosity and dedication to meaningful charitable work—including more than \$26 million in contributions projected for 2026—the Foundation continues to make a lasting difference for neighbors near and far.” – **Scott Reich, Board Member**

With its most ambitious year of giving to date, the Dejana Foundation is not simply expanding its philanthropy—it’s reinforcing a legacy built on the life and vision of its founder, ensuring that his spirit of generosity continues to shape the future of the communities he cherished.

2026 grantmaking will support:

- Community development & civic initiatives
- Pediatric healthcare & medical research
- Veteran support services
- Animal welfare organizations
- Regional & national non-profit programs





2025 *By the Numbers*

Total Grants Committed

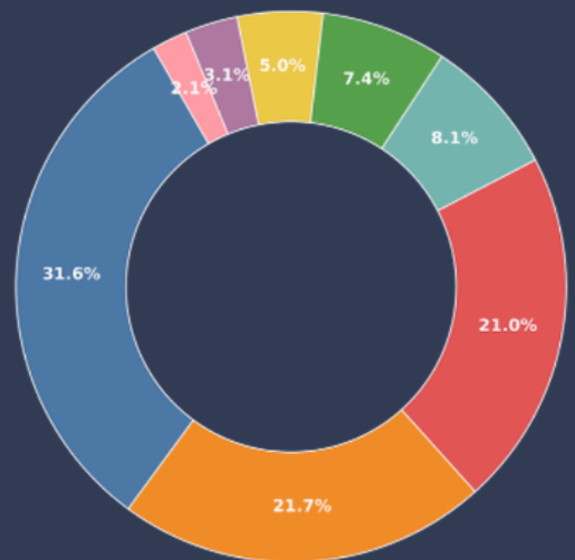
\$7,933,698

**Total Commitment to
Long Island-Based Initiatives**

\$7,237,308

**Total Commitment to Greater
Port Washington-Based Initiatives**

\$4,863,000



- Medical Research – 31.6%
- Veterans & Emergency Response – 21.7%
- Health Care & Patient Support – 21.0%
- Community Development & Welfare – 8.1%
- Religious – 7.4%
- Education & Youth – 5.0%
- Environmental or Animal Welfare – 3.1%
- Other – 2.1%



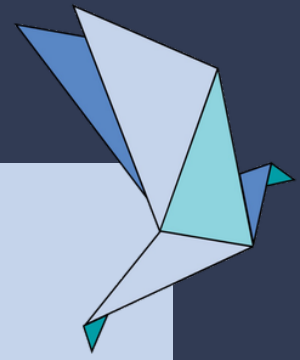
Total Organizations Supported

110

Total Programs & Initiatives Supported

131

Our Values

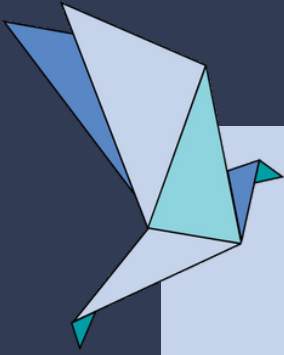


The Dejana Foundation is committed to supporting initiatives that **strengthen and uplift the Long Island community and beyond**. We approach every grant cycle with intentionality, guided by Peter Dejana's longstanding values of gratitude, purpose, and service. Applicants should demonstrate a **clear understanding of the community they serve and the meaningful impact their work aims to achieve**.

We place particular importance on projects that **benefit Port Washington and the broader Long Island region**, reflecting the Foundation's deep roots in the area. Equally central to our mission is the pursuit of **impact at scale**—efforts that maximize reach and meaningfully improve the lives of as many individuals as possible. We value **authenticity, collaboration, and people-centered partnerships**, and we welcome applicants of all sizes who share these principles.



Transparency is essential to our process. We expect applicants to communicate the **full scope of their proposed work**, articulate how Foundation funding will be used, and outline anticipated outcomes from implementation through long-term impact. **Clear, thorough information** enables us to understand a project's potential and strengthens our ability to **invest in efforts aligned with our mission & values**.



Grant Timeline



March 30

First Round (Spring)
Grant Application Opens



May 30

First Round (Spring)
Grant Application Closes



July 30

Spring Grant Agreements Issued
Relevant Disbursements Completed



Second Round (Fall)
Grant Application Opens



September 30

Second Round (Fall)
Grant Application Closes

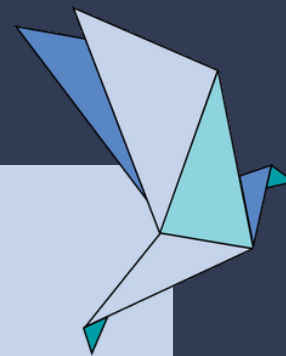


November 30

Fall Grant Agreements Issued
Relevant Disbursements Completed



Keep in Mind



Any 2026 applications submitted **before our Spring Grant Cycle open date** will be considered for the Spring Grant Cycle.

Small grants (between \$1K-\$75K), time-sensitive events, & sponsorships may be decided on a rolling basis at the Dejana Foundation's discretion.

We ask that **returning grantees** still submit an application form for either Spring or Fall 2026.

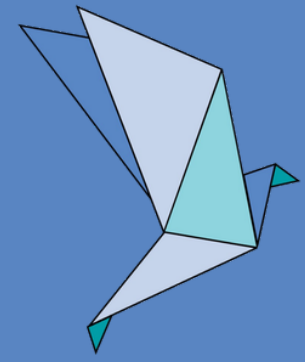
Spring 2026 applications will be accepted through **traditional form application** accessible via our website. Fall 2026 applications will be submitted through a **new digital software**, Foundant, accessible through our website in Q2.



By accepting a Dejana Foundation grant, your organization agrees to **comply with impact & operations reporting** as requested by the Dejana Foundation.

Our **newly constructed website** will be accessible during Q2 2026, available with new resources & information.

Get in Touch



516-523-6792



dejanafoundation.org



info@dejanafoundation.org



30 Sagamore Hill Drive,
Port Washington, NY 11050

Connect with us on social media!

@dejanafoundation

