

Newsday

Llife

INSIDE
THE WEEK
AHEAD
E15

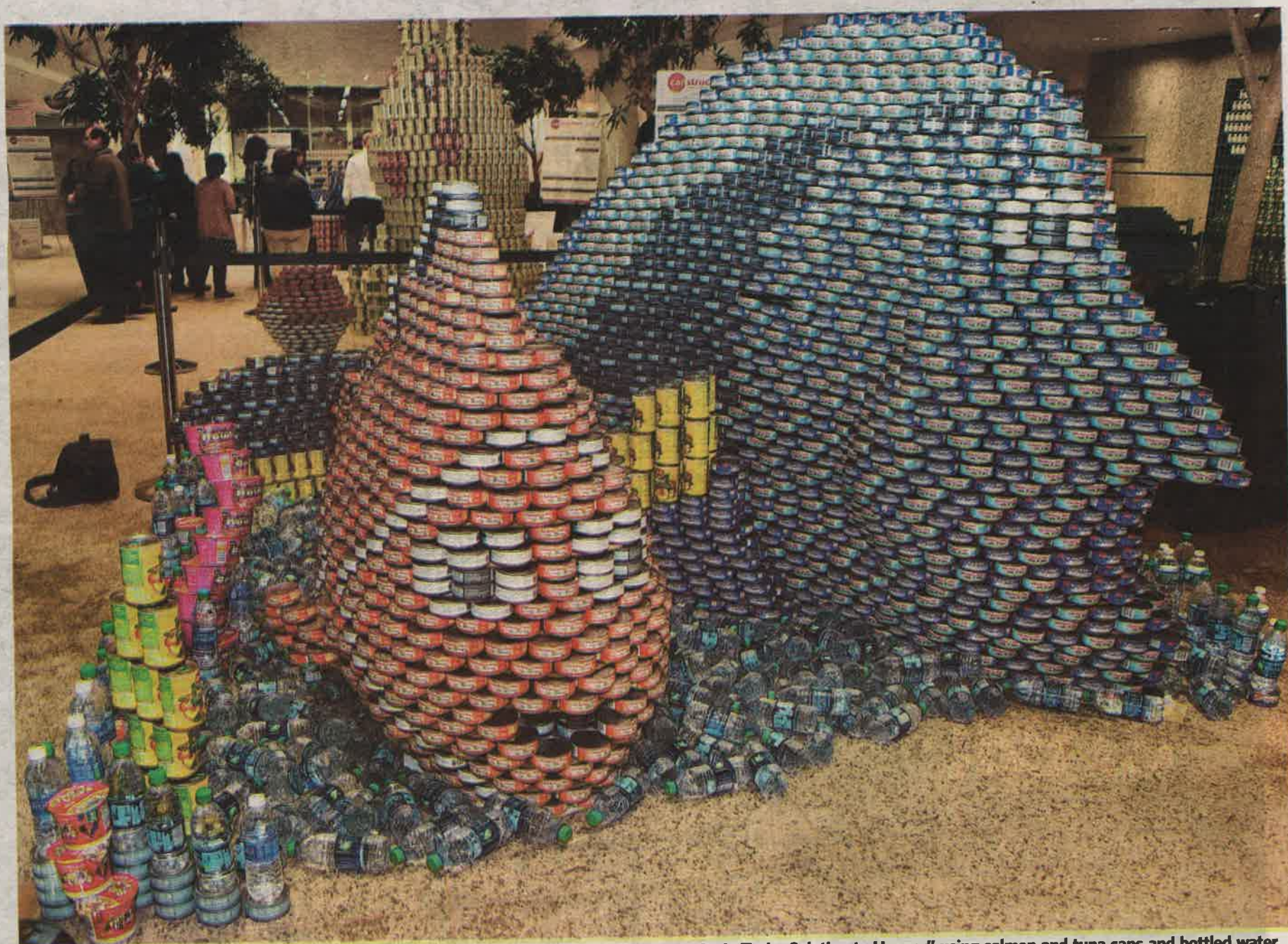
Good enough to eat

THE 51,794 CANS
USED IN 'CANSTRUCTING'
PIKA-CAN-CHU AND
OTHER SCULPTURES
WILL SOON FEED
LI'S HUNGRY
E2



act2 | At the ukulele club, the strummin' is easy E25





JUROR'S FAVORITE. The team from H2M architects + engineers created "Found Dory, Now Let's Find a Solution to Hunger" using salmon and tuna cans and bottled water.

DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN



ON THE COVER A team from John W. Baumgarten Architect PC impressed the judges with a Pokémon-themed structure.

Yes, they CAN

Canstruction
designers
put teamwork
and creativity toward addressing local hunger

BY KAY BLOUGH
Special to Newsday

Peaches, tuna and corn. Sardines, yams and pink salmon. Those ingredients are best kept separate at the dinner table, but they were a winning combination at the 10th annual Canstruction Long Island competition, where thousands of cans of food are donated to feed the hungry.

Visitors can see the flights of design imagination and structural ingenuity on display at RXR Plaza in Uniondale from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and vote for their favorite with a can of food. The canned goods — 51,794 cans were used this year — bring 13 designs to life in



BEST MEAL AND MOST CANS. The team from LKB Consulting Engineers demonstrated "Everyone Deserves S'more Food."



The Spector Group created "Let's Dunk to Ending Hunger" — oversized Oreos and a glass of milk to dip them in.



LKB team members build the tent from the bottom up. The completed campsite scene used 7,140 cans.

The creativity from year to year keeps amazing me.'

— Tracy Lobdell, executive director and treasurer of Canstruction Long Island

sculptural structures built to address hunger on Long Island. "The creativity from year to year keeps amazing me," said Tracy Lobdell, executive director and treasurer of the local chapter of the nonprofit Canstruction and senior mar-

keting coordinator at Greenman-Pedersen Inc., a consulting engineering and construction management firm in Babylon. "The teams keep coming up with unique and different ideas and concepts people can relate to."

Cans of pink salmon help Melville-based H2M architects + engineers' structure depict the title character from "Finding Nemo," while the blue of tuna labels brings Dory to life. And many, many cans of peaches make Pikachu in Jeri-

cho-based John W. Baumgarten Architect's Pokémon-inspired structure.

Members of the Spector Group team have been participating since the Canstruction

See COVER STORY on E4

Contestants and the Winners' Circle

PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

- "Found Dory, Now Let's Find a Solution to Hunger," from H2M architects + engineers / **Juror's Favorite**
- "Pika-can-chu, Gotta Catch 'em All," from John W. Baumgarten Architect PC / **Structural Ingenuity**
- "Gu-CAN-heim . . . No CANS Left Behind," from JRS Architect PC, and Waldner's Business Environments / **Honorable Mention**
- "It's the Great PumpCAN, Charlie Brown!" from Lines & Designs 3D and Long Island reSound / **Best Use of Labels**
- "Everyone Deserves S'more Food," from LKB Consulting Engineers / **Best Meal and Most Cans**
- "Shine a Light on Hunger," Nassau Community College Interior Design Department and the Interior Design Society
- "If You Had to Choose," Rosenbaum Design Group
- "Let's Dunk to Ending Hunger," Spector Group

STUDENT TEAMS

- "Turn the Key on Hunger," Friends Academy / **Most CANTabulous (Juror's Favorite) and Best CANfiguration**
- "We CAN Feed the World," Sacred Heart Academy / **Honorable Mention**
- "Lighting Up the World to Hunger Crisis," Temple Israel of Riverhead Youth Group / **Most Cans and Most CANTastic (Best Meal)**
- "Like Us to End Hunger," Temple Sinai of Roslyn Youth Group / **Best CANcept (Best Use of Labels)**

COMMUNITY GROUP

- "We Can't BELieve People Go Hungry in the U.S.," Girl Scout Troop 4299 from Rocky Point and the Parent Action Community Youth Program of Amityville

Building up to diminish hunger

COVER STORY from E2

Long Island chapter was formed in 2006. Team member Joe Suserman, a project architect at the Woodbury architecture and design firm, remembers when the company took part in earlier Canstruction competitions, with Spector's 1998 light bulb structure, "Food for Thought," going on to compete at the national level. This year's design of a glass of milk and stacks of Oreo cookies, "Let's Dunk to Ending Hunger," went together easily on Oct. 26, the night the 13 teams filled the atrium at RXR Plaza to build their designs.

Each professional team gets a 10-by-10-foot section marked off with tape, and its structure can reach up to 10 feet in height; student teams get a 7-square-foot footprint with a 5-foot height limit. Up to 10 team members can help over the course of the build, but only five members stack at a time.

Some of the groups building structures set up cameras to take time-lapse photos so they could later post videos on their webpage. Jennifer Murray, whose handbell-ringing group, Long Island reSound, participated for its second year, added a soundtrack of the group ringing "Linus and Lucy," the informal theme song for Charlie Brown, when she edited the video, then posted it to reSound's website.

The student team from Friends Academy in Locust Valley built a gumball machine out of cans, calling it "Turn the Key on Hunger." The school's participation in the competition "started as an engineering club project and morphed into a community service-based club," said Amy Geiger, 17, of Dix Hills, a senior in her third year on the team. Students used plywood with the edges painted red for support between layers, and taped tuna cans in a circle to look like coins.

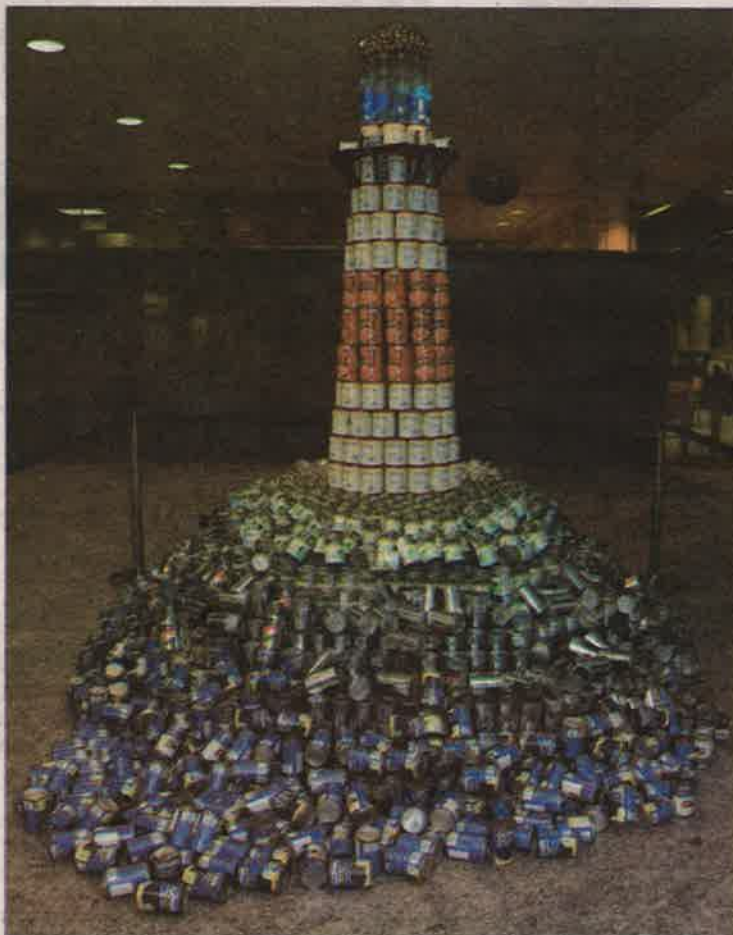
"The real challenge was finding cans that are colorful enough for gumballs," Geiger said. "We looked for the boldest colors."

Bounty to food pantries

All the cans used in the sculptures and collected at the show will be donated to four Long Island food pantries, with the bulk of the food split among Interfaith Nutrition Network, Island Harvest and Long Island Cares. For space reasons, Lobdell said, a smaller amount will go to NEST, or Nassau Empowerment and Support for Tomorrow, at Nassau Community College.



BEST USE OF LABELS. Lines & Designs 3D LLC and Long Island reSound created a double-sided sculpture called "It's the Great PumpCAN, Charlie Brown!" It features Charlie and Lucy on one side and Snoopy on the other.



BEST CAN-FIGURATION AND MOST CANTABULOUS. Friends Academy students chose bright labels to create a gumball machine to "Turn the Key on Hunger."

Nassau Community College interior design students and the Interior Design Society created a lighthouse to "Shine a Light on Hunger."

See COVER STORY on E6

DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN

DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN

DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN

DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN

Rosenbaum Design Group team members touched on politics with a donkey and an elephant in a structure called "If You Had to Choose."



DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN



DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN



HONORABLE MENTION. In its two-sided sculpture, "Gu-CAN-Heim . . . No CANS Left Behind," JRS Architects/Waldner's Business Environments captured the curves of the Guggenheim Museum, and, on the reverse, depicted a rainbow of characters.



HONORABLE MENTION. Sacred Heart Academy students, with help from mentor Bruce Mawhirter, created a spoon with food in the shape of a globe and called it "We CAN Feed the World."

Designers' can-do attitude



DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN

BEST CONCEPT. Temple Sinai of Roslyn's Youth Group won smiles from the judges with "Like Us to End Hunger."



DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN

MOST CANTASTIC. The Temple Israel of Riverhead Youth Group fashioned a menorah for its sculpture, called "Lighting Up the World to Hunger Crisis."

COVER STORY from E4

Winners were named at an Oct. 27 ceremony at RRR Plaza, with awards given in the professional and student categories.

Visitors to the exhibit can vote on a People's Choice winner in both categories by placing cans in the donation bins in front of their favorite structures. The names of the winners will be posted on Canstruction Long Island's Facebook page on Nov. 15, Lobdell said.

This year, a combined community group of Senior Girl Scout Troop 4299 from Rocky Point and the Parent Action Committee Inc. of Amityville, a group that focuses on helping at-risk youths, worked with mentor Jan Murray, of Lines & Designs 3D, a freelance CADD design and 3-D modeling firm in Mastic.

"When you share a common goal like that, it really does cement relationships," Murray said. "And when your structure helps people, when it makes 3,335 meals, it's the real deal. It means something."



DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN

Girl Scout Troop 4299 and Parent Action Community Youth Program struck just the right note with "We CAN't BELieve People Go Hungry in the U.S."