



Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation
Summer 2016

About the Foundation

In February of 2006, we were founded in Akron, Ohio by the Comunale family and their close friends to honor the memory of Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. who fought a courageous battle against cancer. A year later, his aunt Amy Comunale Klein was diagnosed with cancer. Then in 2011, Stephen's mother Jane lost her courageous battle with cancer. The Foundation now lives in memory of Stephen, Amy and Jane.

Our Mission

The Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation is a nonprofit organization that endows an outreach program to provide comfort to cancer patients and their families by easing the ancillary financial burdens that confront them.

By partnering with social workers, community members, hospitals and other organizations, our efforts empower cancer patients while improving their quality of life.

Dear Friends,

This past year was a special one for the Foundation as it marked our 10th full year in existence! I am thrilled with what we have accomplished and what we have planned moving forward over the course of the next 10 years. In 2015 we touched over 2,000 individuals, and between our individual grant giving as well as complimentary programs, we have assisted over 7,000 people since 2006. The Foundation has contributed almost \$1,500,000 in grants and programs since our very humble beginnings 10 years ago.

The impact of our programs within the community has been outstanding and has continued to surpass my expectations. For example, this year we plan to distribute 500 of Jane's Sunshine Bags to families being treated at Summa Health System, Cleveland Clinic Akron General, and our new Sibling Bags for Akron Children's Hospital. Jane's Sunshine Bags include comforting items such as soft blankets, journals, word game books, water bottles, and special treats. I have been amazed by how small and well executed programs, such as the Sunshine Bags, can make such a positive impact. As a result, you will continue to see the Foundation grow and add additional programs in the near future.

Over the last few years I have had many conversations with our board and friends regarding how to educate the community on the Foundations values and purpose. Well, through a number of great small events with our partners, we have been able to get the word out! This past year we have had numerous events with Sweet Frog, The District Boutique, Yoga in the Park (once a week in the summer), Nervous Dog, and Gardner Pie Company. It is not all about raising money to further our programs, but to have the opportunities to be in the community and share the Foundation's purpose. Our big event for the year was our biennial Spin-for-Life, which raised approximately \$100,000 from 200 riders over 6 hours. We had such a great time spinning with all of you and with the event being such a great success, we are sure to see our programs continue to flourish.

What I am looking forward to most is hosting our biennial gala The EVENT on October 1st at my home. I hope you can join me and The Spinners as they will be playing their hits such as *I'll Be Around*, which is definitely a can't miss!

Warm Regards,
Steve

Summa Screens

Summa Screens is a program that provides mammograms and breast ultrasounds to low income, and under- or uninsured women between the ages of 40 and 64, as well as to those under the age of 40 exhibiting symptoms or who have a family history of breast cancer. Offered by the Summa Cancer Institute of Summa Health System at six locations throughout the Akron area, this program helps to ensure that all women receive access to these vital screenings, as well as assisting in physician referrals if needed. The Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Foundation is proud to provide financial support to this program, and to date we have have been able to assist 150 women obtain free testing. More information on this program can be found at thesumma-foundation.org.

 Summa Health

A Decade of Giving

Individual Grant Giving

The foundation's true purpose and mission is reflected in our individual grant giving. We award grants of financial assistance twice a week every week of the year and often within 48 hours of receiving an application. To date in 2015/2016, we have awarded 425 grants of financial assistance. In 2016 we will award \$220,000 to individuals and families. Now in our 10th year, we have given a total of 1640 grants--amazing! We try to ease the worry that can accompany paying for day-to-day necessities and financial burdens in the wake of a cancer diagnosis. These grants help ensure that individuals battling cancer can continue to have a home, food, gas, heat, clothing, childcare, transportation and more, allowing them to focus on their treatment.

Jane's Sunshine Fund

Jane's Sunshine Fund is now in its 5th year of putting smiles on faces with small grants for random acts of kindness. Some examples are movie tickets, a night at the ball park, family passes to local zoos and museums, dinner sent to a homebound patient, assisting with birthday gifts and cakes, gift cards for clothing, a new wig, etc. Sunshine Fund Grants brighten the day of individuals and families that are struggling while battling cancer. To date in 2015/2016, we have given 180 grants, impacting over 600 people.

Sunshine Bags

Sunshine Bags, now in its 3rd year, will finish 2016 with a distribution of 800 bags total. What wonderful reception we have had to this program! The reusable totes filled with goodies are distributed to newly diagnosed cancer patients at Cleveland Clinic Akron General and Summa Health System. The bags contain various comfort items which help provide some relief to patients during their treatment. New for 2016 are Sibling Bags! We are partnering with Akron Children's Hospital, filling logo backpacks with goodies which will be distributed to siblings of cancer patients. We are very excited to expand this program!

Camps

Beginning in 2009, and partnering with Victory Gallop in Bath, Ohio, and Buffalo Therapeutic Riding Center in Buffalo, New York, we have been able to provide special camp experiences for over 300 children. These summer horse camps will always be special to the

Foundation because of Stephen's lifelong love of horses, and these amazing organizations are an integral part of bringing this wonderful therapeutic experience to children touched by cancer. New for 2016 at Stewart's Caring Place Cancer

Wellness Center is "Summer Camp Exploration Express" for

children who have a loved one touched by cancer. This camp will help them learn how to identify, express, and work through their emotions by using exercise, art, writing and much more.



Holiday Meals

Holiday Meals feeds approximately 400 people each Thanksgiving and Christmas. This meal delivery program wouldn't be possible without the many amazing volunteers who pack and deliver these meals—many thanks to all of them!



Pictured here is our Spin for Life indoor cycling fundraiser that took place in October at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn where we raised \$100,000 for the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation. Thank you to the Coventry High School National Honor Society for volunteering!



2015/2016 Accomplishments

Art Therapy Program



Rooted in Strength is the name of the 2015/2016 art therapy project completed by patients and their family members at the McDowell Cancer Institute of Cleveland Clinic at Akron General. The project will be on permanent display in the lobby of the infusion center at the Health and Wellness Center in Bath. The new art therapy project for 2016/2017 is called Forging Ahead. The project consists of a sailboat, and will focus on moving forward after treatment. This wonderful program has had nearly 700 participating patients since it began, and we at the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation have been a proud sponsor since 2013.

The People We Help . . . Meet Kerry Walley

Kerry Walley, like so many other women, was a busy working mother of two children when the unthinkable happened. She found a lump in her breast, and a biopsy confirmed she had breast cancer. She faced chemotherapy which would put her through physical strain, but nearly as difficult was the emotional toll. She wondered how she would continue to take care of her kids, pay the bills and the rent, and provide meals.

The Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation seeks to alleviate those worries for individuals like Kerry. By providing financial assistance to help meet every day needs, the families affected by cancer are able to focus on the treatment, not on the worry. Perhaps even more importantly, the foundation helps to provide some normalcy and fun in what can be a very difficult time. For Kerry, that meant giving her tickets to The Polar Express so she could take her son for a fun and magical experience.

Kerry is now in remission, and she is so thankful for the assistance provided by the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation. "I don't know how I would have gotten through this without the help of the foundation."

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank Gardner Pie Company for their fundraiser last October, as well as for the pies they have donated to our Holiday Meal Program since 2009, helping us feed over 2500 people. We would also like to say thank you to Mary Ruther and her team from cars.com (pictured at right) their assistance in delivering our holiday meals in 2015, as well as the Four Leaf Clover Run, who so graciously made us one of their beneficiaries in their recent inaugural race.



*A big thank you to our referring organizations:
Akron Children's Hospital, Cleveland Clinic Akron General, Elegant Essentials,
Falls Cancer Club, Gabrail Cancer Center, Info Line, Inc.,
Stewart's Caring Place, Summa Health System, and
University Hospital Seidman Cancer Center.*



YOU CAN HELP!

Want to help but not sure how?
Interested in volunteering?

Please contact

Monica@stephencomunale.org
or at 330-835-5985 to find out how
you can get involved!

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SAVE THE DATE FOR “THE EVENT!”



please join us and help celebrate our 10th anniversary of giving at:



THE EVENT
10.01.16

with special entertainment: THE SPINNERS

mark your calendars and look for more information to come on this wonderful event.



for more information about our foundation, call 330.835.5985 or visit stephencomunale.org

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330.835.5985 or info@stephencomunale.org