

www.stephencomunale.org

Do you have an updated mailing address, email address or wish to be removed from our mailings? Please let us know! 330.835.5985 or info@stephencomunale.org



**COMMUNITY COLLABORATION**

Twice a year, the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation hosts a breakfast to bring professionals together who work directly with individuals and families in the Summit County community who are battling cancer. All of these incredible professionals represent many different organizations and hospitals in our community, all of which refer individuals and families to various

Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation programs throughout the year. The purpose of these breakfasts is to enjoy some face-to-face collaborative time together, share what each organization has coming up, best practices, lessons learned and to get to know one another a little better. Together, we can better help those in our community who are battling cancer. Those in attendance include professionals from the following hospitals and organizations: Akron General Medical Center, American Cancer Society, Camp Quality Ohio, Cuyahoga Falls Cancer Club, Haven of Rest Ministries, Hospice of Visiting Nurse Services, Summa Health System and Stewart's Caring Place.

*Thank you for the lovely breakfast and a chance to share... what a great group of people.*  
- Tess Seeman, LSW, Hospice on Ridgewood

*I would love to attend your breakfast in October. I referred a cancer patient to Stewarts Caring Place as a result of the previous meeting.*  
-Myra Schneider, LSW, Harvest Home, Haven of Rest

**BOARD MEMBERS**

- Rennick Andreoli - *Chairman*
- Amanda Comunale - *Vice Chrmn*
- John A. Comunale - *President*
- Steve A. Comunale
- Julie Deane
- Kevin H. Fink
- Nicholas George
- Ruthie R. George
- Dennis C. McCluskey, MD
- Dale Ruther - *Treasurer*
- Susan B. Schoellkopf
- Monica Stevens - *Secretary*

**STAFF**

- Marisa Hoffmann - *Associate Director*

Wishing You and Yours a Happy and Safe Holiday!!

STEPHEN A. COMUNALE, JR. FAMILY CANCER FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 13805  
Akron, Ohio 44333



NON PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
AKRON OH  
PERMIT #286

# Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation

www.stephencomunale.org

WINTER 2011

## FAREWELL DEAR FRIEND

Rennick Andreoli - *Foundation Chairman*

The Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation joins the Comunale family and the Greater Akron Community in mourning the death of Jane Comunale. Jane will be remembered for turning tragedy into triumph as a co-founder of the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation. Jane and her husband, Steve, served as Board Members since the Foundation's inception in 2006.



Steve and Jane Comunale

A child's terminal illness changes a parent's life forever. With the death of her beloved son, Stephen, Jane, her husband and the entire Comunale family set out to positively change the lives of children and parents dealing with the challenges of cancer.

For many, the loss is incapacitating. Despite the magnitude of her loss, Jane found the strength to use her son's death as an inspiration. The Foundation has continued to honor the memory of Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. as well as his aunt, Amy Comunale Klein. Jane would spend an entire year planning every detail of THE EVENT, our signature benefit that supports our Foundation's giving.

Every individual's circumstances differ and so do their needs. The Foundation's mission is to react quickly to alleviate a family's day-to-day financial burdens. Jane used her loss to make a better future for others. The Foundation gives hope, support, and a helping hand to satisfy basic needs in order to allow families to fight cancer and live in a better present.

Jane taught those that knew her about love,

laughter, and loss. By example, she taught a community how to lose what you love most in the world and yet continue to forge a better future for others.

On a personal note, I more than anyone owe a large debt of gratitude to our Jane. It was Jane, with Steve's help, who changed my life forever when she introduced me to my wife Dee Dee. The four of us were in each other's weddings, took disco lessons together in the 80's, and were there for each other as we dealt with tragedy.

For five years, the Foundation was Jane's passion. We will continue to be a source of support for families on the cancer



journey and we ask for your support. A contribution of \$1,000 - \$1,500 helps fund a family. Any donation, large or small, will make a positive difference in the lives of others who are battling cancer. Thank you for your generosity!

The Foundation will continue its works to help families on the cancer journey.

*Rennick Andreoli*  
Rennick Andreoli  
Foundation Chairman

Donations can be made online at [www.stephencomunale.org](http://www.stephencomunale.org). Simply click on the "Donate Now" button, located on the Foundation's homepage.

5TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY



### 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.

The Foundation now lives in memory of both Amy and Stephen.

Read more about these wonderful people at: [www.stephencomunale.org](http://www.stephencomunale.org)



## Foundation Programs Are Stronger Than Ever & Touching More Lives!

**Individual Grant Giving:** A program offered every week of the year! As of October 15, 2011, 153 grants of financial assistance have been provided to local individuals and families in our community who are battling a cancer diagnosis this year. A year ago, 104 grants had been provided local individuals and families. The Foundation will continue to be a source of hope and support, and we certainly hope to share with you again in 2012 that the Foundation has been able to continue helping even more individuals and families than ever before.

What have some of our recent Foundation grants helped with?

- Grocery and gas assistance
- Clothing assistance
- Window air conditioning units during the hot 2011 summer
- Prescription costs
- Installation of a wheelchair accessible ramp
- Transportation
- Rent/Mortgage payments
- Utility assistance

### 2011 Summer Horse Camp for Kids

**Touched By Cancer:** In partnership with Victory Gallop, Buffalo Therapeutic Riding Center, and many wonderful volunteers, the Foundation was able to send 32 children to horse camp this summer. Horses were a true passion of Stephen's, so it is now part of the Foundation's mission to share that same love of horses with many other children to help foster their growth and development.



### 2011 Back-to-School with Confidence Program:

In early August 2011, the Foundation provided 47 local children touched by cancer with new IVAR backpacks, school supplies and Payless Shoe Source gift cards. We were able to assist 17 more children this year, and we hope to increase the number of children that we can help in 2012!

*"We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful foundation in our community! Dealing with cancer and all of the ugliness that can go along with it seems a little brighter when people are willing to help others in a time of need! Bills seem to pile up so fast when one person is "down" for months on end. All this kindness from perfect strangers still amazes me!"*

- 2011 Grant Recipient



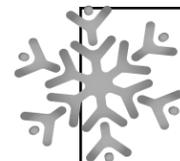
The Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation was delighted to participate for its third year as a charity partner of the Akron Marathon. Congratulations to all runners on a job well done and an energized thank you to the Akron Marathon staff and volunteers. Our 2010 top running fundraisers were: **Vince Marchetta, Brian Hoffmann, Mark Hoffmann, Ruthie George and Darrell Weenink!** These runners helped raise more than \$3,000 for the Foundation! Way to go runners and thank you so very much!!

A special thank you also goes to **Jelly Belly** and **Ken Hanson** of the **Jelly Belly Pro Cycling Team** for providing

Jelly Belly Sport Beans to the Foundation to distribute at the Foundation's Health and Fitness Expo booth the day before the Marathon. The sport beans made our booth quite popular!

### Recent Fundraisers! Thank you to all who organized and/or participated in the following Foundation Community Fundraisers!

- Akron Aeros ~ Foundation Night at the Aeros Game, June 16, 2011
- Montrose Chick-fil-A, June 23, 2011
- PGA Tour's Bridgestone Invitational ~ Tickets for Charity, August 3-7, 2011
- Savoir ~ Faire Event Planning and Florist, October 11-31, 2011



## THANK YOU TO OUR 2011 HOLIDAY MEALS PROGRAM SPONSORS!



This holiday season marks the third year of the Foundation's Holiday Meals Program, which provides complete holiday meals to local individuals and families who are battling cancer during the Thanksgiving and December holidays. Over the last three years, more and more of the delicious holiday food is being donated by local businesses and individuals, so this holiday program is truly a gift given by so many from throughout our community! During the 2011 holidays, 76 complete holiday meals will be distributed to families identified by our Foundation, local hospitals and cancer-related organizations with which we collaborate on a regular basis. Holiday gifts and cards will also be provided with the December holiday meals with the hope of providing additional holiday cheer this December.

### How you can help this Holiday Season!

The Foundation is accepting the following Holiday Meal donations through Tuesday, December 13th.

- Cans of Whole Kernel Corn (1LB 13oz)
- Cans of Cranberry Sauce (NET WT 14oz)
- Family Friendly Holiday Gifts (please do not wrap gifts).  
Examples: Family Board Games, Children's Board Games, Ginger Bread House Kits, Puzzles, & Card Games.
- Homemade "Happy Thanksgiving" and "Happy Holidays" Cards!

All holiday donations can be dropped off at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn front desk.  
3180 West Market Street, Akron, OH 44333.

*Thank you for your generosity and happy holidays to all!*



### UP-COMING COMMUNITY HOLIDAY MART

Join us Monday, December 5th at Bravo Restaurant (Summit Mall) for the **2011 Holiday Mart**, benefiting the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation! Local artists will be selling fantastic pieces, from jewelry to sweaters and much more! A portion of everything sold will benefit the Foundation. Be sure to stop in to see us and cross some of that holiday shopping off of your list!!

**Monday, December 5, 2011**

12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Bravo Restaurant - Fairlawn**

3265 W Market Street  
Fairlawn, Ohio 44333



**Shulan's Jewelers 90th Anniversary Raffle**  
~ **Through December 15th!** This incredible anniversary raffle is still going on through December 15th. Stop in Shulan's today, or contact the Foundation office, to purchase your raffle tickets for just \$10/ticket and enter yourself into the running to win a *\$17,000 bracelet!*



### 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.

info@stephencomunale.org

P.O. Box 13805  
Akron, Ohio 44333  
Tel: 330-835-5985  
Fax: 330-835-5978

The Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation is a 501c3 organization.

© 2009 Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation All rights reserved.