



About the Foundation

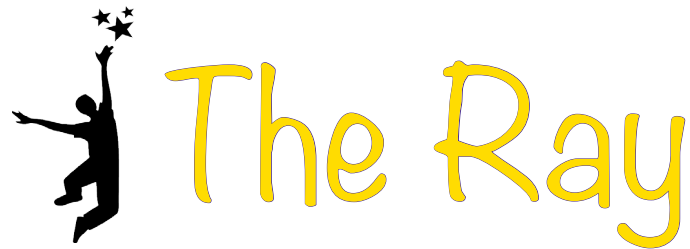
In February of 2006, we were founded in Akron, Ohio by the Comunale family and their close friends to honor the memory of Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. who fought a courageous battle against cancer. A year later, his aunt Amy Comunale Klein was diagnosed with cancer. Then in 2011, Stephen's mother Jane lost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

Like us on facebook and Instagram plus logos



Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation
Fall 2017

Dear Friends,

2016 was a great year for the Foundation, but we have so much more to do. Our biennial event was over the top. What a success—we raised a million dollars! Hats off to our donors, and to everyone who helped in any way—thank you again. Now in 2017, I'm happy to report that our grants have already increased over 2016.

Despite new technologies, new understanding, and the tireless efforts of physicians and researchers around the country—including those people right here in Summit County—cancer is not going away. In fact, the American Cancer Society estimated that 66,000 new cases of invasive cancer would be diagnosed in Ohio last year.

That's why what we do at the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation is so important. Since its inception, we have given \$1.7 million and assisted 9,500 people. Because cancer doesn't just threaten the lives of individuals—it threatens the livelihood and the emotional well-being of both patients and their families.

The fight goes on at the Foundation to offset cancer's impact . . . We award money to individual cancer patients and their families, helping with mortgage, food, gas, heat, clothing, childcare and transportation costs. Last year we awarded \$260,000 through hundreds of grants to those battling this disease, and for 2017 we will award \$270,000. We provide random acts of kindness through Jane's Sunshine Fund, and goodie bags to comfort both patients and siblings. We support children whose lives are touched by cancer, underwriting summer horse camps. We sponsor art therapy projects at the McDowell Cancer Institute of Cleveland Clinic at Akron General for cancer patients and their families. We offer free mammograms, breast ultrasounds and core biopsies to qualifying women in partnership with Summa Screens. Finally, thanks to our amazing volunteers, we feed over 400 people through our holiday meal program each Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I am proud of what the Foundation has done to date, but I'm equally excited about what we will do in the future. In the coming year, the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation will continue to build its endowment and identify new ways to spread our message and our support to the community. Having lost four family members to cancer, including my son and my wife, I understand how devastating cancer can be. Through our programs, as well as evolving products and services, we will do even more to provide the financial, emotional, and mental relief needed by those navigating cancer. Today. Tomorrow. Always.

Best regards,
Steve

The Power of Art Therapy

with Amber Smith, MA, ATR-BC, PC; Board Certified Art Therapist

Thanks to the generous support from the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Center Foundation another group art therapy project made by cancer patients and their families at the McDowell Cancer Institute has been completed. The Comunale foundation has been sponsoring art therapy projects and annual patient art exhibits since 2013. Three other completed projects—Pieces of Peace, Ribbons of Courage, and

Rooted in Strength—are displayed in the lobby of the McDowell Cancer Institute. Rooted in Strength consists of a tree made from twisted wire and paper leaves. Patients and their family members were asked to decorate a leaf that symbolized strength, then the leaves were added to the tree. Nearly 70 patients and/or family members participated. The project is on permanent display in the lobby of the infusion center at the Health and Wellness Center, Bath.



The new 2016/2017 art therapy project pictured below left is called *Forging Ahead*. The project depicts a sailboat and focuses on moving ahead after treatment. Patients suggested names for the boat, then votes were collected and counted. The winning name of the boat is USS Believe.

The Foundation also sponsored materials to make a mindful necklace. Patients were asked to think of what makes them feel calm and at peace using their five senses. They wrote words such as "ride a bike," "the ocean," "children's laughter," "listening to music," and placed it in a small glass bottle. Then they were asked to decorate the glass bottle that was attached to a necklace. Patients also chose charms to symbolize what made them feel calm.

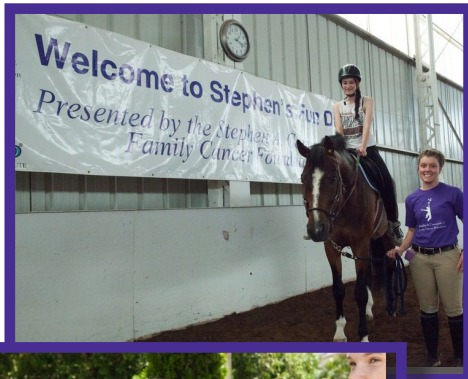
The art therapy program has had such a positive impact on patients and families. We have even had some special guests participate; pictured are members of the Kent State University basketball team taking part in a project. Patients can contact Amber Smith at the McDowell Cancer Institute if they would like to participate in future projects.



Stephen's Fun Day

Approximately 50 kids spent the afternoon at Buffalo Therapeutic Riding Center in Buffalo, NY. It was a hot day, but they had a blast doing crafts, riding horses and playing outside. Stephanie from BTRC expressed her gratitude for this event saying, "We cannot thank you enough for making this day a possibility for our community!"

In addition, we host an annual four day summer horse camp where children can groom, ride and interact with horses at Victory Gallop in Bath, Ohio, as well as a camp with Stewart's Caring Place. In 2017 we had 100 kids attend these camps.



Lots of smiles and fun for all the kids who attend our summer camps! We are thrilled to be able to provide these opportunities each year.

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!

Board Members

Stephen A. Comunale-Chairman
Rennick Andreoli
Nick Betro
Amanda Comunale-Vice Chairman
John A. Comunale-President
Julie Deane
Kevin Fink
Nicholas George
Ruthie R. George
Dennis C. McClusky, MD-Medical Advisor
Edward Newman
Dale Ruther-Treasurer
Susan B. Schoellkopf

Staff

Monica Stevens-Executive Director
Colleen Iacianci-Social Media
Kara Long-Administrative Assistant
Jodi Hoover-Editor, *The Ray*

The Ray

2016/2017 Accomplishments

•**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. Our goal is to ease the worry that can accompany paying for day-to-day necessities and financial burdens in the wake of a cancer diagnosis. In 2016 we reached over 900 individuals, and thus far in 2017 we have reached over 600 individuals.

•**Jane's Sunshine Fund:** Sunshine Fund Grants are small random acts of kindness meant to brighten the day of individuals and families that are struggling while battling cancer.

•**Sunshine Bags:** In addition to providing Sunshine bags to new patients, we also donated goody bag items for Stewart's Caring Place Hope Walk, Four Leaf Clover Run, LLS Light the Night Walk as well as Summa Health Systems Cooper Cancer and Cleveland Clinic Akron General McDowell Cancer.

•**Holiday Meals:** Our holiday meal delivery program feeds 400 people every year at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

•**Summa Screens:** We continue to provide financial support to this program at Summa Health System that provides mammograms and breast ultrasounds to low income, and under- or uninsured women.

An Evening in Havana . . .



Our biennial fundraiser held in October 2016 was the 10th anniversary of the event. Our theme was *Havana Nights*, and it was an evening of fun and entertainment, including a performance by *The Spinners*. More importantly, it was an evening to raise money and awareness for the Foundation. We raised **\$1 million**—amazing!



Helping to Light the Night

with Rebecca Hamilton

On May 21, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) held a Light the Night Walk for current and former patients of Akron Children's Hospital. Light the Night Walk takes place in over 150 communities across the country with over 1 million people participating, all with a common mission: to help end blood cancer. Family, friends and co-workers gather together to celebrate, honor and remember those touched by cancer. Walkers carry illuminated lanterns...red in support, white in survivorship and gold in remembrance and participate in an inspirational Opening Ceremony followed by a 1-mile walk. Our own Light the Night Walk will happen at Lock 3 in Akron on Sunday, October 1 at 5 pm.

The patient walk took place inside Akron Children's Hospital, where walkers received goody bags provided by the Stephen A. Comunale Jr. Family Cancer Foundation which included a branded water bottle and mints, along with various items provided by LLS. Patients were guided along the walk route by hospital staff members and volunteers, including Dr. Jeffrey Hord, the Director of Hematology-Oncology at Akron Children's. There was a drawing to win restaurant, grocery and gas gift cards that were donated by the Comunale Foundation and patients enjoyed pizza donated by Domino's.

For more information about our local Light the Night Walk, please contact Rebecca Hamilton at 216.264.5749 or visit www.lightthenight.org/noh.

Partnering with Project Ed Bear for New Program

with Susan Summerville

Since 1994 Project Ed Bear has been bringing joy to kids at Akron Children's Hospital by providing a teddy bear along with other comfort items to new oncology patients. Starting in August of 2017, Project Ed Bear and the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation joined together to provide an ongoing book and coloring book program at Akron Children's Hospital and University Hospital Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital Oncology wards. We named the program the TAKE ME HOME BOOKSHELF as each child or teen may choose the book or coloring book they wish and keep it. This serves the outpatient oncology population as well as inpatient. Due to germs being spread via shared books and coloring books we have created a safe way to enjoy both for our oncology children with compromised immune systems. We are excited about this new program!

The Foundation Welcomes New Board Member Edward Newman

Edward Newman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Summit Management Services, has recently joined the Board of Trustees of the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation. Edward grew up in Akron, went on to receive his degree from The Ohio State University, and has many years of experience in the real estate industry. He has served many positions in the community throughout the years and continues to do so with his involvement with the Foundation. We welcome Edward and look forward to working alongside him to continue our mission.



One last note . . . A big thank you to the **Lone Star Fraternity** at the University of Akron for the Chipotle fundraiser to benefit the Foundation!

Fall 2017

Thanks to Summa & Stewart's Caring Place!



Win this Dream House or \$100,000 Cash!

Building on Hope

Help us build a brighter future for cancer patients and their families. Every ticket purchased enters you for a chance to win and provides support for Summa Health and select community partners.



Buy tickets at summahealth.org/dreamhouse

\$100 per ticket • Only 5,000 sold

www.stephencomunale.org



Stephen A. Comunale, Jr.
Family Cancer Foundation
P.O. Box 13805
Akron, Ohio 44334
330-835-5985



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