

The Ray

SPRING 2022

Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation



DEAR FRIENDS,

WHEN COVID 19 STARTED, CANCER DIDN'T STOP!

While the world seemed to come to a halt during the pandemic, cancer did not. There was no stopping treatment. The Comunale Foundation kicked into high gear as so many families that were on the cancer journey were affected by job issues, loss of income, and high levels of stress. To be able to step in with the help of all our supporters and give a helping hand to those cancer patients and families and keep them afloat during cancer and Covid is the greatest blessing of all. So as we begin to pull out of this pandemic and start a new normal, let's remember those that still need help regardless of what is happening in the world. I am beyond proud that our Foundation has been able to help a record number of people and my vision is to keep exceeding those goals and helping more and more people.

Sincerely,
Steve Comunale

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

In April of 2006, The Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation was founded in Akron, Ohio by the Comunale family and 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. In August 2011, Stephen's loving mother passed away after a brave fight with cancer. The Foundation lives in memory of Stephen, Amy and Jane.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR IMPACT



28,000 people have received assistance since 2006.



10,000 Sunshine bags distributed to oncology centers in local hospitals since 2006.

\$3.3 Million granted in financial assistance since 2006.



TASTE OF HEALTH

The latest research indicates that following a plant-based diet helps your body's health and strengthens your immune system. A plant-based diet means that the majority of

what you eat comes from plant foods: fruits, vegetables, grains, beans, nuts and seeds and has also been shown to reduce your risk for many types of cancer.

In partnership with the Stephen A. Comunale Jr. Family Cancer Foundation, participants of the Summa Health Taste of Health event were given grocery kits with all of the ingredients needed to make a pre-selected, plant-based meal. Additionally, as available, fresh, locally-grown produce was purchased to construct the grocery kits. Included in the kits were also a plant-based diet cook book and literature regarding lowering your risk of cancer and cancer recurrence.



"THE EVENT" 2021 WAS OUT OF THIS WORLD

Thank you to so many friends, families and supporters of the Foundation for making our 2021 event a wonderful success.

On September 25, 2021, more than 700 guests attended "The Event" raising over \$1.5 million for the Foundation. The entertainment was "Starship". Steve Comunale, founder of the Foundation, said *"As we grow each year and raise more money, there were more and more people to help. Our goal each year is to increase our grant donations."* Looking to 2022, the Foundation will grant and distribute \$375,000. Since its initial year, the Foundation

Thank You Foundation Supporters:

- Air Enterprises
- The Employees of the SA Comunale Co.
- Anthony Meyo & Mark Smucker
- Four Leaf Clover Run, Ed Sutter
- Network For Good
- Shulan's Jewelers
- Fairlawn Rotary
- Students of King CLC Student Council
- Archbishop Hoban HS students: Dress Down Day
- Big Mike #Mackostrom Golf Outing
- Russ Swinehart Swan Dive Challenge
- Lynette Francis Lemonade Stand

has donated to over 28,000 individuals and families touched by cancer, with "The Event" being the largest fundraisers event of the year.



118
118 Wigs & Care Kits distributed by Summa Health.

65 Horse Campers, Victory Gallop Bath, Ohio, and Buffalo Therapeutic Riding Center Buffalo, NY.



65



20
20 Taste of Health Meal Kits distributed through Summa Health.

625 Grocery and Gasoline Gift Cards distributed by Cleveland Clinic Akron General and Summa Health, value of \$25.00 and more.



625
Total Value
\$16,250



\$225,000

\$225,000 distributed in 210 grants of financial assistance to cover costs of utilities, rent, mortgage and miscellaneous expenses not covered by healthcare. Total impact 760 people.

2021 IM

MEET ED SUTTER - FOUR LEAF CLOVER RUN



Ed Sutter lost two sisters to cancer. Seeing the devastation cancer causes led Ed to want to help others suffering from the disease.

With a personal love of running (he qualified for the Boston Marathon 4 times) he started

the Four Leaf Clover Run in 2016. Since then, Ed has raised over \$100,000. His annual event raises money for the Comunale Foundation, as well as Project Ed Bear and he often adopts a "Fighter" - a cancer patient battling the disease.

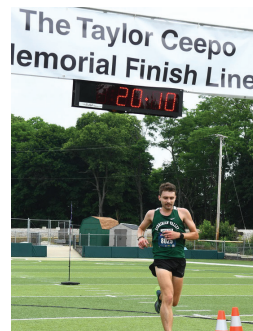
Sutter, who owns Eddie's Cheesesteak on Main, is proud of building this event, which he calls a "Magical day on the brick roads of Akron." It's magical because the race draws upwards of 500 runners and is very competitive, but it also welcomes walkers and casual runners so everyone is encouraged to participate to help those in need. "We designed the course to start at Saint V Church and school where we attended school and travels along the brick roads of Akron where we grew up." The course then finishes back at St. V, where guests can enjoy a great meal and entertainment (this year's band will be The Spasmatics).

This year the activities are set for the Cadiliac Hill Challenge on June 10 and the main race on June 11. You can get more information at fourleafcloverrun.org. This year's race will benefit the Comunale Foundation, Project Ed Bear and Stewart's Caring Place Summer Camp.

"I wanted to help people in our area. Nothing national, so I researched organizations that help kids and adults right here in Akron," said Sutter.

"I lost one sister Michelle to cancer in 2015. It really spurred me to do something. Then a dear friend Michael Sullivan passed away from cancer, which hit me very hard. Little would I know, one month after Michael my other sister, Mary would pass away from cancer too. Those are the initials on our social media #MTS MVS MAS - for those three wonderful people."

With this experience, Sutter saw how many people right in our community are struggling everyday with cancer - and we thank him for his passionate work. The Foundation appreciates the many partners for making the Four Leaf Clover Run such an amazing event. Some of the partners include Budweiser & The House of LaRose, the in-kind work of the City of Akron and Physicians Ambulance, which sponsors the Taylor Ceepo Memorial Finish Line.



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IMPACT

1,100 Art Therapy patients served in partnership with Cleveland Clinic Akron General and Summa Health.

1,100



162 Summa Screen Services including screening, diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds and biopsies.

150 Holiday Meal Boxes distributed in November and December feeding over 525 people at the Holidays.



175 Food Pantry Bags through sponsorship of the Stewart's Caring Place Stephen A. Comunale Jr. Family Cancer Foundation Food Pantry.

40 Back to School Backpacks stuffed with school supplies distributed by Akron Children's Hospital Hematology and Oncology.





**Stephen A. Comunale, Jr.
Family Cancer Foundation**

P.O. Box 13805 • Akron, OH 44334

*Please enjoy this edition
of The Ray*

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Working together to help those battling cancer!

**RECIPIENT
OF
STEWART'S
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PLACE
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AWARD 2021**

- ★ Akron Children's Hospital
- ★ Aultman Hospital
- ★ Cleveland Clinic
- ★ Falls Cancer Club
- ★ United Way 211
- ★ Stewart's Caring Place
- ★ Summa Health
- ★ University Hospitals
Seidman Cancer Center

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



- ★ Make Individual Donation
- ★ Stock Transfer
- ★ Make the Foundation the recipient of your company or school fundraiser
- ★ Volunteer

HELP IS A PHONE CALL AWAY

330-835-5985

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