



## SSCF Newsletter July 2021

### Our Mission:

To financially assist families who have experienced the death of a child by offering monetary grants to help with some portion of funeral costs.

### A REMINDER...

This summer we will mark the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of 18-year-old Christopher John Conti, I.

It is to honor Christopher's life of kindness and joy that The SonShine Charitable Fund has been established. The Conti family and the Fund's Board of Directors are inviting you to join them in the mission to show love and support to families who are similarly affected.



### WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR...

Our preliminary task has been to build up our balance so that we can guarantee grants as they become necessary. We have been blessed beyond measure by one-time donations, repeat donations and by those who have pledged to be monthly donors. Since the establishment of the Fund in 2020, we have provided grants to eight families.

Personal contact with a member of our Board, word of mouth and social media shares have been used to introduce people to our cause. We appreciate those who have visited and shared our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

On June 10 we were fortunate to be one of the 119 Chautauqua County non-profit organizations that participated in an online event called GIVE BIG CHQ (<https://www.givebigchq.org/info/faq>). During this 24-hour fundraising event more than 30 donors chose to support our Fund. We are constantly amazed at the generosity that has been shown by our local community and beyond. Thanks to all who donated on June 10.

A big THANK YOU goes out to *The Ilio DiPaolo Scholarship Fund* for their continued support and their donation during this event. (<https://iliodipaolos.com/history-of-ilio-dipaolo/>)

If you know of or are a family who needs assistance, please access our contact information using the QR code or any of the links in this newsletter.

### WHAT IS COMING UP?

As COVID restrictions seem ever-changing in 2021 we decided that a **summer raffle** would be our best option for a fundraiser at this time. Several wonderful people donated brand new items so that we could put together FIVE prize packages. You can see the prizes and all necessary information about this fundraiser on the [EVENTS page of our website](#). We began selling tickets in May and will draw for prizes throughout the summer, with the final drawing in mid-September. Tickets are not being sold online. Simply contact one of our Board members or message us on FB or via email if you would like to support us in this way.

In addition to the raffle, we are able to host a few small face to face gatherings in the upstairs space at [Demetris On The Lake in Dunkirk](#). Our first **Meet and Greet event** was on Thursday June 17. The next two are on **July 15<sup>th</sup>** and **August 19<sup>th</sup>**. These events will run from **7pm -- 9pm**. We encourage you to drop in for a few minutes, grab a snack and chat with us about our mission and what we've done so far. Raffle tickets will be available at these events. We'd like to thank the Manning family for allowing us to use their venue and for providing some tasty treats!

### WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW...

Many don't realize that average funeral costs in 2020 exceed \$7000 (<https://worldpopulationreview.com/>). Some counties offer financial assistance to needy families, but they rarely cover all the costs. Our Board of Directors believes strongly that, regardless of financial need, it is important to support families experiencing the heartache of the loss of a child (age 1-19 years.) Our grants are not based on financial need.

Donations can be made via PayPal or credit card using the link on our website:

<https://www.sonshinefund.com/donate>

As a registered 501(c)3 charity, your donations to our Fund may be tax deductible. All donations go toward defraying the cost of a funeral for a child.

Mail-in donations can be sent  
By check or money order to:  
The SonShine Charitable Fund  
8921 Shumla Rd  
Fredonia, NY 14063  
**Attention Alex Conti**

Questions?  
Email us at:  
[Sonshinecharity@gmail.com](mailto:Sonshinecharity@gmail.com)