



Newsletter

The Gene Roman Family Foundation Newsletter
May 2005 Issue 2

Third Annual Fundraiser Dinner Smashing Success

Thank you to everyone who attended and/or supported the Third Annual Gene Roman Family Foundation Fundraiser Dinner on Friday, April 22. It was a tremendous success. Over 120 people joined us for a delightful evening that included socializing, dinner, dancing, and over 50 raffle prizes. We were lucky to have had so many generous prize donations, including golf, massages, numerous gift baskets and airline tickets, and we also held a "50/50" raffle.

As I had the privilege of speaking to the group, I realized how very blessed we are to have such a diverse group of friends and family supporting our efforts. We were surrounded by our family and by friends both old and new, who have touched our lives in so many ways...friends from high school, friends from church, friends we worked with, friends from organizations we belonged to, friends of our family members, and family members of our friends, friends who are cancer survivors, people the Foundation has assisted, representatives from organizations we support, and this year...seven special friends who also lost spouses to cancer within the past year. Thank

you, on behalf of myself and the entire Gene Roman Family, to each and every one of you for joining us. Gene's dream was to grow this annual event to 500 attendees, and we will work diligently to accomplish that in his memory. As you make plans to attend next year, please be sure to bring your friends and family with you. Let's see how quickly we can reach that 500 goal! Our Fourth Annual Dinner will be held on Friday, April 21, 2006, again at Royalty West.

As I sent out the thank you notes this year, I wished that I could write a personal note to each of you, but my handwriting is terrible and my arthritis doesn't allow me to write for long periods of time. I am truly overwhelmed by your generosity, love, and support. As I mentioned at the dinner, Gene did not ask for very many promises before he died...but he did ask me to keep this Foundation active. That was a promise I was happy to make...and I thank you, from the very bottom of my heart, for helping me keep that promise. May God bless each and every one of you.

Sandie Roman

It's never too early to plan ahead...

**The Fourth Annual
Gene Roman Family Foundation
Fundraiser Dinner
will be held on Friday,
April 21, 2006**

Plan to attend...and bring your family and friends

GOLF OUTING August 13, 2005

We're excited that Jimmy and Sandy Wolframski are organizing a Golf Outing to be held on Saturday, August 13, 2005 at Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park, Illinois. All profits will be donated to the Foundation. They promise a fun day with golf, prizes, and a pizza and beverages party afterward at Sweet Spots, the golf course lounge. Tee times start at 11:00 a.m. Cost for golf and dinner is \$110, golf only \$90, or dinner only \$25. Join us for whatever you can! There will be raffle prizes and a 50/50 raffle, too.

For more information, or to reserve your tee time, e-mail Jimmy at j_wolf_23@yahoo.com or Sandy at wolframski@yahoo.com, or call 815-464-4104.

They are also looking for donations for raffle prizes, sponsors for individual holes, for a hot dog/beer cart, and other items. If you are able to help with any of these items, they would LOVE to hear from you.

INTERESTED IN HOSTING A FUNDRAISER? WE CAN HELP!

Although The Gene Roman Family Foundation officially sponsors only one fundraising event each year, the Annual Fundraiser/Birthday Celebration Dinner held in April, we are always happy to assist others who may want to host an event which donates its proceeds to our foundation.

A golf outing is being held on August 13 (see information above).

One of our friends donates the profits from the vending machine at his company to the Foundation.

Another group of friends hosted a Candlelight Bowl and donated the profits to the Foundation.

By holding a fundraiser and donating your proceeds to the foundation, you help us to expand our donors base, which allows us to help even more people.

If you have an idea for a fundraiser to be held with your friends, don't hesitate to contact us if we can help. We are always happy to receive donations!

OUR MAIL

Just to share some of the cards and letters we get. They warm our hearts, and hopefully, yours too.

From people who donate to the Foundation

"Gene lives on through this terrific foundation."

"Gene was so very special in many ways, but his caring for others less fortunate financially was awesome. How nice that we can all help to see that continue.....we're thrilled to be a part of this."

"Carrying on Gene's wishes is something I am so glad to do."

"...we appreciate how difficult it is to carry on Gene's vision without him. Just knowing the influence he left on others is inspiration to all of us..."

"...Gene Roman was a special man, and his loving spirit lives on in positive and meaningful ways."

From one of the companies who donated a raffle prize for the dinner:

"It is our honor to assist causes like this...we are thankful for the work you are doing. Nothing could please us more than to have an opportunity to contribute to such a worthy endeavor."

From people we have assisted:

"Gene Roman must have been a very special person to leave such a legacy behind him.

"I am so sorry for the loss of Gene Roman, but please know that his memory is strong through your Foundation. He must have been a very special person and we are lucky there were people like him in the world who have made it a better place for others in need."

"How does one even begin to thank complete strangers for their generosity...how wonderful your Foundation is to help others...the world is a truly a better place because of people like you!"



OUR MAILING LIST

We appreciate your interest and support, however, if you would like to be removed from the mailing list, you can send your request to sandie@generoman.org, or write to us at 18201 Glen Swilly Circle, Tinley Park, IL 60477. Thanks!

YOUR DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations...here's what we're doing with them. Since our November newsletter, we have helped:

1—A father of five who was in need of a kidney transplant and needed help with living expenses while he was unable to work.

2—A man who was unable to work while he recovered from surgery performed to relieve abdominal blockages due to cancer.

3—A man with liver cancer who received a liver transplant. Even with insurance, his deductibles and co-payments were causing his family financial hardship.

4—A mother of three young children whose breast cancer has returned for the third time and has now metastasized to her brain. Her prognosis is uncertain at this time. Her husband also has a severe lung disease and neither of them are able to work.

5—A lady with Stage IV lung cancer. She was diagnosed in November and her insurance benefits are almost at their maximum.

6—A 41-year-old man with esophageal cancer. He has young daughters and needed help with the co-pays for his medications.

We continue to support The Jennifer S. Fallick Cancer Support Center in Homewood, Illinois. They are an incredible organization that offers programs, services, education, and support to people with cancer, their family members, caregivers, and friends. All services are provided at no cost to the participant and the Center is supported by donations. This year, we are sponsoring several of their programs, including Cancer 101, Kids Family Fun Program, a 12-week Support Group for patients and caregivers, and an 8-week Children's Group. We also contributed money and we purchased some books for their library.

We also continue to distribute two books that Gene and I found very helpful during our cancer experience, as well as one I personally found helpful after Gene's death. If you know someone newly diagnosed with cancer, or someone who is grieving, we will be happy to provide copies of these books.

As always, all of these things are possible because of *your* continued support. Thank you...on behalf of the Foundation and the people we have helped.

IN MEMORY....

We have received donations in loving memory:

From Bill and Laura Voss, in memory of her father, Thomas J. Akers, Sr.

From Tina Robanske, in memory of her grandma, Julie Bartoli

From Wray Karczewski, in memory of her husband, Felix Karczewski

From Betsey Cogliani, in memory of her father, John James Hornstra

From Jenny and Carl Schissler, in memory of her father, John Freelove, and in honor of what would have been the 40th anniversary of her parents, Carol and John Freelove.



Remember, if you would like to make a gift to The Gene Roman Family Foundation in memory of someone, or in honor of an occasion, such as a wedding, birthday, anniversary, graduation, etc., please send your contribution to:

The Gene Roman Family Foundation
18201 Glen Swilly Circle
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Be sure to indicate in whose memory/honor you are donating, and the occasion if appropriate. Let us know to whom we should send a card, letting them know a gift has been made. We'll take care of the rest—and we'll put the gift to good use. Thanks!

REFERRALS WELCOME

Just a reminder—if you know of someone with cancer who is struggling financially and you think the Foundation might be able to help them, please let us know. Cancer is such an expensive disease—even with insurance the deductibles and co-payments can often burden the average family.

Many of the people we have helped have been referred to us by our supporters and we will consider all requests. E-mail us at sandie@generoman.org, or contact us by phone 708-532-4454 or regular mail, 18201 Glen Swilly Circle, Tinley Park, IL 60477, Attn: Disbursement Committee.



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Foundation
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IN LOVING MEMORY
GENE ROMAN
April 23, 1947—May 18, 2004

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

This is the second issue of our semi-annual publication, The Gene Roman Family Foundation Newsletter. We hope you find it interesting and informative. Our goal will be to keep you up-to-date on what's happening with the Foundation—what we're doing, who we're helping, and upcoming events. Your comments and suggestions are welcome at any time.

The Gene Roman Family Foundation is a charitable non-profit corporation founded by Gene and Sandie Roman in 2003, shortly after Gene was diagnosed with cancer. Unfortunately, Gene passed away in May 2004, but we are proud to carry on the work that was his dream – assisting people who are fighting cancer and experiencing financial hardship.

Our goal is to raise money to directly help *people* without deducting the large salaries and administrative expenses that are sometimes involved in larger organizations. We are proud to say that we have been able to help many individuals who may not have had any other source of financial assistance. We also support organizations that offer services and support to cancer patients and their families at no cost and are supported by donations. We are staffed entirely by volunteers. No portion of any donation is used for salaries, nor was any portion ever used for any of Gene's expenses or treatments. Your gift to The Gene Roman Family Foundation, a 501(3)(c) corporation, is tax deductible and will allow us to continue with our goals.

Our logo was designed by Kevin Kapala. The Roman column symbolizes Gene's strong character and strength in his battle with cancer and represents the support one can find from family and friends. The bright sun symbolizes the hope that is within all of us. It also reminds us that a life threatening illness makes one appreciate everything more; the sun shines brighter; the grass is greener, etc. The rays coming off the sun symbolize the family's outreach to others.

We at the Gene Roman Family Foundation are extremely proud of the work that Gene began and that we carry on, and we are especially grateful for all of our wonderful family and friends who have so generously contributed to our goals. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
