



Newsletter

The Gene Roman Family Foundation Newsletter
May 2016 Issue 24

YOU DID IT AGAIN!

Once again we're excited to announce that our Annual Gala Event and Fundraiser was a smashing success!

Over 135 people gathered for our 14th annual event at Georgio's in Orland Park on Friday, April 29 for an evening of good fellowship, excellent dining, great entertainment and lots of fun...all for a good cause. We raised over \$21,000 for The Gene Roman Family Foundation, which will allow us to continue to help cancer patients who are in difficult financial situations.

After dinner, attendees had fun dancing to their favorite music and participating in...or watching...dance contests and answering trivia questions. Prizes were awarded for the contests and the trivia.

We again featured a fabulous array of raffle prizes. Approximately 50 baskets in the regular raffle included such things as restaurant, grocery, retail, and spa gift cards, Vera Bradley products, golf greens fees, theater tickets, toy baskets, Chef for A Day certificate, golf accessories, baby baskets, chocolate lovers basket, a hotel overnight, tickets to sporting events, autographed sports photos, autographed books, wine baskets, household décor, gardening baskets, and more.

Our Grand Raffle prizes included a

Our Grand Raffle prizes included a golf bag and balls, a golf GPS and balls, a Southwest gift card, two iPad minis, a Deluxe White Sox package, and a Brookfield Zoo family package.

We received many comments and compliments on the venue, the food, and the entertainment and we're thrilled that so many people had such a good time while supporting the work we do.

Last year, we set a record for the number of people we've helped. This year, we beat that record—we were able to offer assistance to 52 individuals! Since our inception in 2003, we have helped over 325 individual cancer patients and distributed nearly \$300,000. Our annual event is our major source of funding and we appreciate our loyal supporters who make it possible for us to continue to help cancer patients. THANK YOU to each and every one of you who believe in our mission and support us in what we do. We could not do it without you.

If you attended our dinner, we hope you had a wonderful time and will return next year and bring your friends. If you missed it, please plan to join us next year. Watch your email for the 2017 date. If you want to be added to our email or regular mail list, please let us know.

THANK YOU TO OUR RAFFLE PRIZE DONORS

Thank you to the following businesses who so generously donated prizes to support our 2016 raffle. PLEASE utilize these businesses whenever you need any of the services or products they offer. If you need further contact information, please email us at romanfoundation@yahoo.com. We'll be happy to put you in touch.

AMC Theaters, Ambrosino's Italian Market, Arrenello's Pizza, Aurelio's Pizza Frankfort, Aurelio's Pizza, Mokena, Beggar's Pizza, Body Tech Total Fitness, Bonefish Grill, Carol Van Ostenburg - Calming Touch Massage, Capri Ristorante Italiano, Charles Morris Salon, Chicago Bears, Chicago Cubs, Chicago White Sox, Chicago Wolves, Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant, Chipotle, Creamery New Lenox, Egg Cetera, Fox's on Wolf, Golden Shoes, Green Garden Country Club, Heinie's McCarthy's, Jenny's Southside Tap, Legend's Bar & Grill, Lou Malnati's Pizza, Lume's Pancake House, Mariano's Fresh Market, Marriott Theater in Lincolnshire, Chad Fox - Merrill Lynch, Nancy's Pizza, Nick's BBQ, Noodles & Co., Oberweis Dairy, Original Pancake House, Panera Bread, Papa Joe's Italian Restaurant, Patio Restaurant, Pop's Beef, Posh Salon by Nancy, Quality Inn Orland Park, RoccoVino's Italian Restaurant, SkinTrust, Stoney Point Grill, Target New Lenox, Target Orland Park, Target Tinley Park, Tin Fish Restaurant, Together We Cope, Walt's Food Center, White Water Canyon, Willow Run Golf Course.

Thank you to *Dean Koontz and John Lescroart* for donating autographed books.

Thank you to the following individuals for their prize donations: *Ruth Aguilar, Denise & George Azizian, Gerry & Alex Berzins, Lisa & Chris DeAngelis, Jackie Derbyshire, Jeff Felde, Mike Feminis, Cindy & Jay Hill, Angela & Mike Isbell, Sherry & Dennis Jones, Vicki & Ernie Lamm, Bob Martino, Sandie & Al Peccia, Kim Redek, Michele Roman, Sara & Bill Sieczkowski, Lisa & Rob Slovin, Judy & Tom White, Lenore & Len Wiencek, Sandy & Jimmy Wolframski.*

Thank you to *SOUND SONIC DJs*, who provided the evening's entertainment.

THANK YOU LET'S POLKA U.S.A. CLUB

Thank you to Let's Polka U.S.A. Club for their generous contribution, and to Bernie Locke and Theresa Bolf, Polka Club members and longtime Foundation supporters, for nominating the Foundation to receive the club's annual charitable donation. Keep dancing ladies!

THANK YOU ESSENDANT FOUNDATION

Thank you Essendant Charitable Foundation for their generous contribution, and to Jeff Felde, their employee and Foundation supporter, who applied for this grant. If your company has a similar program and you would like assistance applying, please let us know. We will be happy to help.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Many volunteers are involved in making our annual dinner a success, from soliciting prizes to selling tickets, setting up the night before, taking pictures, handing out prizes, leading dance contests and more. We also appreciate our website manager, Board of Directors, and Disbursement Committee. Thank you Alex Berzins, Gerry Berzins, Joe Cannon, Malise Gallardo, Lori Greene, Cindy Hill, Emily Hill, Jay Hill, Nick Hill, Angela Isbell, Ron Kotas, Kristin Lux, Al Peccia, Michele Roman, Jake Slovin, Rob Slovin, Sarah Slovin, Jimmy Wolframski.

THANK YOU!

UNUSED GIFT CARDS?

Do you have gift cards that you aren't going to use? Donate them to the foundation and we will pass them along to families in need. Gas cards, grocery cards, and stores like Wal-Mart or Target are especially useful. If you're not sure if we can use your extra cards, email us at romanfoundation@yahoo.com. Thank you!

IN LOVING MEMORY...

We have received donations:

In loving memory of **John Freelove**, from Jen & Karl Schissler

In loving memory of **Walt Schissler**, from Jen & Karl Schissler

In loving memory of **Joan Schissler**, from Jen & Karl Schissler

In loving memory of **Jim Cornelison**, from Jen & Karl Schissler

In loving memory of **Pat Kotas**, from Ron Kotas

In memory of **man**, from Jeff Phil-



loving **Gene Ro-**
Susan &
lips
loving

In memory of **Margaret DesForges**, from Sandie & Al Peccia

In loving memory of **Beth Janick Seaman**, from Sandie & Al Peccia

In loving memory of **Ronald Buchnat**, from Ursula Buchnat

In loving memory of **Edith Olsen**, from Laura & Doug Olsen

In loving memory of **Edith Olsen**, from Christine Zacny

In loving memory of **Edith Olsen**, from Sandie & Al Peccia

In loving memory of **Edith Olsen**, from Cristina & Michael Lynch

In loving memory of **Beth Janick Seaman**, from Madeline Janick

In loving memory of **Robert C. Jackson**, from Lynn & Jack Jones

YOUR DONATIONS

Since our November newsletter, we've:

- Helped with gas and transportation for a woman with lung cancer
- Paid electric bill and car insurance for a single mom with Stage III breast cancer
- Helped with rent for a widowed mother with appendiceal cancer
- Helped with gas, parking and utilities for a 56-year-old man with liver cancer
- Helped with transportation costs for a 63-year-old man with leukemia
- Helped with rent for a 56-year-old woman with Stage III breast cancer
- Helped with rent for a young single mom with breast cancer
- Paid phone and electric bill for a 57-year-old man with throat cancer
- Helped with the cost of a jaw device for a 37-year-old man with mouth cancer
- Paid cost of child's bed for a single mom with Stage IV lung cancer
- Paid utilities for a 43-year-old single mom with breast cancer
- Paid utilities for a woman with breast cancer
- Paid for cost of Guest House (during treatment) for a 38-year-old single woman with breast cancer
- Helped with transportation for a 72-year-old man with tongue and neck cancer
- Paid utilities for a 22-year-old man with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
- Helped with rent for a 56-year-old woman with head and neck cancer
- Helped with rent for a 43-year-old man with tonsil cancer
- Helped with transportation costs for a man with mesothelioma
- Helped with rent for a 50-year-old single mom with Stage III ovarian cancer
- Paid gas and electric bills for a 60-year-old woman with breast cancer
- Made a COBRA payment for a man with pancreatic cancer
- Helped with gas and parking costs for a man with prostate cancer
- Paid a water bill for a woman with colon cancer
- Made car payments for a 35-year-old man with Hodgkins Lymphoma
- Helped with transportation for a 27-year-old woman with esophageal cancer
- Paid a car payment for a 59-year-old woman with colon cancer

RECYCLE BASKETS

Every year when we put together the prizes for the annual event, we need baskets. If you have baskets in good condition that you don't need, let us know. We will be happy to recycle them, and it saves us from having to purchase them. Thank you!

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

FROM OUR DINNER PROGRAM

The Gene Roman Family Foundation has had another amazing year with increasing numbers of people asking for our help. We are only able to offer assistance because of your continuing support. We are so grateful for YOU—for your funding, your prayers, your attendance tonight and so many other ways you help us to do what we do.

When we started this Foundation in 2003, we really had no idea that we would be able to impact so many people. Since our last dinner, we have helped 44 people, bringing our total since inception well over 300 individuals. We are proud to carry on Gene's legacy and thank you for joining us in our mission.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, and everyone involved in the Foundation, as well as all of the patients we've helped—THANK YOU! We really appreciate how you partner with us to make it possible for us to help so many people.

We hope you have a wonderful evening.

Board of Directors - Gerry Berzins, Cindy Hill, Angela Isbell, Sandie Peccia, Rob Slovin, Michele Roman

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

This is the 24th issue of our semi-annual publication, The Gene Roman Family Foundation Newsletter. We hope you find it interesting and informative. Our goal is 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 welcomed and encouraged 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 continue 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 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(c)(3) 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, friends, and supporters who so generously contribute to our goals. Thank you.