



December 2016

Dear Friends:

When I created Ben's fund, there were several goals I expected to achieve. First and foremost, to remember and honor Ben. Second to establish something meaningful that would mirror the way Ben related to those around him. Third, an organization Ben would be proud to have his name associated with. Fourth, lay the foundation that will endure and serve as Ben's legacy.

Ben's memory is the centerpiece for his fund. It is because of his ever present spirit that we are driven to accomplish our mission on a daily basis. To help kids with need, by giving them a little lift. We aspire to extend a helping hand, not a hand out.

Ben was so unassuming as he related to others. He had no agenda, he was just himself. Friendly, happy, positive, compassionate and with a willingness to help anyone, in anyway, at any time, as best he could. He expected nothing in return. Why could not a charity operate in this same manner? These traits, I hope, have become the fabric of Ben's fund. This is how we've approached our mission of helping kids with need. This I felt, was the best way to honor Ben for giving everything he had. To create an extension in death how he lived his life. There had to be more and for the last six and a half years there has been. I am privileged to be a part of this collaborative effort that is the Ben Osborn Memorial Fund. I am grateful to so many who have contributed so much to our effort and vision.



During his term as our forty-first President, George H W Bush talked about points of light across America. His idea was that we should not depend on government for solving local issues or problems, but on each other. That individuals or organizations could make a difference locally. That we could take care of or help each other. To make life a little better and a little easier. This is how I view Ben's fund: a local point of light for our small part of the world as we remember, honor and help.

With gratitude,

William D. Osborn
President/Founder



The Ben Osborn Memorial Fund, Inc.

501(c)3 Organization

[Www.benosbornfund.org](http://www.benosbornfund.org)

benosbornfund@gmail.com

Fund Receives 2016 Community Service Award



Bill and Beverly Osborn were awarded the 2016 Community Service Award by the Lake George Alumni Association for their work with the Ben Osborn Memorial Fund. Pictured from left to right are: John Currie, Ben Osborn Memorial Fund Board of Directors Bill and Beverly Osborn, Memorial Fund founders Beverly and Tom Roach of the Lake George Alumni Association



Save the Date! 7th Annual Baskets For Ben

Friday, May 12, 2017

5:00 pm



Interested in being a sponsor?

Platinum Level—\$250

Gold Level—\$100

Silver Level—\$50

The Ben Osborn Memorial Fund, Inc.

William D. Osborn, President & Founder

Contact: (518) 792-4514

Board of Directors

Bethany Birkholz

Travis Birkholz

John Currie

Chris Gill

Kathleen Gebo

Jeff Osborn

William Osborn, Jr.

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Thank you so much for your generosity. The clothes are getting a lot of use.
It is so nice to see how you have turned a horrible tragedy into something so positive. It is such a wonderful way to honor Ben's memory.
Thanks, again!

We hope you enjoy reading about what the Memorial Fund has been doing over the last year. Please consider making a donation, joining our event committee, or becoming a sponsor for Baskets For Ben. Learn more about us at:
www.benosbornmemorialfund.org.

Best Wishes For a Happy and Healthy 2017!

Our Local Partners

The Fund partners with local schools and organizations so that we can help meet the immediate needs of children.

Abe Wing Elementary School

Fort Ann School District

Fort Edward School District

Glens Falls School District

Hadley Luzerne School District

Hudson Falls School District

Lake George School District

Queensbury School District

South Glens Falls School District

Warrensburg School District

Warren/Washington/Saratoga BOCES

Adirondack Vet House

Glens Falls Family YMCA

Food Pantry Partners:

Baptist Church (Ft. Edward)

Caldwell Presbyterian

Family Service Association

Maxfield Community

Moreau Community Center

North Country Outreach Ministry

Open Door

Salvation Army

Warren/Hamilton ACEO

Washington County EOC



Elementary School Initiative

Three years ago it was brought to our attention that some of our elementary school children did not have snacks during the school day. Hunger can interfere with classroom concentration so we provide

nutritious snacks to our partner schools who request it. We also supply a change of clothing to school nurses so that any child who has an accident or illness may return to class with dignity. We also provide blankets and head lice kits as requested.

Personal & Household Care Items

Four years ago, looking for a different way to reach children, we decided to take a back door approach. We reached out to our organizational partners and asked what they needed that currently was not available to them that would benefit families with children. The feedback was personal and household items. Now almost exclusively that is what we provide on a quarterly basis to our partners.

To: The Ben Osborn Memorial Fund:

Family Service Association of Glens Falls, Inc. is grateful for the donations from The Ben Osborn Memorial Fund that has helped us help families with children.



This past quarter, we received boxes of personal items for our food pantry extra distribution. These items included diaper wipes, mini diaper packs, shampoo, laundry detergent among other essential personal care items. These items have helped families who may be struggling to budget in some of the basic necessities some months.

From the families who recently lost their homes and were placed in motels with little personal belongings, to families who only needed help once or twice a year, the donations have helped bring a little piece of mind. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kim Sopczyk, Executive Director



Dear Mr. Osborn:

Thank you for donating camping equipment for two of our 4-H Adirondack Guide members. After the first camping trip, we recognized that they were in need of the proper equipment if they were to continue in the program. Your generous donation of sleeping bags, back packs and mess kits helped level the playing field and allowed Jacob and Jamie to participate fully.

Thank you for giving them "a little lift" and for your continued support.

Regards, John F. Bowe, Issue Leader, Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H



I would like to thank you and your family for giving out this generous scholarship in your son's honor. The money I received will help tremendously with my expenses in college! Once again I cannot thank you and your family enough for rewarding me with this generous scholarship to help my future.

Show your support by purchasing Ben wear:

100% Cotton T-shirt—\$10.00

Fleece Jacket—\$35.00

Baseball Cap—\$12.00

Skull Cap—\$12.00

Small Backpack—\$12.00

"No Sweat" T-Shirt—\$15.00

Insulated Cup w/Straw—\$12.00



go to: www.benosbornfund.org

or call 792-4514



Scholarships

Every year the Ben Osborn Memorial Fund, Inc. awards scholarships to local high school students who are pursuing further academic studies or trade school training. In each of the ten school districts that the Fund collaborates with, two students are chosen to receive the \$500 scholarship. Award recipients are chosen based on submission of an essay on patriotism or service and ***"possessing the criteria of good character, charitable heart, current need, commitment to self-improvement and being service oriented."***

Interested senior high school students are invited to visit the website at www.benosbornfund.org/scholarship and download the scholarship application. Applications and essays should be directed to the students' guidance department or scholarship committees of the participating schools.



For Your Continued Support:

Adirondack Trust

Haun Welding

I Heart Radio/Curtis Lumber

Lake George School District

Mini Cooper Rally

South Glens Falls Marathon Dance

Stewart's Shops

K-9 OZZY: Four years ago I was contacted by Warren County Sheriff Bud York. He was developing a new K-9 unit. Traditionally, dogs are named after fallen police officers or in memory of distinguished long term police department employees. Fortunately there was no police officers killed in the line of duty. It was suggested that the Sheriff's department K-9 be named in memory of Corporal Ben Osborn. We, as a family, were thrilled with the idea and honored. Hence, K-9 Officer Ozzy, Badge #40 (Ben's football jersey number) joined the force. He continues to work on the K-9 team doing drug searches, tracks, K-9 demonstrations and assisting other agencies.



K-9 Ozzy with Trooper Roberts and Officer Coon

Source: WC Sheriff's Office Annual

We make every effort to thank our generous supporters. If we missed you, please accept our apologies and contact us so that we may acknowledge you in our next newsletter.



For six years the Ben Osborn Memorial Fund has delivered “a little Christmas lift” to local children in need through our local partnerships. These

children are identified by the school personnel in the eleven school districts that we work closely with. We purchase and wrap each gift individually with the help of many giving elves.



Hello!
I'm a senior at Lake George High School.
I have recently used the fund you donate to. I wanted to tell you how much your fund has helped me. I do not live with my parents and do not have any help from them. I live with my sister and brother in law. They are both extremely generous. I was skeptical of using the fund because I thought that meant I was weak. You along with my sister and her family have inspired me. I know that when I am in the position to provide for those in need, I will. Thank you again!

2016 Baskets For Ben Fundraiser

By Nadine Battaglia

The Ben Osborn Memorial Fund held their Sixth Annual “Baskets for Ben” fundraising event on May 13, 2016 at the **Mean Max Brew Pub** in downtown Glens Falls.

But, I’m jumping ahead . . . to tell this story the right way, I should begin by explaining that the planning for our spring event began one evening last autumn . You see, it takes time, dedication and a sprinkle of magic on the part of a caring group of unstoppable volunteers to pull off the unforgettable event that roared into action at Mean Max’s six months later! I would describe it as “a happening!” And in truth, we needed “a happening” owing to the tremendous level of need, right here in our own area.



Can you even begin to picture the loneliness of a child requiring eyeglasses, but has none; or a child infected by head lice, but is without medication for treatment? She may have been one of your own neighbors, but a school girl having no track shoes was so thrilled when Ben’s Fund provided them, that she took them to bed with her every night. (continued on following page)

Baskets For Ben Committee: Nadine Bataglia, Caris Bataglia, Jack Currie, Lara Currie, Terri McCabe, Hope Rosati, Dawn Vice, Roxanne Westcott, Katrina Williams and Bill Osborn.



Imagine the student who lost her mother and had only ill-fitting, dirty clothes to wear. When her school administrators contacted Ben's Fund, she was immediately outfitted with everything she needed, and upon receiving them, with tears in her eyes, said that she had no idea that anyone loved her enough to provide these things. This is what the **Ben Osborn Memorial Fund** does and what we're about.

By 5:30 p.m. on May 13th, BASKETS FOR BEN became "a happening" and Mean Max's was filled to the rafters. Auctioneer Martin Seelye, perched on a ladder navigated our auction, and delectable foods were served by smiling SUNY ADK chefs. WFFG "Froggy" 100.3 faithfully advertised our event over their airwaves, and J E Monahan Fabrications and Metals forged an impressive fire pit for raffling. Someone very lucky won a four-wheeler ATV from Progressive Motor Sports.

And a special thank you forever to the loving hearts of our community from Ben's Fund and from those children who need "a little lift."

Raffle Fire Pit Winners



Platinum Event Sponsors:

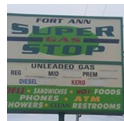
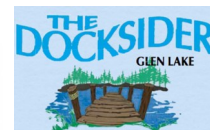


Adirondack Dental Implant Center

Gold Sponsors: Ball's Kitchen and Baths, Bay Optical, Boar's Nest, BPOE Lodge #81, Linda Duffy, First Flame Fireplaces, Glens Falls Tile, Lt. John Harder (Ret.), Tom & Bev Roach, Dan Stec

Silver Sponsors: Stephen & Joann Borgos, Patty Herrick, J. Mandwelle Capital Management, Dave & Lynn Michaels, Ron Montesi, John Strough

Restaurant Sponsors:



Thank you to our event auctioneer: Martin Seelye

Media Sponsor:



Interested in being a sponsor or providing a basket for the 2017 event?

Call us at 792-4514 or email benosbornfund@gmail.com



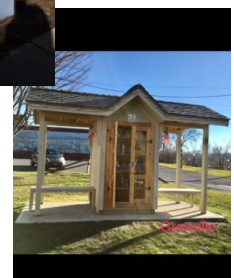
BEN'S BOOK STATIONS

“Ben’s Book Stations” are spread throughout Warren and Washington Counties and are created by technology students in collaboration with local school districts. There are presently 11 stations up and running to offer children and young adults the opportunity to read and be read to at home. The Ben Osborn Memorial Fund set out to help improve literacy in our communities by offering books on an honor system. People may borrow a book and bring it back; or if it becomes a family favorite, keep the book and it will be replaced. All books are gently used or new and have been kindly donated with preschool to school age students in mind.

AND THE STORY CONTINUES.....

The “Ben’s Book Stations” are just one act of kindness that Bill Osborn, Ben’s father, has set out to do. Making the statement that he’s a man on a mission, is truly an understatement. Bill works countless hours, day after day to give back to kids. He genuinely wants to carry on the heart and soul of his son Ben, who died in Afghanistan, forward with every action the Memorial Fund takes to support our students. Working directly with Bill Osborn over the past several years, I can speak to the generosity and commitment he has for helping kids. I have called Bill on a Friday evening to explain I had a student struggling to see the chalkboard and in need of eye glasses. This was a family with no insurance and no ability to pay. He immediately said, “call the family tomorrow and let’s get him set up for an exam and glasses.” Everything raised for the Memorial Fund completely stays in our community and goes directly back to help our students in need. We have had assistance with enrichment field trips for students who couldn’t afford to pay, a student who suffered the loss of both of his parents and wanted to go to the prom but his foster family could not pay for it and Bill himself dropped off a check at the prom shop so everything could be picked up in time to celebrate. If there is something that is impeding a student’s education or their basic needs and it is possible for the Ben Osborn Memorial Fund to assist, Bill Osborn makes every effort to try and do it. I have seen it numerous times.

Dawn Vice
Queensbury High School Guidance Chair



Ben Osborn Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 4040
Queensbury, NY 12804

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The Benjamin D. Osborn Memorial Fund, Inc. was founded to support children with “need.” **This fund was created in loving memory of CPL Benjamin D. Osborn who was killed in Afghanistan on June 15, 2010** while serving in the United States Army during *Operation Enduring Freedom*.

It is our mission and hope that the values being learned such as a charitable heart, work ethic, sportsmanship, leadership, discipline, and pride will be encouraged and passes through Ben’s legacy.

The Fund is supported by people like you in our community. All that you give goes to support our six programs. There is no rent, no utilities, no gas, no automotive allowances and no administrative fees.



*Help give a child a little
lift and become one of
“Ben’s Angels”*

Enclosed is my donation:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$40
☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$_____

*Ben Osborn Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 4040, Queensbury, NY 12804
or by credit card at:
www.benosbornmemorialfund.org*

Giving with our hearts.