



December 2019/January 2020

Dear Friends,

Ten years of giving kids a little lift. A decade of service to those least able to help themselves, our local children. As 2020 looms, we mark this milestone of Ben's Fund and what we have achieved as a charitable organization. As many know, this blossomed out of tragedy; the death of CPL Benjamin Osborn who gave everything he had in the fight against terrorism. Ben joined the Army at age 24, wanting to serve his country and do his duty as an American Patriot. Ben lost his life in the mountains of Afghanistan in 2010 but is still serving through his indomitable spirit. Who knew Ben had so much more to give; giving back now, the same unselfish way he did in life. Never expecting anything in return, just helping and giving because he believed it the right thing to do. That is true charity.



As is Ben's Fund, every penny we raise is for one purpose... to work our mission of helping local kids with need. This is achieved with the help and involvement of so many who for ten years have believed in our mission. They chose to stay involved by giving their ideas, time, and treasure. People like Sarah Mannix, of Mannix Marketing, who developed and maintains our website. Glens Falls National Bank providing multiple banking services. Stewart's Shops for generously donating to our fundraisers and supporting our seven programs. Michael Mueller, Esq. for his legal services and wise counsel. Bud York for his active support and promotion of Ben's legacy through Canine Officer Ozzy, who was assigned Badge Number 40. Nadine and Charis Battaglia and Terry McCabe for ten years of dedicated hard work to help insure the success of Baskets for Ben. The Westcotts - Mark and



Roxanne for the many roles played to help plan and maintain our growth and viability as a functioning charity. Lake George Central School District for giving back as much as they have received. Maryann Gibson Dunbar, Fran Coccozza, and Lindy Sicard, I deeply appreciate your unwavering support. So, too, Currie Associates, Senator Betty Little, Rita, Bob and Amy Whiteman, Jon and Dawn Bowers, Tom and Beverly Roach, The Birkholz Family, Lake George Steamboat Co., Dr. Robert Sharp, Pilot Knob Marina, Tom and Gladys Mainwaring, Della Auto Group, SRGT Major Roberta Burnham and Family, Rozell Industries, Freda Solomon, Bernice Burnham, B.P.O.E., Bluebird's Nest, Julie McGilpin, Renee Reardon; and Ben Wetherby for his cross country fundraising—from the beginning, you have all been there for us. (Continued on next page.)

The Ben Osborn Memorial Fund, Inc.

501(c)3 Organization

www.benosbornfund.org

benosbornfund@gmail.com

(continued from front page) Certainly there are many other individuals and organizations who have stepped in and out as active participants in the growth and success of Ben's charity. Two such people who readily come to mind are Jack and Lara Currie. They have given more than any organization could expect or hope for. So too, Cyndy Wade Wood for her help and ideas as we launched Ben's Fund, and early on, made it a stable organization ready to serve. Thank you to Katrina Williams and family for the many roles played to help insure smooth sailing through the years. Chris Gill for his donation and advice navigating the unknown waters of running a non-profit charitable organization. Don "Curly" White for his organizational talents and creation of "THE BEN" Golf Tournament. Hope Rosati and The Weller Family for breathing new life into Ben's Fund. Thank you to all.

So, a very simple formula; one strong spirit, a vision, a rock solid belief in our mission, a 110% every day commitment, and lots of effort has stood the test of time. We are well positioned as Ben's fund concludes one decade and enters a second. With the contributions of many individuals, businesses, and organizations in our local communities, I expect to share a second decade with you as well. I will stay in touch as we continue to honor, remember, and help.

Sincerely

William D. Osborn, Founder and President



***The Ben Osborn
Memorial Fund, Inc.***

*William D. Osborn, Founder and President
Contact: (518) 792-4514
www.benosbornfund.org*

*My deepest appreciation to the following individuals
for your continued involvement and support.*

*Board of Directors: Bethany Birkholz, Travis
Birkholz, Kathleen Gebo, Christopher Gill,
Jeffrey Osborn, William B and William D
Osborn, and Dawn V Neyhart*

Legal Counsel: Michael Muller, Esq.

Accountant: Kerry Girard

Bookkeeper: Patty Herrick

Website design: Mannix Marketing

Publicist: Nadine Battaglia

Newsletter Editor: Roxanne Westcott



In 2019, we were fortunate to receive a donation of a van that can be used solely for the purposes of distributing to the organizations and schools we serve. Thank you to David Osborn for his generous donation.



The holidays kept volunteer student and adult helpers busy shopping and wrapping over 300 gifts for kids in need. Lots of coats, boots, sneakers, underwear, socks plus a little something special.

From our family to yours—

Best Wishes in the New Year!



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. Learn more about us at:
www.benosbornfund.org

2019 Baskets For Ben Fundraiser

By Nadine Battaglia



BASKETS FOR BEN, our annual fundraiser, takes place every May at the lovely Queensbury Hotel. Our planning begins in icy January, and it seems only two minutes later that May arrives and a spectacular group of people gather at the beautiful “Q” filling the ballroom for our event. This year, we were amazed to take in a glittering array of baskets and gifts for auctioning by Auctioneer Mike Smith of Greenwich and were entertained by musician Kyle Lewis. Along with the sparkling baskets donated by businesses, schools and private individuals, tables of delectable foods were served by SUNY ADIRONDACK volunteers who provided their time and expertise to make the evening perfect. And once again, through hard work, a lot of love and a few miracles, Ben’s goodness continues helping children whose needs simply cannot be met by their families alone.

Ben’s Fund was created in loving memory of CPL Benjamin D. Osborn of Queensbury, who died in battle in Kunar province, Afghanistan on June 15, 2010. In nine years, **Ben’s Fund**, a 501 C3 charitable organization, has helped thousands of children in **57 schools in Warren, Washington, Saratoga and Essex Counties** throughout the school year and at Christmas. It is literally impossible to count how many children have been helped by **Ben’s Fund** through its many channels of giving – many thousands of books have already been placed in **Ben’s Book Stations** alone. Donations to 11 food pantries, clothing, children’s books, emergency health needs, head lice infection treatment kits, healthy snacks in schools, scholarships, personal hygiene kits for boys and girls, and gift giving by adopting families through the Santa Initiative keeps Ben’s Fund busy year-round.

We at Ben’s Fund are not only grateful to you, our donors, for making this continuing effort possible, but to our volunteers and to the caring educators whose watchful eyes and listening ears identify these children with need and then alert us. This all comes from the heart . . . isn’t it amazing to be part of Ben’s Fund?



Yet, even after nine years since Ben’s Fund began, there are many teachers who aren’t aware of our work! We hear of children with ill-fitting clothing or shoes, or missing other essentials but who carry on bravely, never dreaming someone is there to lend a hand. **BUT WE ARE HERE! THIS IS WHAT WE DO! THIS IS OUR MISSION!**

If you know a teacher, please tell them about the **Ben Osborn Memorial Fund**. If they see a student with need, they can reach out to us and we will help. It is our pledge to help children who experience need by providing “a little lift” in memory of Ben Osborn.



As always, our thanks go to those kind hearts who answer our calls by supporting **Ben’s Fund**. And thank you, **J. E. Monahan Metals** for again donating a remarkably crafted Adirondack Firepit and to **Ski Chairs by Shawn** for the pair of chairs, and to **HOPE ROSATI AND FRIENDS** for their enormous Wheelbarrow of Wines which we offered as special raffle items! We also thank the lovely “Q” Hotel and our sponsor, **Levi Strauss & Company**, our local print and electronic media for advertising “**BASKETS FOR BEN**”; to **FROGGY 100.3** and **LOOK TV 8** for being our kind radio and television sponsors. We thank the many businesses, schools and individuals who supplied the stunningly decorated baskets along with those who supplied our tables with gourmet delights: **Warren County Cooperative Extension**; **Baked by Jordan**; **Barnsider Restaurant**; **Bean’s Country Store**; **Bull Pen Tavern**; **Docksider Restaurant**; **Fort Ann Super Stop**; **Garrison Tavern & Restaurant**; **Hannaford Supermarket**; **Jack’s Bistro**; **New Way Lunch**; **Olive Garden**; **Panera Bread**, **Rocco’s Pizzeria of Corinth**; **Samantha’s Café & Catering**; **Sorrentino’s Deli & Market**, **SUNY ADIRONDACK**, and the Tavern.

Thank You—2019 Baskets for Ben Committee:

Nadine & Charis Battaglia, Bethany Birkholz, Rudi Brady, Jamie DeLong, Kathleen Gebo, Dori LaFarr, Terri McCabe, Dawn Neyhart, Bill Osborn, Hope Rosati and Katrina Williams



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 currently 22 book stations offering children and young adults the opportunity to read and be read to at home with promises for more in 2020. 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.



Added in 2019

YMCA Brant Lake

Find a Ben's Book Station Near You!

Brant Lake: Adirondack YMCA. **Chestertown:** North Warren High School. **Ft. Ann:** Ft. Ann High School; Super Stop. **Glens Falls:** Blue Bird's Nest; Salvation Army; Family Service Association; Abe Wing Elementary School; Jackson Heights Elementary School; Kensington Elementary School (coming Spring 2020). **Granville:** Main Street. **Hudson Falls:** Grace Park; Maple Street. **Lake George:** Usher Park; James Street. **Lake Luzerne:** River Road. **North Creek:** Johnsbury Ski Bowl. **Queensbury:** Freedom Park; Bean's Country Store; Municipal Center. **Schuylerville:** Ft. Hardy Park. **South Glens Falls:** Bluebird Road Moreau Park. **Warrensburg:** North Country Ministry Route 9.



"The more things that you read, the more things that you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss



very 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 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 student's guidance department or scholarship committees of the participating schools.

Dear Ben Osborn Memorial Fund,

Thank you so much for picking me for this Scholarship! I was honored to be chosen for this. Ben seemed like an amazing man and myself and many others hope to become an awesome person like him. I hope I can help your memorial fund by volunteering at events. I wish nothing but success for the fund in the coming years! Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Casey M.

Congratulations, Casey!

Best of luck to all graduating seniors!

10th Annual Baskets For Ben

Friday, May 22, 2020

5:00 pm

Diamond Level—\$500

Platinum Level—\$250

Gold Level—\$100

Silver Level—\$50

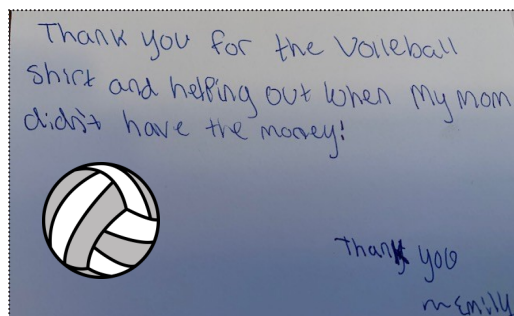




Whether you are a new donor and our friendship has just begun, or you have supported the Ben Osborn Memorial Fund for any of our ten years and are part of the growing family, **THANK YOU!** Thousands of local youth have been helped by **your** donations. Thank you for caring and taking action to help kids who “need a little lift.”

In addition to the growing family of supporters, we couldn't do this without the continued support of:

**Adirondack Trust
Adirondack Brewery and Pub
Community Exchange Foundation
C.R. Bard
Currie Associates
Dog Tag Brewery
First Flame Fireplaces
Haun Welding
I Heart Radio/Curtis Lumber
Lake George School District
Network for Good
South Glens Falls Booster Club
Stewart's Shops
The Adirondack Thunder
Wellers Auto Parts**



OUR PROGRAMS

Elementary School Initiative

Five 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 in comfort to class with dignity. We also provide blankets and head lice kits as requested.

Local Food Pantries

Six years ago, looking for a different way to reach children, we decided to take a back door approach. We reached out to local food pantries 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 11 local food pantries.

Hygiene Kits for Emerging Teens

In 2017 we unveiled our seventh initiative – Ben's Personal Hygiene Kits! The contents of these popular kits were thoughtfully designed for the needs of girls and boys. The children will find in their bag 18 items helpful for good hygiene, including a tooth brush, tooth paste, mouth wash, dental floss, a comb and brush, shampoo, band aids, a nail clipper, tweezers, cotton swabs, lip balm, hand lotion, a packet containing two bars of soap, a wash cloth, a hand towel and a package of wet wipes. The carrying bag can be re-used for other purposes, such as a book bag or clothing bag. So far, **over 1,000 Hygiene Kits** have been donated to school health offices. **New in 2019** was the addition of an abbreviated version of the popular hygiene kits distributed to elementary school students.

Holiday Giving

For nine 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 school personnel in the school districts we work closely with. We purchase and wrap each gift individually with the help of many giving elves.



Local Partners

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

School Partners:

Abe Wing Elementary School
Argyle Central School District
Bolton Central School District
Caroline St. Elementary School of Saratoga
Corinth School District
Fort Ann School District
Fort Edward School District
Glens Falls School District
Granville School District
Greenwich Central School
Hadley Luzerne School District
Hartford School District
Hudson Falls School District
Johnsburg Central School
Lake George School District
Minerva School District
North Warren School District
Prospect School
Queensbury Union Free School District
Sanford Street School
Schroon Lake Central School
Schuylerville Central School
South Glens Falls School District
The Kings School
Warrensburg School District
Warren/Washington/Saratoga BOCES
Whitehall Central School District

Organizations:

Adirondack Vets House
Camp Corral
Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H

(organizations continued)

Crandall Library
Crandall Park Beautification Committee
Double H Ranch
Family Service Association of Glens Falls
Glens Falls Area Youth Center
Glens Falls Family YMCA
Habitat for Humanity
Head Start of Washington County
Moreau Community Center
Mountainside Library
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Salvation Army
Special Olympics
Wait House
Warm The Children (The Post Star)
Warren/Washington Child Care Center
Warren County Child Protective Services
Women In Need

Food Pantry Partners:

Adirondack Community Outreach Program (North Creek)
Baptist Church (Ft. Edward)
Caldwell Presbyterian (Lake George)
Family Services Association of Glens Falls
Maxfield Community Center (Lake Luzerne)
Moreau Community Center
North Country Ministry (Warrensburg)
Open Door of Glens Falls
Salvation Army
Warren/Hamilton ACEO
Washington County EOC (Now LEAP)

“One act of kindness may not change the world but it will change someone’s world.” Anonymous

Thank you to all of the people who donate their time, talents and treasures to Ben’s Fund. Each gift, big or small, makes it possible to continue our mission of helping kids who need a little lift.

Small acts of random kindness like the \$20 bill left on our van’s front seat over the holidays lifts our spirits and is yet another reminder of the caring community we call home.



From our partners:

“Thanks for helping us help kids put their best foot forward in school.”
Kim Sopczyk, Family Service Association

∞

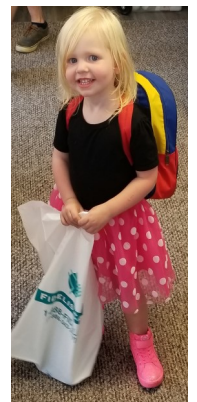
“Thank you so much for the lap top bag for our Lake George High School student. This has helped to support his organizational challenges. He loves it and is taking great care of it.” Sue Nolan, Special Ed Teacher

∞

“Thank you so much for your generosity and for making summer camp possible for Jacob.” Carol Hargraves, Preventative Case Worker, Department of Social Services

∞

“It takes a special kind of organization with people who are willing to give their time and show young students how to navigate through community service. The life lessons learned while serving your organization were priceless. On behalf of the Class of 2020 from Lake George Jr./Sr. High School, thank you for yet again, giving back to our students.” Francis Coccozza, Principal





“The Ben”2019 Golf Tournament

Golfers at the "The Ben" 2019 enjoyed a beautiful North Country autumn day with peak foliage and calls of “fore” reverberating from the foothills! **Elaine Feeney** and the staff at **Top of the World Resort** did a fantastic job running the golf tournament and providing lunch and a cocktail reception at the historic Adirondack-style inn. Each hole was sponsored by local businesses and individuals as was the silent auction at the conclusion of the tournament. A grateful “thanks” to everyone who supported the tournament and to **Mark Westcott** who organized the tournament along with the volunteers that spent their day helping to make the event a success and lots of fun for the golfers.

“Thanks for a wonderful golf outing. Congrats to all of you for all you do for our community. Keep it up!” Gina Mintzer, Executive Director, Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce



Hats Off To Our 2019 Ben Golf Sponsors:



Cynthia Suprenant



Top 10 Reasons to Support the Fund:

1. 100% of donations go to our 7 programs with no administration costs.
2. Your donation is tax deductible!
3. Hundreds of local children are helped every year.
4. We work directly with our partners to meet the immediate needs of kids.
5. We fundraise locally, support local businesses and help local kids.
6. According to National Institutes of Health, donating money makes you feel good! Really!
7. Did we mention that 100% of donations go to help kids—we don’t take salaries or pay rent.
8. Giving promotes generosity in your own children and you want to be a good role model!
9. Your donation can make the difference in the life of a child.
10. Insert your reason here: _____!



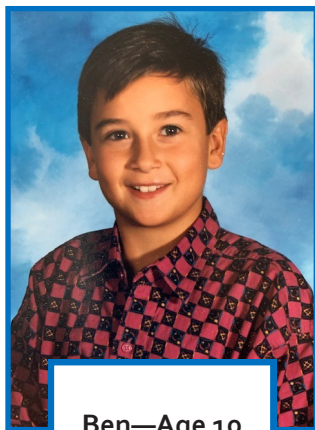
Ben Osborn Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 4040
Queensbury, NY 12804

Return Service Requested



The **Ben Osborn Memorial Fund, Inc.** was founded to support local children with need. This fund was created in loving memory of CPL Benjamin D Osborn. Ben was killed during a combat rescue mission in Kunar Province Afghanistan on June 15, 2010. This, while serving in the United States Army in the war on terror 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 passed on thru Ben's legacy.



Ben—Age 10

Ben's fund is supported by people like you in our local communities. All that you give goes to support our 7 programs. There is no rent or utilities to pay, no gas or automotive allowances, and no administrative costs. We fundraise locally, buy locally, we help locally.

"Ben was my hero long before he went to war, for what he grew to become, his character, compassion, and willingness to give."

William D. Osborn



*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.benosbornfund.org

Giving with our hearts.