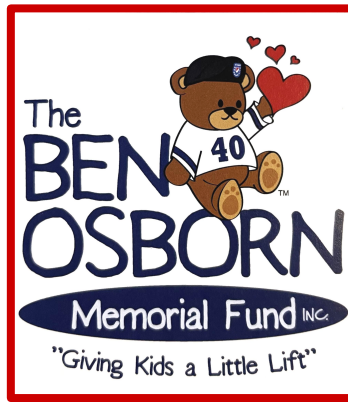




Our Newsletter for 2024-2025

Dear Friends,

Three words: structure, discipline and camaraderie. These were the concepts that changed Ben's life forever. They were learned playing football at Lake George. College and work followed graduation from high school. However structure, discipline and camaraderie did not follow him. He looked for them, but was met with disappointment. Looking back, 9/11 left an indelible mark on his psyche.



This time in Ben's life was a period of enlightenment and maturation. A time of understanding and personal growth which fostered feelings of patriotism and a need to do his part of serving his country by joining the Army. At the age of 24 Ben made a six year commitment. In doing so he found what had been missing in his life: structure, discipline and camaraderie.

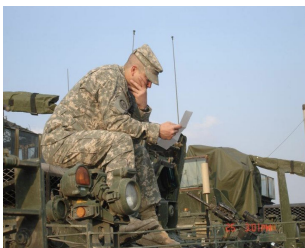
After a year of training and development Ben was deployed to Iraq as part of a Stryker unit. After a 15 month tour of duty he was sent to West Germany for an assigned year of decompression and more training for his next assignment. That came in April, 2010 when Ben was re-deployed overseas to the war in Afghanistan.

On June 15, 2010 at 1:30 in the morning, we received a phone call from Ben's wife to inform us of Ben's death during a combat rescue mission. He had given all he had to his country in our war on terror. At 1:35 am I had a vision to realize that Ben's life physically may have ended but spiritually it had just begun. That was when The Ben Osborn Memorial Fund was formed. What it would be or do at that moment, I knew not. Just that Ben had so much more to give. This was his spirit and would be his legacy and my guide to what came next.

Ben had always been good with children: kind, involved and supportive. Why could I not create the same environment for area youth? So our mission became helping local children in need by "giving them a little lift". But how was I to know which children were at risk and what their needs might be? I went where the children were: our local schools. I created partnerships and contacted people within the schools who could identify these needs. I started with Ben's alma mater and one program. This was General Giving consisting of basic needs such as clothing, school supplies and footwear.

It became on the job training, feeling my way, learning what worked and what did not. Our growth was constant in both schools involved and programs designed to reach more children.

Today we are partnering with 63 schools through nine initiatives. We help support 27 different local organizations with children as their focus. We blanket Warren and Washington counties as well as northern Saratoga and southern Essex counties. Ben's spirit has inspired all of this. As well, this has revived my life by giving me my own structure, discipline and a sense of camaraderie with all those I've interacted with over the years. What a journey. How did this happen? (Continued on pg. 2)



The Ben Osborn Memorial Fund, Inc.
501(c)3 Organization
www.benosbornfund.org ★ benosbornfund@gmail.com
P.O Box 4040, Queensbury, NY 12804 ★ (518) 792-4514

(Continued from front page)

Well, it started with a vision that was real. Something that I could acknowledge and believe in. This belief was total which lead to a commitment. Like this belief, my commitment had to be 100%. With a solid base in place, I developed a plan and created a program. Now it was time to make my plan a reality. As we evolved, it has been necessary to make minor adjustments as we grew. Most important has been to surround myself with good people to make everything work and run smoothly.

From the beginning, I wanted Ben's Fund to be a legitimate organization, one that would be recognized properly. That is why we have 501(c) 3 status, we are incorporated, and we have a working board of directors. I also wanted to remain a lean entity with little overhead and no administrative obligations. That is so all of our fundraising efforts are used to support those least able to provide for themselves, our local children.

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, Dave Lebel, Dawn
Neyhart, Jeffrey Osborn, and William B.
Osborn*

Legal Counsel: Michael Muller, Esq

Website Design: Mannix Marketing

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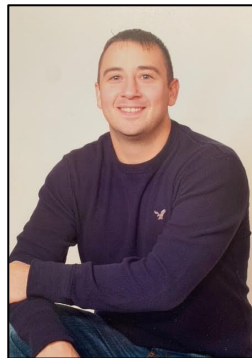
Newsletter Editor: Dave Lebel



Follow us



be a Friend



NO FAREWELL WORDS WERE SPOKEN.
NO TIME TO SAY GOODBYE.
YOU WERE GONE BEFORE WE KNEW IT.
AND ONLY GOD KNOWS WHY.

A Personal Note

In spite of the downturn in our national economy, we have actually grown in our reach and scope as we continue to remain mission strong. Each year, in some fashion, we impact the lives of thousands of kids. Some indirectly, but many very personally. Without your generosity, along with many other like-minded people, we would be little more than a shell organization. I deeply appreciate the difference all of you make to us and to those we serve. Working together we have accomplished so much as we honor, remember, and help.

With gratitude,
William D. Osborn



Rotarian Russ O'Connor



Rotarian Charla Jennings



A total of 23 Rotarian volunteers from 3 Rotary Clubs continue to service and maintain 27 Book Stations in our surrounding communities. Rotarians from Rotary Club of Glens Falls, Granville Rotary Club and Chestertown Rotary Club regularly replenish the Book Stations with about 16,000 books per year. Many thanks to teachers at local schools who have recently donated thousands of books for this Literacy Program - Queensbury Elementary School, St. Mary's Academy, Kensington Elementary School, Abraham Wing Elementary School, Big Cross School and Glens Falls High School Students' Book Drive.

Our Ten Programs

1. General Giving

Our first program was General Giving. This initiative was designed to “give kids a little lift” at a most basic level. One of our first requests was an \$8.00 sewing kit. At some point, we evolved with donating a \$1000 cello for ongoing school use. Of course much of what we help with falls between these extremes. From school supplies to footwear, clothing, musical & sports equipment, funds to cover educational trip expenses and the list goes on. This is the core of who we are and what we provide. It will never change, except to grow.

2. Holiday Giving

For twelve years the Ben Osborn Memorial Fund has delivered “a little Christmas lift” to local children in need through our local school partnerships. These children are identified by school personnel who turn the Christmas needs and wishes over to us to create Christmas magic. We purchase and wrap each gift individually with the help of many giving elves. Then we deliver these Christmas wishes to all.

3. Ben’s Book Stations

“Ben’s Book Stations” are spread throughout Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties and are created by Eagle Scouts and technology students in collaboration with local school districts. There are currently 27 Book Stations offering children and young adults the opportunity to read and be read to at home with promises for more in the next year. The Ben Osborn Memorial Fund set out to improve literacy in our community by offering books on an honor system. People may borrow a book and bring it back; or if it becomes a family favorite, they may keep the book and it will be replaced. All books are new or gently used and have been kindly donated with preschool to school-age students in mind.

Find one of Ben’s Book Stations Near You!

Brant Lake: Adirondack YMCA; Bliss Family Farm Stand

Chestertown: North Warren Central School

Fort Ann: Fort Ann Central School; Superstop

Glens Falls: Bluebirds’ Nest Preschool; Salvation Army; Family Service Association; Abe Wing Elementary School; Jackson Heights Elementary School; Kensington Elementary School; Glens Falls Youth Center; Village Green Apartments

Granville: Main St.

Hudson Falls: Maple Street

Lake George: Usher Park; James St.

Lake Luzerne: River Rd.

North Creek: Johnsburg Ski Bowl

Queensbury: Freedom Park at Hovey Pond (2); Bean’s Country Store; Ben’s Mobile Book Station; Queensbury Elementary School

Schuylerville: Fort Hardy Park

South Glens Falls: Bluebird Rd Moreau Park

Warrensburg: North Country Ministry Route 9



Visiting from Long Island, Brian reads to daughters Hannah and Addison at Hovey Pond.

**“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**



The Little Charity with a Big Heart

The more you read, the more you know.
The more you know, the smarter you grow.
The Smarter your grow, the stronger your voice
when speaking your mind or making a choice.

~Anonymous~

Our Ten Programs

4. Local Food Pantries- See list on pg. 9

Eleven 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 and would benefit families with children. The feedback was they needed personal hygiene and household supplies. Now, almost exclusively, we provide both on a quarterly basis to 11 local food pantries.

5. Elementary School Initiative

Ten 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. Now we provide nutritious snacks to our partner schools who request them. We also supply a change of clothing to school nurses so that any child who has an accident or illness may return to class in comfort and with dignity. Additionally, blankets and head lice kits are provided as requested.

6. Hygiene Kits for Emerging Teens

In 2017 we unveiled our sixth initiative - Ben's Personal Hygiene Kits! The contents of these popular kits were thoughtfully designed for the needs of emerging teens. The students will find in their bag 20 helpful items for healthy hygiene. This includes a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, band aids, nail clippers, tweezers, cotton swabs, lip balm, hand lotion, mouthwash, soap, a wash cloth, a hand towel, floss, facial tissue, wet wipes a hairbrush and a comb. The carrying bag can be reused for other purposes, such as a book or clothing bag. **So far, over 5,000 Hygiene Kits** have been donated to school health offices. Recently we have unveiled an abbreviated version of our popular hygiene kits, which are distributed to elementary schools.



7. Senior 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 school districts that the Fund collaborates with, two students are chosen. 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.benosborn.org/scholarships and download the scholarship application. Applications and essays should be directed to the student's guidance department or scholarship committees of the participating schools.

8. Sponsored Organizations- see list on page 9

Our Ten Programs

9. Ben's Bears

Our logo of a teddy bear has a history that goes back over 40 years. Ben's Mother, Beverly, lovingly used to refer to him as her "teddy bear". As Ben grew her teddy bear became just "Bear ". It was a term of endearment steeped in love, comfort and his innocence. It was a mother/son feel good phrase that made both feel special.

I would like to pass this special feeling to local traumatized children so they too can feel special, loved and cuddled like Ben. "Ben's Bears" will provide a sense of secure well being, comfort, and hope that tomorrow will be better than today. Our Bears are 24" long to provide an armful of love and a message that someone cares. We want to help local children who have been traumatized by events and situations well beyond their control, such as serious illness, loss of family or home or abuse in all its ugly forms.

As always, we wish to help in some way. This is our 9th initiative that stays within the structure of our mission to "give kids a little lift". It has expanded our reach and scope of those that we serve while lifting spirits of all involved. This will help level life's playing field to those least able to fend for themselves.

Organizations whose at risk children have experienced the love, security and comfort of Ben's Bears:

- Double H Ranch
- Warren-Washington Child Care Center
- Children's Advocacy Center of Saratoga
- Catholic Charities of Northeastern New York
- Glens Falls Hospital- Emergency Department
- Kelly's Angels

We are currently in discussions with Albany Med and Franklin Community Center to distribute Ben's Bears to the at risk children they serve. I expect only good results to come from these conversations. More to follow.



Partnering with GF Hospital
Emergency Department- Pictured are
Tom, Andi and Ray from GF Hospital
with Bill Osborn and Board member
Dave Lebel.



Ben's nephew, Ben
Birkholz, with our bears.



Pictured is Mark Mulholland
(President and Founder of Kelly's
Angels) and Bill Osborn. We have
recently partnered with Kelly's
Angels to give Ben's Bears to
children that they serve.

10. Ben's Environmental Program

A pretty fancy title for a very basic program. This program is different in that we are not helping kids, but rather asking kids to give back to their local communities. How you ask? By involving kids from our partner schools to help us pick up roadside trash - both Spring & Fall. We are beginning with 10 miles of road clean-up in Hudson Falls, Kingsbury, Glens Falls, Queensbury and Lake George. There will be more as we debut this program in October. If you see us along local roads give us space and a honk!

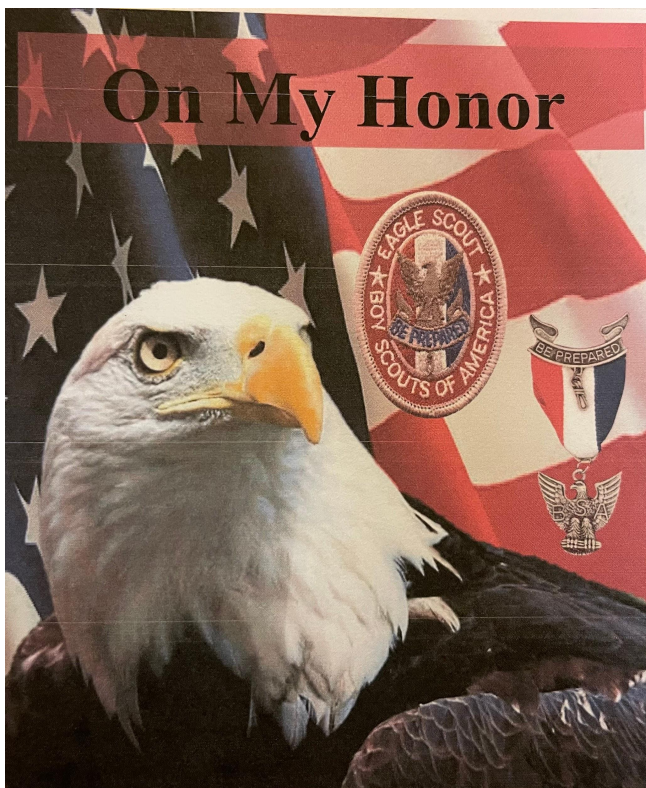


Queensbury HS Senior Ava Gonroff displaying her art work at Hovey Pond.



Queensbury HS Junior Ellie Paigo with her artwork at our 27th Book Station at QES.

Thanks to Ava Gonroff, a Senior at Queensbury High School, Ben's Book Station at Hovey Pond has undergone a stunning graphic enhancement. Stop by and check it out. The same goes to Ellie Paigo, a Junior at Queensbury High School, for beautifully updating our newest Ben's Book Station at Queensbury Elementary School.



Two aspiring Eagle Scouts from Boy Scout Troop #2 in Glens Falls built pavillion-style Book Stations for their Eagle Scout Project. First, Cameron Woodard built an outstanding Book Station at Moreau Recreation Park. Julian Campopiano followed last year with his terrific vision of the same idea at Hovey Pond in Queensbury. Both young men received the honor of achieving Eagle Scout Status for planning, executing and leading these projects. Thank you to both for their hard work and dedication to their respective projects. As Ben would say, "Mission Accomplished!".

Media Sponsors:

TV: Look TV 8

**Radio: Adirondack Broadcasting & Froggy
100.3**

**Print:
The Chronicle & The Post Star**

A Special Thanks To:

**Roy and Jamiee Ross of Ross Auctions of Athol,
New York for providing years of their talents at
Baskets for Ben**

Thank You - 2023 Baskets for Ben Committee:

Denise Lamouree, Carole Geruso, Nadine & Charis Battaglia, Bethany Birkholz, Rudi Brady, Jamie Rozell, Kathleen Gebo, Emily McCarthy, Terry McCabe, Michael & Dawn Neyhart and Hope Rosati.



Ben - Age 15

"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

Ben's Pumper Truck Dedicated to his Memory in 2010 by the North Queensbury Fire Company



OUR MISSION

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 was 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 he learned such as a charitable heart, work ethic, sportsmanship, leadership, discipline, and pride will all be encouraged and passed on through Ben's legacy. Ben's fund is supported by people like you in our local communities. All that you give goes to support our 10 programs. There are no utilities to pay, no gas or automotive allowances, and no administrative costs. We fundraise locally, we buy locally, we help locally.

SAVE THE DATE!

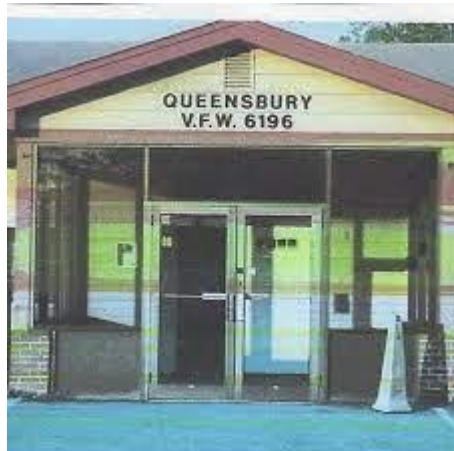
2024 BASKETS FOR BEN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

VFW Post 6196

LUZERNE ROAD, QUEENSBURY

DOORS OPEN AT 4:30 PM



*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.

Top 15 Reasons to Support Ben’s Fund:

1. 100% of donations go to our 10 programs with no administration cost.
2. Your donation is tax deductible!
3. Thousands 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 Institute 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 automotive costs or expenses.
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. Your child can benefit from this too through scholarships and hygiene kits!
11. Build a strong community for the future - a strong foundation and strong family units will build a stronger community.
12. Your generous donations can help propel a student into their future career through our scholarship program!
13. We are a local literacy program dedicated to providing well over 16,000 books per year to local kids, toddlers through teens.
14. Help promote the idea of community service from teenagers who help with our many activities
15. With your support we are able to provide love, comfort and a feeling of security to traumatized children through our Ben's Bears Initiative.

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
Cambridge 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 School District
Hadley Luzerne School District
Hartford School District
Hudson Falls School District
Johnsburg Central School
Lake George School District
Maple Street Middle School of Saratoga
Minerva School District
North Warren School District
Prospect School
Queensbury Union Free School District
Salem Central School
Sanford Street School
Saratoga High School
Schroon Lake Central School
Schuylerville Central School
South Glens Falls School District
The King's School
Ticonderoga Central School District
Warrensburg School District
Warren Washington Saratoga BOCES
Whitehall Central School District

Crandall Library
Crandall Park Beautification Committee
Derby Park (Hudson Falls)
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
Make-A-Wish Foundation
Minerva Backpack Program
Minerva Back to School Shoes Program
Moreau Community Center S.G.F.
Mountainside Library
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Operation Santa Claus
Salvation Army
Saratoga City Child Care Center
Special Olympics
Ticonderoga Area Backpack Program
Wait House
Warm the Children (The Post Star; Glens Falls Rotary)
Warren/Washington Child CARE Center
Warren County Child Protective Services
Women in Need (W.I.N.)

Food Pantry Partners (4th Initiative)

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

Our 8th Initiative: 27 Organizations We Help Support

Adirondack Vets House
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Southern Adirondacks
Camp Corral
Cornell Cooperative Extension 4H

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 fifteen years and are part of our 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:

1st All Weather Roofing Co.
Adirondack Brewery and Pub
Community Exchange Foundation
Congresswoman Elise Stefanik
Curtis Lumber
Fidelity Charitable
Glens Falls Foundation
Glens Falls Rotary Club
I Heart Radio
Jay Moulding Corp.

Lake George School District
Mary Ellen Barlow
McAvinney Builders
Monahan Metals
Nemer Ford
Network for Good
Northern Hardwoods Lumber Group
Patrick Geruso
Pirate's Cove
Queensbury Auto Mall

Renée Reardon
South Glens Falls Marathon Dance Committee
Stewart's Shops
The Jacob & Eugenie Bucky Memorial Foundation
The Miles Hodson Vernon Foundation
Touba Family Foundation
Wellers Auto Parts
W.I.N. - L.G. and The Nichols Family

SOLDIER'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.

I AM A WARRIOR AND A MEMBER OF A TEAM.

I SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND LIVE THE ARMY VALUES.

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST.

I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT.

I WILL NEVER QUIT.

I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE.

I AM DISCIPLINED, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY TOUGH, TRAINED AND PROFICIENT IN MY WARRIOR TASKS AND DRILLS.

I ALWAYS MAINTAIN MY ARMS, MY EQUIPMENT AND MYSELF.

I AM AN EXPERT AND A PROFESSIONAL.

I STAND READY TO DEPLOY, ENGAGE, AND DESTROY THE ENEMIES OF AMERICA IN CLOSE COMBAT.

I AM A GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.



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

