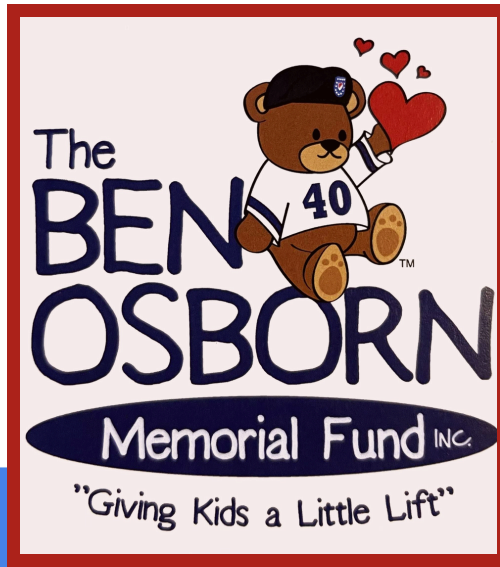




## Our Newsletter



## 2025-2026

Dear Friends,

As I start this year's Newsletter, we are nicely into our sixteenth year of operation. Our growth has been breathtaking. From one program, General Giving, to now eleven full-fledged initiatives. From one school, to over 64 schools involved in our programs. It is not just schools that benefit from our efforts: civic organizations, businesses, hospitals, multiple county sheriff departments, local food pantries, and the list continues to grow... all, very, very special.



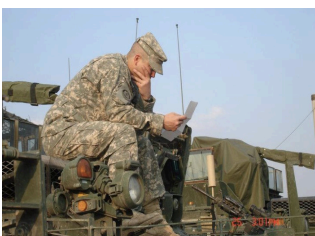
Individuals along the way have made a huge difference. Those who have been a part of our efforts are doers and difference makers. They all have contributed greatly to the growth, stability and longevity of Ben's Memorial Fund.

I am speaking of Cyndy Wade Wood, the Curry's, Jack and Lara, the Westcott's, Mark and Roxanne, Nadine Battaglia, Hope Rosati, Dave Lebel, and Ben's sister Bethany Birkholz, to mention some who have left their mark ensuring our success as a viable local charitable organization. All part of the reason we have successfully survived and prospered.

Each of our initiatives started from nothing, each has taken their own path of becoming a successful program. All contribute in their own way supporting our mission of helping local kids with need.

We are not some grand operation that swoops in and turns everyone's life around. We are but a small, local charitable organization involved in the basics of need in the lives of children. Clothing, winter coats, eyeglasses, footwear, are all basics to the well-being of everyone. Our 21 item Hygiene Kits are filled with basic items for good self-care. Reading is basic to early learning and later success. Christmas Giving... basic giving for a mental triumph on a special day. All to help level life's playing field by giving comfort and showing those we help that someone cares.

What I have written almost sounds like a farewell letter. It is not. Just reflections of how we started, where we have come from, and our present status as a stable, respected, active charitable organization. Our success has come from the time and efforts of so many dedicated people. And our local communities - I could not ask more of what has been given in support of our efforts. It has been a privilege for the opportunity to help create a better sense of community and well-being. Schools, organizations, businesses, and so many individuals have made this possible, I am grateful to all. Thank-you.



The Ben Osborn Memorial Fund, Inc.  
501(c)3 Organization  
[www.benosbornfund.org](http://www.benosbornfund.org) ☆ [benosbornfund@gmail.com](mailto:benosbornfund@gmail.com)  
P.O. Box 4040, Queensbury, NY 12804 ☆ (518) 792-4514

(Continued from previous page)

But why we started Ben's Fund is the crux of our existence. Even today, I feel Ben's spirit overseeing our operations. This gives me not only comfort but a sense of drive to stay focused, to ensure all we do is done right as we continue to grow and remain mission strong. Thank-you, Son, for giving so much to so many, 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](http://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**

**Publicist: Nadine Battaglia**

**Newsletter Layout: Maggie Goodwin**

**Newsletter Editor: Dave Lebel**

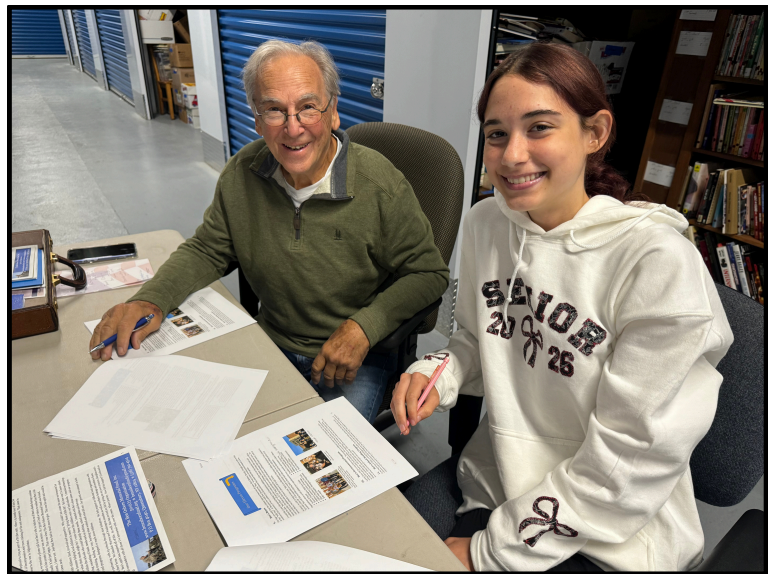


Follow us



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.



Bill and Maggie Working on This Newsletter



Rotarian Steve Borgos Servicing  
Moreau Recreation Park Book  
Station



Rotarian Dan Hazewski Making  
Repairs at Abraham Wing  
Elementary School



A total of 22 Rotarians from 3 local Rotary Clubs continue to service and maintain 30 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 and make repairs. 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, Hudson Falls Kindergarten Center, and Glens Falls Middle School.

# Our Eleven Programs

## 1. General Giving (1<sup>st</sup> Program)

Our first program in 2010 was General Giving. This initiative is designed to “give kids a little lift” at a most basic level. One of our first requests was for 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 provide falls between these extremes. From school supplies to footwear, bedding, electronics, clothing, musical instruments, sports equipment, tuition... and the list continues on and on. This is the core of who we are and what we provide as we help level life’s playing field for those least able to fend for themselves.

## 2. Holiday Giving (Founded in 2010)

We adopt children and families to ensure they realize the joys of Christmas’ wonder – that there is something to look forward to under the Christmas Tree. In addition, we purchase \$50 gift cards from Walmart and distribute 5 each to be given to the neediest kids in local high schools we partner with.

## 3. Senior Scholarships (Started in Spring, 2011)

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](http://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. The deadline for Applications is mid-June.

## 4. Local Food Pantries

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 12 local food pantries. This program is a backdoor approach to reach children whose parents are struggling.

### Food Pantry Partners (4th Initiative):

- Adirondack Community Outreach Program (North Creek)
- Adirondack Vets House
- 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 County Ministry (Warrensburg)
- Open Door of Glens Falls
- Salvation Army
- Warren Hamilton ACEO
- Washington County EOC (LEAP)



Remembering and Honoring Ben and those who served during Christmastime with a wreath on each headstone from "Wreaths Across America" at Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery

# Our Eleven Programs

## 5. Ben's Book Stations (A Literacy Program)

"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 30 Book Stations offering children and young adults the opportunity to read and be read to at home with promises of more to come 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, Glens Falls Hospital, Broad St. Commons



**Granville:** Main St.

**Hudson Falls:** Maple Street

**Lake George:** Usher Park, James St.

**Lake Luzerne:** 52 Main Street.

**North Creek:** Johnsbury Ski Bowl

**Queensbury:** Freedom Park at Hovey Pond (2), Bean's Country Store, Ben's Mobile Book Station, Queensbury Elementary School, Montcalm Apts.

**Schuylerville:** Fort Hardy Park

**South Glens Falls:** Bluebird Rd Moreau Park

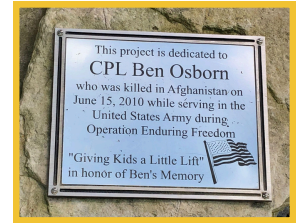
**Warrensburg:** North Country Ministry Route 9

### 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 you grow, the stronger your **voice**  
 when speaking your mind or making a **choice**.  
 ~Anonymous~



Sisters Esme, Juliette, and Bianca at Schoolapalooza in Aug. 2022 while Bill Osborn Looks On



**"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

## 6. Child Advocacy Program

This is our Elementary School Initiative, giving to our local elementary schools throughout the school year. Items such as nutritious snacks, boy's and girl's underwear, head lice kits, blankets and deodorant are provided. This is another means of reaching kids. With this program, kids can concentrate on school without worry of their comfort or dignity after illness or accidents.

## 7. Hygiene Kits Initiative (Started in 2017)

In 2017 we unveiled our sixth initiative - Ben's Personal Hygiene Kits! The reason for this program is to make it possible for all teens to have access to the basics of good hygiene health. With these kits, both boys and girls can better present themselves, smell better and feel better as they go about their daily lives. They no longer have to worry about the basics of taking personal care of themselves. The contents of these popular kits were thoughtfully selected for the needs of emerging teens. The students will find in their bag 20 helpful items for healthy hygiene.



Rotarians Chris and Nettie Delivering Hygiene Kits to Saratoga High

# Our Eleven Programs

(Continued from previous page)

This includes a toothbrush with case, toothpaste, shampoo, band aids, nail clippers, tweezers, cotton swabs, lip balm, hand lotion, mouthwash, soap, a wash cloth and hand towel, floss, facial tissues, wet wipes, a hair brush and a comb. The string bag that all of these items come in can be reused as a carry-all or book bag.



Volunteer Friends and Family Assembling Hygiene Kits at Romeo Toyota

So far, over 5700 Hygiene Kits have been donated to school health offices and many local organizations that focus on kids' programs.

Romeo Toyota recently donated enough for 100 Hygiene Kits (\$2100) and let us use their Delivery Bay to assemble 340 Hygiene Kits in a few hours with the help of several Romeo Toyota employees and 25 family and friends community volunteers.



## 8. Sponsored Organizations

Over the years we have become aware of the many organizations that impact the lives of area children. We annually donate funds to help support their effort. Our list of giving is both local and regional to include 27 enterprises as we expand our reach and help.

### 27 Organizations We Help Support:

<p>Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Southern Adirondacks          Camp Corral, Cornell Cooperative Extension 4H          Crandall Library, Crandall Park Beautification Committee          Franklin Community Center          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</p>	<p>Minerva Back to School Shoes Program          Moreau Community Center S.G.F., Mountainside Library          Muscular Dystrophy Association          Salvation Army, Saratoga City Child Care Center          Special Olympics, Ticonderoga Area Backpack Program          Wait House, Warm the Children (The Post Star &amp; Glens Falls Rotary)          Warren/Washington Child CARE Center          Warren County Child Protective Services, Women in Need (W.I.N.)</p>
---	---

## 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 16"-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.

# Our Eleven Programs

## 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
- Essex County Sheriff's Office
- Franklin Community Center Inc.
- Warren County Sheriff's Office
- Warren County Emergency Services
- New York State Police
- South Glens Falls Fire Department
- Washington County Sheriff's Office



Bill Osborn and Dave Lebel Delivering Teddy Bears to New York State Troopers



Ben's Nephew, Ben Birkholz with our bears



Bill Osborn and Dave Lebel Delivering Teddy Bears to Warren County Sheriff's Office

## 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!

## 11. Ben's School Literacy Program

At the beginning of 2025, a retired Kindergarten teacher from Hudson Falls pitched the idea that she would volunteer and go to all Hudson Falls Kindergarten classes once per month and read stories to the kids for about 15 minutes and leave each student with a book from the Ben Osborn Memorial Fund. This program was a huge success and the students, teachers and Administrators looked forward to it every month. We recently received a \$4500 Grant from Dollar General Literacy Foundation to continue this program for the 2025-2026 school year at Hudson Falls. In addition, we have decided to expand this program to all the Kindergarten classes at 4 other local schools: Fort Edward, Fort Ann, Whitehall and Corinth. Each school will recruit volunteer readers and Ben Osborn Memorial Fund will provide one book for each student for each month. At the end of the year, about 400 local Kindergarten kids will each have 10 new Scholastic books to add to their own personal library at home - how cool is that?



Lynsey Fitzgerald Reading to Hudson Falls Kindergartners

**YOU'RE INVITED!  
BASKETS FOR BEN 2025**

**Friday, Oct. 24- 4:30pm**

With leaves just turning orange, and rows of pumpkins along with our magnificent northern harvest lining wooden roadside stands . . . the air is cooling, football & sweater season's here, AND THE BEN OSBORN MEMORIAL FUND ANGELS ARE BUSY CREATING OUR BASKETS FOR BEN 2025, OUR ONE AND ONLY FUNDRAISER FOR THE YEAR, AND **YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND!**

The Queensbury VFW Post 6196 again welcomes us for another glittering BASKETS FOR BEN on Friday, October 24. The doors swing open at 4:30 p.m. to a Silent Auction featuring an amazing array of sparkling wrapped Baskets of Gifts donated by the very kind hearts of Warren, Washington, Saratoga and Essex Counties who support Ben's Fund & desire helping our local children who are in need right now, by providing "A Little Lift!"

Hope Rosati & Friends will stun us again with another over-flowing and enormously popular Wheelbarrow of Wine for raffling! We're also featuring Ben's Wear Clothing and door prizes!

At **6:30**, Auctioneer Roy Ross and his wife Jamiee take over the reins and navigate our happy crowd with a live auction for the rest of the evening. Look for everything you can think of! Wonderful items for your home, car, entertainment, overnight accommodations, sports, art, foods, spirits, crafted goods, golf packages, store and restaurant gift cards, beauty and spa items and a spectacular fire pit forged by Monahan Metals! Hint – this is a super way to begin your Christmas shopping!

Our beautiful dining tables covered with a full buffet of delectable foods & desserts donated by local restaurants and grocers and served by SUNY Adirondack Culinary Arts students will please! Make sure you stop in and visit the Lovely Louise at our cash bar, too! She's waiting with a smile to see you again!

All of this for a **\$20.00** ticket! So come and join us again, support our Ben Osborn Memorial Fund and enjoy the familiar faces you know and the new friends you'll meet at **The Queensbury VFW Post 6196, 32 Luzerne Road, Queensbury, NY 12804.**

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**Thank You - 2024 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, Hope Rosati, and Dave Lebel.

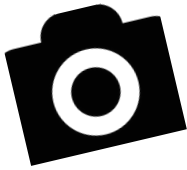
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**A Special Thanks To:**

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



Wheelbarrow of  
Wine from Last  
Year's Raffle



# Photos From Last Year's Baskets for Ben



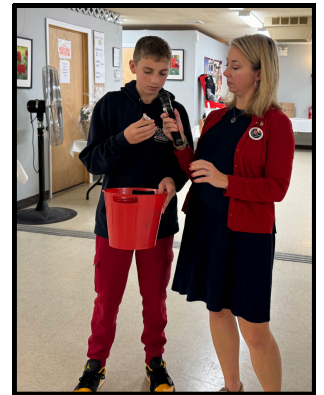
Bill and Bev Osborn with Grandson Benny



SUNY Adirondack Culinary Students Hard at Work

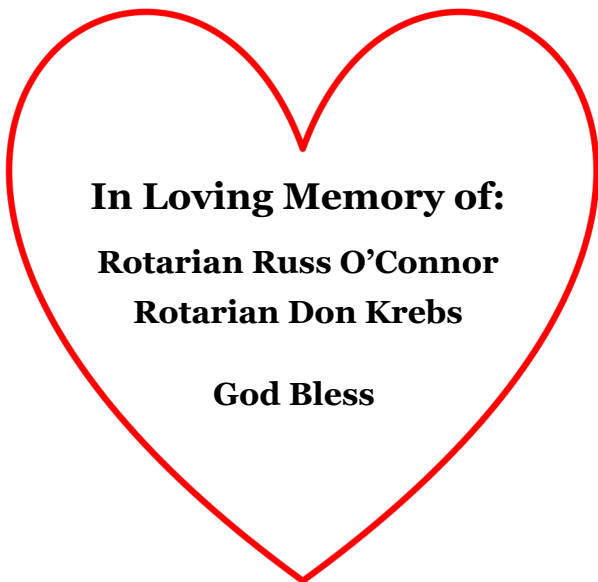


Organizing Committee: Jaime Rozell, Hope Rosati, Dawn Neyhart & Bethany Birkholz



Bill & Brother Jim with the Ross Auction Family

**Media Sponsors:**  
**TV: Look TV 8**  
**Radio: Adirondack Broadcasting & Froggy 100.3**  
**Print:**  
**The Chronicle & The Post Star**



**In Loving Memory of:**  
**Rotarian Russ O'Connor**  
**Rotarian Don Krebs**  
  
**God Bless**



Rotary Club of Glens Falls President Jim Amell presents Bill Osborn with the 2025 Citizen of the Year Award!



*Ben - Age 16*

***“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 11 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**.

## In Loving Memory

### of K-9 Officer Ozzy (Badge #40) - Ben's Football Jersey Number

K-9 Ozzy was a police dog who served the Warren County Sheriff's Office. He was named after CPL Benjamin D.

Osborn and was an honorable defender for the community. K-9 Ozzy served alongside Patrol Officer Jeremy Coon (as depicted below) and passed away on April 3, 2025.



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

**Giving with our hearts.**

### **Top 16 Reasons to Support Ben's Fund:**

1. 100% of donations go to our 11 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.
16. Ben's School Literacy Program - providing books for classroom reading and home libraries.

## Our 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 Central 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  
The Kings School

Lake George School District  
Maple Street Middle School of Saratoga  
Minerva School District  
North Warren Central 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  
Ticonderoga Central School District  
Warrensburg School District  
Warren Washington Saratoga BOCES  
Whitehall Central School District

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 sixteen 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:**

### Our Supporters:

Adirondack Trust  
Assemblyman Matt Simpson  
Adirondack Brewery and Pub  
Bank of Clarke  
Community Exchange  
Foundation  
Congresswoman Elise Stefanik  
Curtis Lumber  
DELLA Auto Group  
Enterprise Foundation  
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

Romeo Toyota  
Renée Reardon  
South Glens Falls Marathon Dance  
Committee  
Stewart's Shops  
Touba Family Foundation  
Wellers Auto Parts  
W.I.N. - L.G. and The Nichols Family  
Charles R. Wood Foundation  
Dollar General Literacy Foundation

## THANK YOU!

## 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