



FALL 2022

Newsletter

Dedicated to providing educational scholarships to Fairfield County students diagnosed with cancer



THE 2022 ANNUAL SUSAN FUND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY

The annual reception is the culmination of a year of hard work accomplished by the Fund's recipients, the Board of Directors, family and friends. The gathering celebrates the students who have been impacted by a cancer diagnosis. These determined individuals strive to inspire others and change the world.

Established by Ann Lloyd in 1982, after the loss of her daughter Susan, the Fund awards individuals with scholarships to decrease the financial burden that often comes with the pursuit of higher education. The Fund's wish in providing moral encouragement and monetary awards is that the support will allow them to better focus their energy on their studies, extracurriculars, and other activities.

The 41st annual ceremony opened with welcoming remarks from Ann Lloyd. Susan's brother, David Lloyd, then offered a heartfelt remembrance of his sister. David reflected on the importance of family in good times and bad, and celebrated Susan's positive demeanor throughout her battle with osteogenic sarcoma.

David was followed by three-time scholarship recipient Michael Holtz. Entering his senior year at Stonehill College, he spoke about his experience with cancer, his passions, and future goals. Michael expressed his appreciation for The Susan Fund's support over his collegiate years as he finishes his pursuit of a Marketing and Economics double major. His humble thoughts merited the standing ovation from the audience.

Susan Fund Board Member, Kathy DiGiovanni, concluded the ceremony by individually congratulating the year's recipients and presenting their scholarship awards. Kathy proudly praised each recipient for their ongoing accomplishments, community contributions, and wished everyone the best in their future endeavors.

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TheSusanFund.org

ABOUT SUSAN - CHAIRMAN JEFF BOOTH



Susan and future Susan Fund Chairman Jeff Booth attending her brother David's high school graduation in 1979.

I first met Susan when we worked together at the Fine Arts movie theaters in Westport. Susan had a terrific sense of humor and a delightful sarcastic streak. She was also the fastest cashier I ever worked with. When we knew it was going to be a busy night, we made sure Susan was ready at the cash register commanding, "Next please. Keep moving and have your money ready." She handled her osteogenic sarcoma diagnosis with the same determination as she did with selling those tickets.

Susan was going to get through this setback as fast as possible and she was NOT going to let cancer rule or define her senior year of high school. Although she missed a lot of school because of her medical treatments, she continued to participate in school activities and hold two jobs. Susan met with tutors and completed all of her work so she could graduate with the rest of Staples Class of 1980.

Throughout our time together, Susan taught me that nothing was going to get in her way and her disease was NOT going to define her life. With my involvement with The Susan Fund, I have seen this same determination from our recipients who are courageously facing these same challenges. They fight to continue their education and go on to rewarding careers demonstrating that their disease is not going to define their lives either.

While Susan was accepted to Colgate University, her desire to attend college was never realized. When she passed away, her family and many friends wanted to do something positive to remember her. The Susan Fund was established with the goal of helping other young people who have been treated for cancer attain their educational goals, and her dream survives through the lives of The Susan Fund recipients. The Fund has continued to grow, and during the past 41 years has awarded over \$2 million in scholarships. Through the generosity of others, Susan's memory remains very much alive.



*Staples High School's Class of 1980 graduation
Jennifer Lowe, Susan and board member Kelly Frey Pollard*



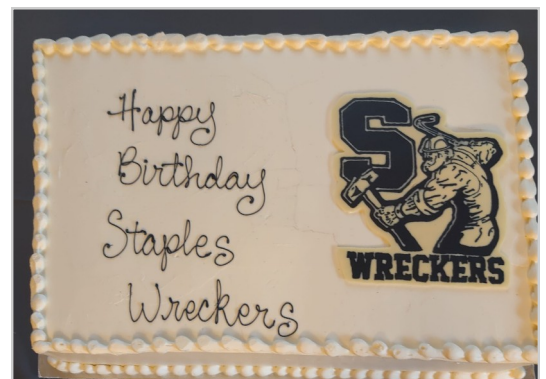
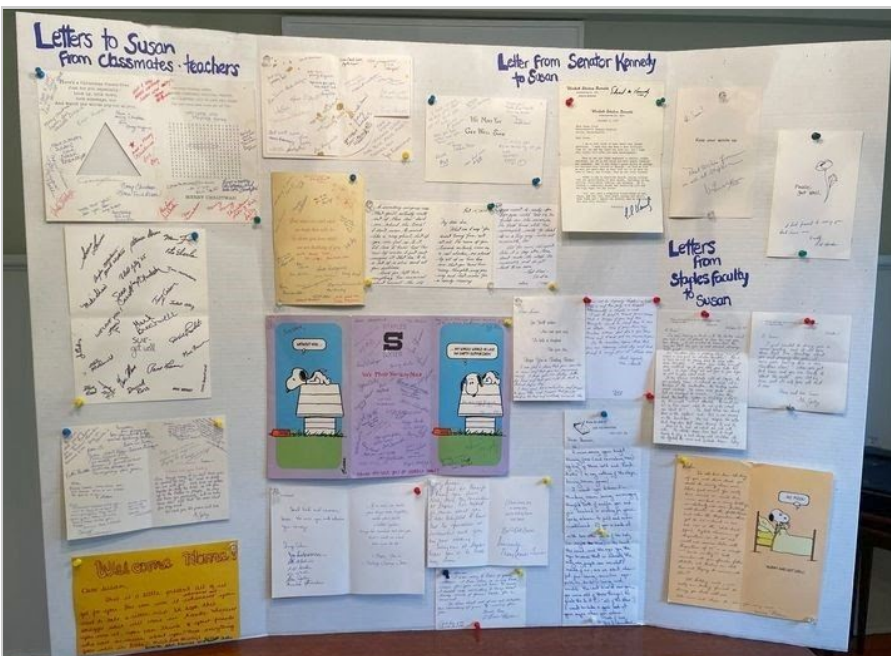
Susan and 4x800 relay teammate Denise Paull Scholtz

CELEBRATING SUSAN - STAPLES CLASS OF 1980 REUNION

For the majority of the Staples Class of 1980, Susan's diagnosis and battle with cancer their senior year of high school was their first exposure to a cancer patient in their age group. Classmate and friend Amy Potts remembers "Susan coming back in our senior year with one less leg and an attitude that couldn't be beat", and how she showed them "courage and taught our class to look beyond ourselves and keep smiling in the face of adversity."

Over the years, the Staples Class of 1980 has raised money for The Susan Fund through various events and at class reunions. This past August, and two years later due to COVID, the Class of 1980 was finally able to hold their 40th reunion. They remembered Susan and shared letters written to Susan and her family during her battle with cancer that Kelly Frey Pollard, Susan's good friend and a Susan Fund board member, put together in a heart-warming display.

Also attending with Kelly was fellow board member and classmate Diane Giannitti Karazulas, along with over 130 alumni. The class raised \$5,500 for The Susan Fund this year.



2022 RECEPTION SPEECH - MICHAEL HOLTZ

Hello. My name is Michael Holtz.

Everyone in this room has all been through so much, whether it be facing a cancer diagnosis, a pandemic or both. I remember my first Susan fund reception right here in Easton--and then it went virtual--and then in Greenwich outside to keep us safe. How nice to come full circle and be here in Easton again as I prepare for my last year of college. When I consider the gifts in my life - among them are - family, friends, The Susan Fund, survival and a college education.

I remember when Diane Karazulas called me to invite me to speak today. I was taken aback, flattered but confused as to what I was supposed to say. And then I realized I had plenty that I could say and share. Despite my challenges, I have remained committed to my academics and to pursuing my undergraduate degree full-time. I remember a time when I was not so sure that I would be able to attend college or even be able to do so away from home. Diagnosed with a high-grade glioma brain tumor at the age of three, I am so proud to now be reaching my senior year at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts. I do it to better myself and to dream in honor of many who never got to.

We are all gathered in this room because of Susan and her extraordinary family and friends. As a recipient of this scholarship, I know that I share in the responsibility of being Susan's legacy. It is an honor that lets me celebrate my abilities and recognize the many brave angels, like Charlie Capalbo, who befriended her above. This fund is a gift to honor Susan's memory in the most remarkable way and a gift to recipients like me. This room understands that tomorrow is promised to no one, so I try to be grateful for today. As a survivor, my grit and my gratitude remind me to be the best possible version of myself. Hope is my cheerleader and courage is my silent coach.

I am double majoring to pursue a B.S.B.A. in Marketing and a B.A. in Economics dual degree, and have focused myself on Finance extra-curriculars. My career objectives include obtaining an M.B.A. and one day utilizing all that I have learned about the marketing mix to serve me well in a career in business or financial services. I know that the job market is likely to be very competitive for students like me, so I am focused on remaining versatile, invoking all that I have learned and welcoming professional growth experiences that engage my abilities.

With compassion, integrity and emotional intelligence, I am learning that I can find ways to be involved and to have the life I have been given matter and make a difference. While volunteering has been a very important part of my life and has let me witness that I can impact others, I know that I came to Stonehill to better myself in other ways too. I want to realize the power of my abilities and am so grateful to have my undergraduate education fortify them.

I ALWAYS consider that my whole life has been negotiated because of my cancer, for my cancer, and now, fortunately, in spite of my cancer. A malignant disease once created pressure in my head, but even as a survivor, I can still experience a different kind of pressure in my head. Doubt and fear try to distract me, but I persevere. I try not to let my limitations predict my future. I believe I can overcome challenges by finding ways to learn and to matter, reminding myself that diligence defeats deficits and tenacity trumps tragedy.

Support from The Susan Fund makes all the difference in the world. Health and happiness to all! THANK YOU!



2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



ALEXIA BOCCUZZI
Stamford, CT
University of Pennsylvania

Lexi's letter of recommendation described her as a hard-working, intellectually curious and engaged student. She has discovered her passion for government. Lexi is majoring in Behavioral Economics with a concentration on Public Policy and Governance and minoring in Legal Studies and History.

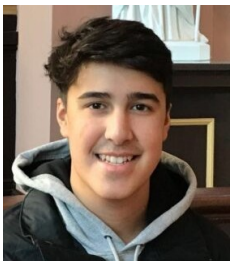
Throughout her meeting with the Board, Lexi conveyed her enthusiasm for her classes. She is an excellent student whose GPA is over 3.8. Her resume includes a myriad of organizations and events that she is either organizing or participating in. Lexi's goal is to attend law school. She will definitely make an impact on the people she defends! This is Lexi's third Susan Fund scholarship.



GIACOMO BRANCATO
Fairfield, CT
Fairfield University

Giacomo is a six-time Susan Fund scholarship recipient. His goal is to earn his MBA in Business Finance from the Dolan School of Business. He graduated from Fairfield University on Dean's list and spent last year earning a certificate in business. Giacomo also was a member of the school's Division I baseball team. He hopes that just maybe he'll be drafted by the MLB.

Giacomo celebrated seven years in remission this past June. He would like to inspire those who are battling cancer. He notes, "They should never give up and keep fighting." He demonstrated this quality in dealing with recent hip surgeries, which derailed his ability to play baseball for now. His grit and determination will enable him to recover and return to his passion.



JOSE CAMPANARIO
Danbury, CT
Western CT State University

Because of the pandemic and some health issues, Jose was unable to attend college this past year. He hopes to continue his studies at Western Connecticut State University next spring.

Jose has a passion for finance and is considering pursuing a career in this field upon graduation. His letter of recommendation states that his "remarkable strength is pervasive. Jose's tenacity and strength of character has made him a student of distinction." This is Jose's third Susan Fund scholarship.



JOSH CAPPELLO
Trumbull, CT
Southern CT State University

Josh, a three-time scholarship recipient, is in his junior year. His goal is to become a college professor and teach Middle Eastern history. This will require that he obtain his Master's and PhD degrees. Josh's interest in teaching runs in the family as his father teaches U.S. History and his mother, a former teacher, now works with children with learning disabilities. His letter of recommendation describes him as a "survivor and warrior who has fought his cancer diagnosis and treatment. He is a sincere, thoughtful, emotionally hardy and tenacious young man." Josh enjoys reading and basketball and being at home with his family. He is looking forward to returning to campus and taking advantage of all that college life has to offer.

2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



JACK DEMERS

Bethel, CT

Eastern CT State University

Jack will be a senior this fall at Eastern Connecticut State University. He is a Communications major and his educational goal is to, “complete my undergraduate degree with consistent and exceptional grades that reflect my effort and knowledge of what I learned in each and every course.”

Jack is a three-time neuroblastoma cancer survivor and volunteers at The Children’s Hospital at Montefiore. His letter of recommendation from the Patient Care Coordinator at the Hospital says, “Jack is able to establish an immediate rapport with pediatric oncology patients. Jack continuously radiates with maturity, composure, and compassion with each and every human encounter he has.” This is Jack’s fourth Susan Fund award.



TIERRA GARVIN

Stratford, CT

University of Bridgeport

Tierra began her health services career as a home health aide/companion, then obtained her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) license through classes at the American Red Cross and practice at the Jewish Home in Fairfield. Tierra was a CNA for over 10 years and worked at Brightview Senior Living in Norwalk, caring for patients in the memory care unit.

Tierra is in her second year at the University of Bridgeport’s School of Nursing. Her favorite areas to work in are oncology and labor and delivery. Her letter of recommendation states, “Tierra is someone I can always count on and always willing to go above and beyond for her residents and co-workers.” This is Tierra’s second Susan Fund scholarship.



MICHAEL HOLTZ

Fairfield, CT

Stonehill College

Michael has been a Susan Fund recipient for three years. He is double majoring to pursue a BS/BA in Marketing and a BA in Economics. His future goals include obtaining an MBA and securing a position in a business or a financial services organization. Michael has worked as a Marketing & Business Development intern for a leadership development firm. He has also earned a certification from Bloomberg Market Concepts and is a Skyhawk Research Analyst in the Stonehill College Finance Initiatives program. Michael continues to give back to NYU Langone Hospital, where he was treated, by raising funds for programs that provide for the comfort and care of children with brain tumors. His letter of recommendation states, “No one worked harder than Michael in class... he has made a very positive impression on his fellow students and his instructors—we are all inspired by him.”



LAUREN KELLY

Norwalk, CT

Boston University

Lauren is in her freshman year at BU having had to delay her admission for a year as she dealt with her second cancer diagnosis. She is delighted to be in school in person this year. Lauren feels that she discovered a great deal about herself as she recovered. She noted, “I learned the importance of doing what makes me happy and fulfilled.” Lauren also discovered a passion for crochet and was able to sell her pieces on Ebay.

Lauren’s ultimate goal is to study voice and speech-language pathology. She wrote, “I hope to teach people to use singing to help strengthen their voices.” Lauren has volunteered for Wish Night at Make-A-Wish CT and has donated some of her beautiful hand-crocheted bags to The Tommy Fund. Her letter of recommendation described her as possessing a “positive attitude, sense of humor and intelligence... She is truly kind, compassionate and thoughtful.”

2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



SONA KOCINSKY

Trumbull, CT
Tufts University

Sona is a sophomore at Tufts University. She is planning to major in biology and then to attend medical school. Her experience as a cancer survivor has shaped her career goals. She noted, "Having watched my oncology team save the lives of countless children while also passionately pursuing pediatric cancer research, I know I also want to employ science to transform lives." She envisions a career as a physician or a physician-scientist, perhaps in the field of pediatric oncology.

This past summer, Sona interned as part of a summer program at the University of Maryland's Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center. She had the unique experience of pioneering her own research project. Sona has volunteered for Infinite Love for Kids Fighting Cancer as well as Tuft University's chapter of Strong Women, Strong Girls. This is Sona's second Susan Fund scholarship.



DANIEL KREKOSKA

Stratford, CT
Providence College

Daniel is in his junior year and is majoring in Health Policy and minoring in Political Science. He wrote, "I have begun to develop an interest in the American healthcare system, which has greatly affected me since my cancer diagnosis." He is planning to study abroad in Rome in the spring of 2023 to learn about political and humanitarian issues related to the refugee crisis.

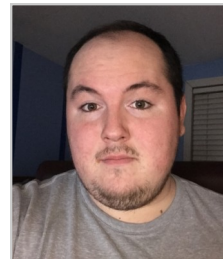
Daniel's letter of recommendation notes, "In addition to excelling academically, Dan is also a natural leader and is an asset to every team to which he belongs!" Last year he worked as a fitness center manager at Providence College and was a member of the college's fall orientation staff. This is Daniel's third Susan Fund scholarship.



BRENT MCCREESH

Southport, CT
Sacred Heart University

This fall, Brent entered his sophomore year at SHU; he enjoyed his first year there very much. He is on the SHU chess team which won their division in last fall's online league. This summer Brent worked at a chess club in Norwalk teaching private and group lessons and summer camp. Brent will continue to compete in person in Virginia at the PanAm Intercollegiate chess championships against sixty other college teams. Brent also enjoys giving online chess lessons during the school year through the Chess Club of Fairfield County. Brent's letter of recommendation states, "He is incredibly passionate about chess and our University. Brent has shown leadership... and is a respected teammate and friend." This is Brent's second Susan Fund award.



JAMES MCQUADE

Fairfield, CT
UCONN - Stamford

This is James' third Susan Fund scholarship. He will be graduating in 2023 with a BA in Economics. This summer James worked at Raymond James in Westport. He would like to take the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Level I exam in the next year or two.

James' letter of recommendation states that "his capacity to come up with original and unexpected angles of view on the topic under discussion...set him apart from the rest of the class. He will make the most out of whatever opportunities are afforded him."

2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

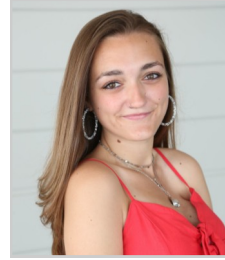


SOFIA PETRAFESA

Stamford, CT
Norwalk Community College

Sofia's goal is to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and become a practicing nurse serving pediatric oncology patients and their families. Last year she worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Greenwich Pediatric Associates. The letter of recommendation from her supervisor noted, "Sofia has an incredibly positive attitude on life....She is an optimistic, caring and confident young lady."

Sofia has completed all of her prerequisite courses, which enabled her to apply to NCC's Nursing program. She also led her Cycle for Survival team, #Likeawarrior, to fundraise in support of MSKCC research for rare cancers. This is Sofia's fourth Susan Fund award.



GILLIAN RIORDAN

Darien, CT
Sacred Heart University

Gillian is a graduate student at SHU, where she will obtain her Masters of Social Work in 2023. Her ultimate career goal is to become a pediatric oncology social worker with a certification in play therapy. She wants to be able to use her experiences as a cancer patient to help patients and their families during their difficult times. Last spring she completed her BSW internship at the Baptist Cancer Center in Oxford, MS while an undergraduate student at the University of Mississippi.

During her spare time, Gillian is a volunteer firefighter for the Noroton Heights Fire Department in Darien. Her recommendation letter says "Gillian is the epitome of service, courage and character, and community. To know her is to be entirely blessed."



JOSHUA RUBENSTEIN

Trumbull, CT
University of Maryland
College Park

Josh is a junior majoring in Public Health Science. His educational goal is to attend medical school and become a pediatric oncologist. He wants to help kids who are going through a cancer diagnosis as he did.

This summer, Josh applied and was accepted to the Onward-biomedical therapeutics internship program in Israel and worked at Tel Aviv University's biomedical research facility.

His letter of reference states "Josh exhibits the traits of a winner and has the intellect and heart of some of the best I have met." This is Josh's third Susan Fund award.



MADELINE SALVESON

Fairfield, CT
Seton Hall University
School of Law

Maddy was a Susan Fund scholarship recipient throughout her undergraduate studies. The Board is delighted to continue to assist her throughout law school. She has developed a passion for working with the underserved population. She wrote, "I'm hoping to use my legal career to work on criminal justice reform – specifically the transition from incarceration into the 'real' world in an effort to reduce recidivism....I also want to work with communities to institute social programming to better support the underprivileged population."

Maddy's letter of recommendation stated, "Maddy has demonstrated compassion for her fellow students... She is a law student with a strong work ethic... Academically she displays the kind of persistence that I imagine she used in overcoming cancer!"

2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



NATHANIEL SMIT

Stamford, CT
Deans College

Nate will be a freshman this fall at Deans College. He plans to major in Psychology and hopes to become a social worker or counselor. Nate would like to use his experiences as a cancer survivor to help others in similar circumstances.

During his senior year in high school, Nate enjoyed working as a fourth grade teacher's assistant. His volunteering roles include working at High-Quality Home Therapy, which is a center that provides physical, occupational, speech, and behavioral therapy. He is also a "puppy socializer" for Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Nate's reference letter says that "He is a remarkably well-rounded individual, with a kind heart, a scholarly attitude, and leadership qualities that his peers look up to." This is Nate's first Susan Fund scholarship.



EMMA STAUBER

Stratford, CT
Southern CT State University

Emma is a freshman at SCSU; she is a Secondary Education major with a concentration in history. Her career goals are to become a high school teacher and a mentor. She wants to show students that learning is fun.

During the past school year, Emma worked at a daycare for a local gym, The Edge. There were 30-35 kids that she would participate with each day. She loved playing games with the children, and they would teach her new games as well. Emma's letter of recommendation states that she "is a person of tremendous character and positive attributes. She is not only a hard-working student but also a truly good person." This is Emma's first Susan Fund award.



RYAN TUCKER

Wilton, CT
Champlain College

Ryan is a junior at Champlain College majoring in Game Programming. His career goal after college is to get a job for a large gaming company, such as Bungle. This past summer, Ryan was a teacher's assistant in a summer program at Champlain College. He also had an internship where he was making games for kids with cancer.

In Spring 2023, Ryan will study abroad in Montreal on an event programming game team. He will create a game this semester. Ryan's reference letter says "His work ethic, candor, and positive attitude were a bright spot amongst his peers. He is a smart and dedicated student, who is also deeply caring about others." This is Ryan's first Susan Fund scholarship.



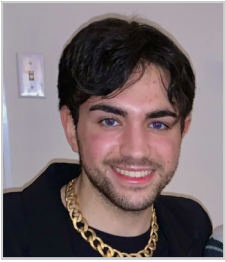
JACK UNGAR

Darien, CT
University of Richmond

Jack will be a junior at the University of Richmond this fall majoring in Psychology. This summer he trained specifically to learn how to drive an ambulance. As a volunteer firefighter at the Noroton Fire Department and a volunteer EMS in Darien-Post 53, his ambulance driving training will certainly be an asset. In the next year, Jack will be applying for a career fire department position in Connecticut, ideally in New Haven.

On Jack's application, he wrote, "My cancer experience gifted me the ability to empathize, and that is one of the greatest gifts I ever received." This is Jack's third Susan Fund scholarship.

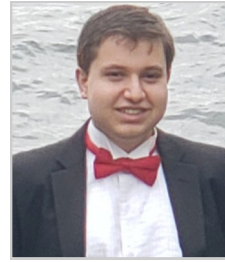
2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



WILL VARVARO

Easton, CT
The New School

This is Will's third Susan Fund scholarship. He will graduate in 2024 with a major in Culture and Media. He wrote, "Over the past few years, my educational and career goals have changed, expanded and evolved significantly... My goal of working in film and producing work, directing and acting still remains... However it now includes studying aspects of psychology as well as continuing to work on writing." Will has been in the process of writing a novel, which he hopes to have finished during the summer. He will then submit it to literary agents. He is thrilled to be attending school in NYC which enables him to take advantage of all of the creative opportunities it offers. Will's letter of recommendation noted that he tackles the challenges that he faces with "thought, drive and creativity until he has a solution that works for him."



MATTHEW VIGLUCCI

New Fairfield, CT
SUNY Oneonta

Matt is a sophomore and a two-time Susan Fund Scholarship recipient. His career goal is driven by his experience as a cancer survivor. He wrote, "During my time of treatment I recall that music and the various video genres were what helped me get through the isolation when my immunity was at risk." Matt's plan is to study the music industry with the ultimate goal of being in the sound production and orchestration areas of the music industry. He would like to dedicate his life to the development of these art forms which were so important to him in his recovery. Matt has played the trumpet since he was in the fourth grade. Last year he felt honored to perform with his college's brass ensemble at the 911 memorial ceremony.

IN MEMORIAM - CHARLIE CAPALBO



The Susan Fund recipients are all outstanding students and courageous survivors of their disease. In the 41 years that scholarships have been awarded, every single one of our recipients has been an example of strength and inspiration to all who meet them. Charlie Capalbo rises to the top of this special group of cancer patients. From his first interview in 2017, Charlie had a spirit and smile that captured the hearts of all of The Susan Fund board members. He radiated a health and courage that would remain part of him while he fought this disease. There was always a positive direction in his fight. Charlie had family and friends and a support system that cushioned his treatments and gave him the strength to "go for broke" while he was sick. He was fearless and a leader for the other cancer patients at the hospital. It did not matter if he was weak, tired or attached to a pole, Charlie got up and "like a piper" would take other residents with him as he did rounds on the hospital floor. Charlie was a leader and he brought his hope and vision with him as he became one of the most admired patients at the hospital.

Charlie's cancer journey was very difficult. After a transplant in February 2019, Charlie had to re-learn how to walk and feed himself. His health returned. His hair returned. He was back. Ten months later, 550 family, friends and supporters filled the Fairfield Theatre Company for the Capalbo Strong Crushed Cancer event to celebrate his remission and raise funds for Boston Children's Hospital. When the Capalbo family was invited to the 2020 NHL Winter Classic in Dallas, NBC featured Charlie, and his story was no longer just a local one. Sadly, Charlie's cancer returned and he passed away peacefully at Boston Children's Hospital surrounded by his loving family on April 24, 2022 after a courageous five year battle. As a passionate hockey player, the grit and determination he displayed on the ice enabled him to fight just as valiantly for his life. Charlie's positivity, humor, resilience, and grit will remain an inspiration to us all. The Susan Fund will always remember Charlie as a special symbol among our outstanding recipients and honor him as a Susan Fund superstar. We thank the Capalbo family for sharing Charlie's challenges and successes with us.

FORMER RECIPIENT UPDATES



UPDATE FROM NICOLE ROBERTS

Hello, My name is Nicole Roberts. I was lucky enough to be chosen to be one of the recipients of a Susan Fund scholarship. When I was twelve, I was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma, a cancer that affects your lymphatic system. Growing up was difficult, however despite the challenges faced with being a cancer survivor, I was able to go off to college. The Susan Fund ensured that I never had to worry about college financially. Every year they ensured that I had adequate funds to go to college, which supported my future.

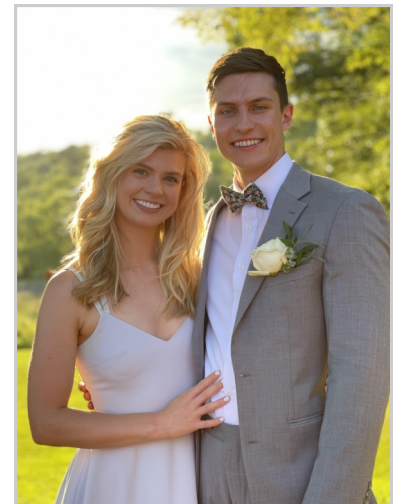
Fast forward to now, I am a speech language pathologist who works in a school system. I was able to get my masters and find a fulfilling career. Without The Susan Fund, none of this would be possible. It is my honor to have been a Susan Fund recipient. I will always be grateful and awed by the generosity of The Susan Fund.

UPDATE FROM PETER SYMOCHKO

This upcoming May of 2023 will mark five years since graduating from the University of Connecticut. The milestones that I've crossed since graduation have been both thrilling and at times, unimaginable. I started my first full-time role as a retail Pharmacist with Walgreens and have since moved up to a managerial role as Pharmacy Manager. I've had the opportunity to interact with many different communities within Connecticut, as well as create great relationships within the Walgreens network. The unthinkable began at the beginning of 2020 when I led my staff through a pandemic. We continued to support the community by providing individuals with their first COVID tests and eventually, their first COVID vaccine. This taught me the importance of flexibility, perseverance, and empathy that I will certainly carry with me throughout my career.

Aside from my career, I'm eager to announce that I'm engaged to a wonderful girl that I met while at UConn and we're planning on getting married in October of 2023! We've had the excitement of a slightly longer engagement, which has allowed us the time to plan both large and small details. Next on the list is purchasing a house, but until then, I'm fully enjoying the planning and excitement of starting our lives together.

With help from The Susan Fund I was able to afford the tuition to go to UConn and subsequently meet the love of my life; I will be forever grateful to them for that.

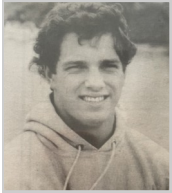


MEET THE BOARD - ED GROSSMAN



I have served on The Susan Fund Board for over 20 years. As a father of three, a grandfather of eight, a physician for over 50 years and a surviving cancer patient myself, I would have thought that I had heard most of the stories the scholarship applicants tell us about their own battle with their own malignancy. Well, I was wrong. Each year, I am awed by each new applicant's story and the courage these students have demonstrated. If you want to become more empathetic, you simply listen to their histories. I have served on other boards, but I have not found the same collegiality and camaraderie as I find with The Susan Fund Board. It has been an honor and a pleasure to be a member and help to support the Board's mission.

MISSION - ADVENTURE PROJECT GRANTS




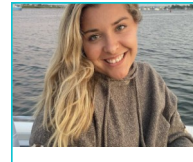
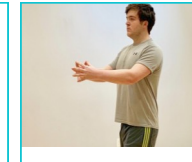

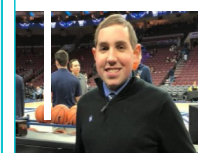
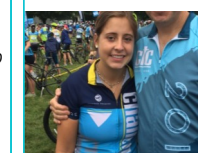

Jeff Keith is one of The Susan Fund’s first scholarship recipients, a previous board member, long-time donor, and partner through CT Challenge and Mission. After losing his leg to cancer when he was just 12 years old, this incredible cancer survivor went to become a Division I lacrosse athlete, ran across America, and had a successful 22 year career on Wall Street. He has not only raised funds for cancer research, but helped and inspired many other cancer patients and survivors through the Swim Across America, CT Challenge and Mission non-profit organizations he co-founded.

Jeff’s annual CT Challenge charity bike ride funds cancer survivor programs that operate under the “Mission” name. These programs are designed to equip all who battle cancer with the exercise, nutrition and mind-body knowledge, tools and community needed to *live. life. vibrantly.* Mission is committed to helping young survivors overcome financial impediments to living long and well after cancer through their Adventure Project Grants.







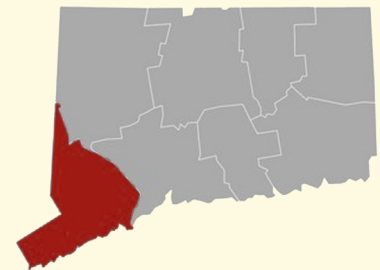
The Adventure Project’s goal is to distribute meaningful grants that will make a difference in young survivors’ pursuit of physical fitness and sport by providing them with opportunities and support to help reach their aspirations, large or small. Susan Fund recipients and cancer survivors ages 12 to 39 across the U.S. are invited to submit an application form through Mission’s website yourmission.org by December 31, 2022.

Susan Fund Scholarship Recipients’ Goals for their Mission Adventure Project Grants

<p>NICOLE GRAHAM to return to the physical ability I had previously</p>		<p>AARON GABERMAN to remain physically fit and competitive</p>		<p>MORGAN GALDENZI increase my endurance; complete a half-marathon</p>		<p>HARRISON GRINNELL to increase his endurance and improve his overall fitness</p>
	<p>GIACOMO BRANCATO to excel in D1 baseball in college</p>		<p>PATRICE TSPANIDES regain strength; to keep exercising during treatment</p>		<p>ERIC MENGEL to improve my balance and be as fit as I've ever been</p>	

HOW TO BECOME A SUSAN FUND RECIPIENT

-  Be a current resident of Fairfield County
-  Have been diagnosed with cancer sometime in one’s life
-  Be attending or planning on attending an accredited post high school institution of higher learning
-  Fill out a Scholarship Application at TheSusanFund.org, available January 1st and due by April 1st



“WILLOW” AT MILL RIVER VILLAGE HOUSE

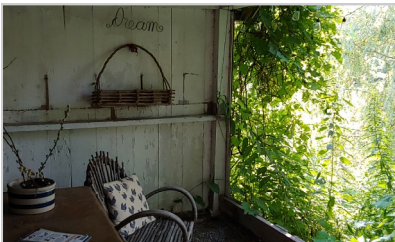
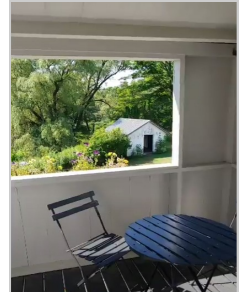
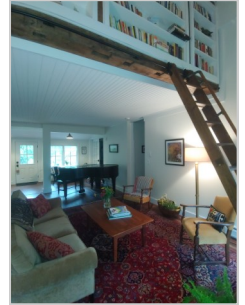
Earlier this year, Dana McCreesh, recipient Brent McCreesh’s mother, connected The Susan Fund with Robbi Hartt, a former teacher in Fairfield County. In response to the pain and loss she and her husband, Bob, experienced in their families due to cancer, they devoted the better part of their time, energy, and resources over the past four years restoring a 1795 farmhouse to create a sanctuary where parents/families on similar journeys could come to find respite.

They are eager to share this special space, whether you are celebrating a remission, needing a reprieve after learning of a difficult diagnosis, or dealing with the loss of a beloved family member. Robbi and Bob extend their generous invitation in the hope that they can help others find healing and strength. Robbi writes, “The willow tree on our property - with long, graceful branches that bend with the wind and roots that draw nourishment from the nearby river - represents hope, comfort, the ability to heal from pain and suffering and grow stronger.”

There are two separate guest units within the farmhouse. Each unit has its own entrance and can accommodate up to four people comfortably with two bedrooms, living room, and kitchen. The units are fully stocked with linens, appliances, pots and pans, Wi-Fi, washer/dryer, etc. Each apartment also has its own outdoor space to enjoy morning coffee or a glass of wine as the day winds down.

All of this is set in the beautiful southern Berkshires, whose hills, streams, and winding roads offer a welcome change of pace from daily routines. Great Barrington, Lenox, and Stockbridge are a short drive away - offering a rich variety of performing arts, museums, hiking trails, restaurants, and ski resorts.

Bob and Robbi are offering two-night stays at no cost to eligible couples/families. No smoking or pets are allowed. Groceries, transportation, and activity costs are not included. For more information, contact Kelly Frey Pollard at susanfund@gmail.com.

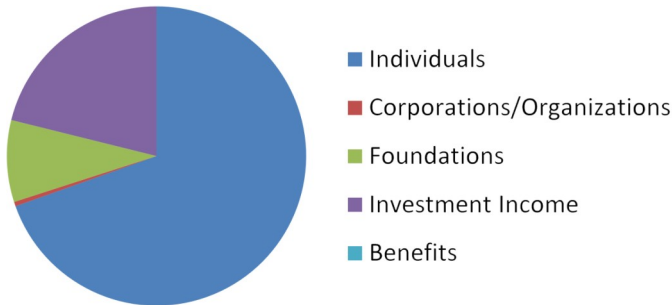


WAYS TO SUPPORT THE SUSAN FUND

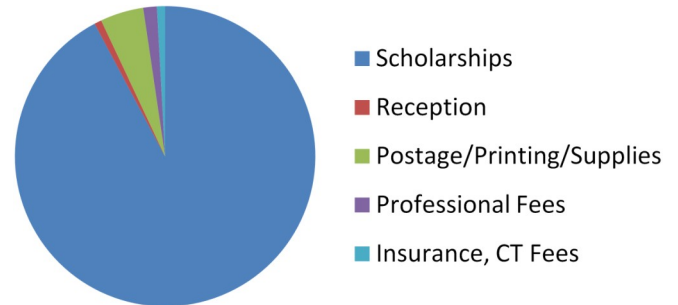
- Mail a check to The Susan Fund at 458 Newtown Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851
- Donate online at TheSusanFund.org
- Enroll in an Employer Matching Gift Program, if available
- Log into smile.amazon.com when making purchases on Amazon to have 0.5% of your purchase donated
- Consult your financial advisor about Donor-Advised Fund distributions, or the tax advantages of Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from your IRA or appreciated securities
- Setup a special fundraiser supporting The Susan Fund in honor of, in memory of, or in lieu of birthday gifts by contacting us at susanfund@gmail.com

FINANCIALS

Where our money comes from...



Where our money goes...



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In Honor of Hans and Henri Williams
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In Celebration of
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In Celebration of
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