



FALL 2020

Newsletter

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



This has been an extraordinary year for us all. It has challenged us physically and emotionally. It has made us think differently, to find slivers of joy in the smallest things – the flight of a butterfly, a brilliantly colored flower, a sunset. It has challenged The Susan Fund Board to reimagine our interactions with our recipients. Interviews went from personal to virtual. Our reception morphed into an amazing YouTube production.

This year’s Newsletter is very different from those of the past. There is no group photo of the recipients taken at the Reception, no article about The Connecticut Challenge. Instead, rising to the challenges that living in a Covid world presents, this newsletter is a tribute to moments of joy, words of gratitude, the achievements of our amazing recipients. It honors all of our creativity, resilience and spirit of hope. We hope it will lighten your soul!

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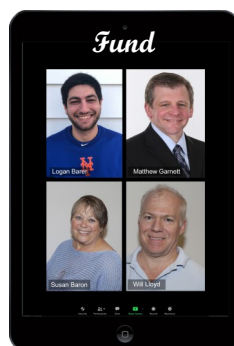
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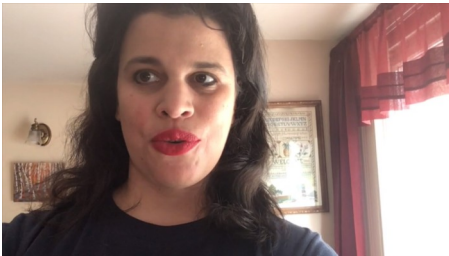
PLEASE VISIT US
ONLINE AT:



TheSusanFund.org



THE 2020 RECEPTION & VIDEO



The annual June reception has always been an important culmination of The Susan Fund Scholarship awards process. It has been a time for families to get together and celebrate the achievements of the recipients. It creates a space in which all of them can connect. For the Board members, it is the highlight of our work. This year, because of COVID-19, it could not be held.

As a tribute to our resilience and creativity, The Susan Fund 2020 Reception video was created. It includes each applicant's town and school. Many of the recipients sent in short videos featuring their families. The program begins with an introduction by Susan's brother, David Lloyd, who shares precious memories of his sister. The awards video is narrated by the Board's official photographer, Kathy DiGiovanna. As she has done in the past, she talks about each recipient. She states, "I wanted to define who they are and why they were awarded Susan Fund scholarships."

The Board wants to thank Kaeleigh Pollard, daughter of Board member Kelly Frey Pollard, for coordinating and producing the video. Kelly and Kathy were her assistants. Kaeleigh is now a sophomore in Sacred Heart University's School of Nursing. She has volunteered at many of The Susan Fund's events.

As you view the video, we hope you reflect on the amazing qualities each of the recipients possess. We may have started a new tradition, but more importantly we are sharing their stories and honoring their courage. Please visit our website's homepage, TheSusanFund.org, to view the video.

THE 2020 RECEPTION & VIDEO

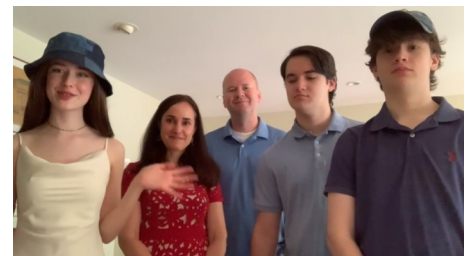


Reflections by Deanna Kelly East

I'm a senior at UCONN majoring in molecular and cell biology. I am reflecting about my experience with The Susan Fund and how it has impacted my life. The Susan Fund has been a great support since my freshman year of college. When I had my first interview, I had laryngitis. My mom primarily spoke on my behalf. Though the meeting was brief, the Board was considerate and caring. That compassion and concern for my well-being continues to this day.

There have been times when I thought I should have been further along in my health and academics. When I would compare my experience to others, they reminded me that my experience is not only valid but makes me the person I am today. Many people would consider being enrolled in a premier tract, for someone who is battling cancer, to be a daunting and challenging feat. The Susan Fund has been one of the biggest supporters of my dream to ultimately pursue my MD degree.

I never thought that, almost four years later, I'd still be a part of this wonderful family and legacy of inspiring students. Their affirmations helped further my drive to do my best work. More than just a scholarship fund, it is a group devoted to seeing me be all that I can be even when there were times when I didn't see my full potential. Their affirmations furthered my drive to do my best work. As they have been a blessing to me, I can be more of a blessing to others. I'm very grateful to be a part of this family of dedicated men and women.



LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MY SISTER, SUSAN...



It's been a long time, 40 years since Susan died. Sadly, a lot of my memories of her have been distilled. I don't remember how she looked when she laughed or the sound of her voice. What I do remember is the kind of person she was. Susan was so full of life. She had an infectious laugh. She was kind, thoughtful, hard-working and made others want to be around her. She had that kind of magnetism about her. I always knew that about her but I didn't know how tough she was until she was diagnosed with cancer, had her leg amputated, and was going through chemotherapy, radiation and more surgeries. Susan was the one who cheered us up. She would tell me, "The cancer is gone!" She fought tooth and nail. She thought of others throughout that time and maintained a certain grace. When I had my first college exams, Susan was having major chest surgery. She insisted that they did not tell me so I wouldn't be distracted. Who thinks that way at the age of 17? Susan was actually going to join me at Colgate the following year. She got in on the strength of her essay entitled "We Lloyds Are Tough." I don't know if it applies to the rest of us, but it certainly applied to Susan. She was so strong and selfless. She inspired me then and she still inspires me to this day.



Susan Davis Lloyd was a typical all-American teenager, entering her senior year at Staples High School, when she discovered she had osteogenic sarcoma. Despite having her leg amputated, Susan continued to participate in school activities and hold two jobs. A cheerleader and an outstanding student, she was accepted to Colgate University. Unfortunately, her chemotherapy treatments were not effective, and she was unable to begin college.

When Susan died, her 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. The fund has continued to grow, and during the past 39 years has awarded more than \$1,824,600 in scholarships. Through the generosity of others, Susan's memory remains very much alive.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



ALEXIA BOCCUZZI
Stamford, CT
University of Pennsylvania

Alexia describes herself as a “self-driven perfectionist.” She was looking forward to finishing her senior year at Roxbury High School only to have it de-railed by COVID-19. Alexia is no stranger to adversity. Living with avascular necrosis, a degenerative bone condition, she has long been resolute. When she broke her hip in 7th grade during her treatment, she still made the most she could out of her summer. Whether it was floating in her aunt’s backyard pool or getting wheeled around Aruba in a wheelchair, she made lemonade out of lemons. Alexia plans on continuing to do that at UPenn this fall, whether it’s online or in person. She is planning to double major in Biology and Political Science and go on to attend medical school. Alexia would like to specialize in pediatric oncology. This is her first Susan Fund scholarship.



GIACOMO BRANCATO
Fairfield, CT
Fairfield University
Dolan School of Business

Not only did Giacomo celebrate five years in remission on June 25, he also celebrated a full recovery from COVID-19. Before he caught the virus himself, his semester of college was cut short. More importantly, his baseball season was cut short too. A day after an exciting win against Stetson in Florida, he found out that his season was over and he would be flying back home immediately. Months later, his plans of playing summer ball disintegrated, too. Depending on the pandemic, Giacomo plans on living off-campus this fall while earning his finance degree. Because he lost this baseball season, Giacomo is considering red-shirting to not only have another year of eligibility on the field, but also an opportunity to earn a business degree as well. This is Giacomo’s fourth year as a Susan Fund recipient.



LAUREN BUSSER
Newtown, CT
New York University
Brooklyn

Lauren will be pursuing a Master’s degree in Integrated Digital Media at NYU-Tandon. Her ideal job would be to work as a digital product designer, which would include user interface and user experience. For the past four years, Lauren has been working with Tell-Tale TV reviewing television shows and interviewing celebrities. Some of the TV series she has enjoyed reviewing are *Orange Is the New Black*, *Little Fires Everywhere* and *Blindspot*. She also aspires to write a science fiction novel. For now, Lauren is prioritizing design and non-fiction work. She is a returning Susan Fund scholarship recipient. She earned her undergraduate degree from Sarah Lawrence University and was awarded her scholarships from 2008 through 2011.



JOSE CAMPANARIO
Danbury, CT
Western CT State University

This is Jose’s first Susan Fund scholarship. After earning outstanding grades at Danbury High School, Jose looks forward to furthering his education and ultimately becoming a successful financial advisor/trader. Despite receiving his cancer diagnosis during his junior year, Jose was determined to graduate on time and took many summer classes to accomplish this. Jose’s letter of recommendation cited his “tenacity and strength of character.” It went on to say, “He spent the better part of the last year enduring the often times unendurable and has exuded grace along the way.”

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



CHARLIE CAPALBO

Fairfield, CT
Fairfield University

Charlie spent most of the 2019 in-patient at Boston Children's Hospital in isolation or recovering. In January 2020, he was back at Fairfield U and living on campus with his roommate, George, the family's French Bulldog. He is majoring in Business with a minor in Psychology. Charlie, a dedicated hockey goalie in high school, remains an avid hockey fan. His first day out of isolation after his Bone Marrow transplant, he headed to Wonderland of Ice to skate before the rink was open. Owner John Ferguson was there to welcome him back on the ice and said, "I had chills and cried watching him skate. Charlie has such a wonderful personality and a heart of gold." This is Charlie's third Susan Fund scholarship.



JOSH CAPPELLO

Trumbull, CT
Ithaca College

This is Josh's second Susan Fund scholarship. He is working towards a double degree in Journalism and History. Josh's educational and career goals remain steadfast as he faces treatment for a recurring cancer. Josh plans to attend a local university during his year of treatment and will then look into other options to further his education. His long-term goal is to become a political journalist. His letter of reference stated, "Josh is tenacious and hardworking so his path makes perfect sense to me!"



RYAN CAULFIELD

Westport, CT
University of Pittsburgh

Ryan is a senior at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Nursing and Economics. He has been a member of The Nursing Student Association and the Men In Nursing organization. This past summer, Ryan completed a nursing internship in Pittsburgh at the UPNC Hospital at Shadyside. He worked on the surgery step-down floor and in the Emergency Room. During his senior year, Ryan hopes to intern on a trauma floor. He plans to attend graduate school for Nursing Anesthesia and eventually become a Hospital Administrator. This is Ryan's fourth Susan Fund scholarship award.



JACK DEMERS

Bethel, CT
Eastern CT State University

Jack completed his first year at college with an outstanding GPA. After considering majoring in Sports Management or Education, Jack is now looking to pursue a career in the Communications field. Because the summer camp Jack was hoping to work at was cancelled due to the pandemic, he worked at his father's business, New England Compost, a Danbury-based company that recycles food waste into organic compost. His letter of recommendation said, "The words that describe Jack would be reliable, hardworking, and willing to do anything asked of him." This is Jack's second Susan Fund award.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



DEANNA EAST

Stratford, CT
UCONN - Storrs

This is Deanna's fourth Susan Fund scholarship award. Deanna is in her senior year at UCONN where she is majoring in Molecular and Cell Biology. She will be a Research Assistant at the Children's Medical Center where she will conduct her own research. Deanna would also like to work with babies. Deanna plans to be a pediatrician and perhaps focus on oncology/hematology or the ER. She was recently elected as a senator in UCONN's student government and will be visiting the Capitol as an advocate for increased student funding. Deanna's ministry leader describes her best, "People like Deanna are necessary because it is people like her who infect and affect the good in the lives of others."



JASMYN GOODEN

Bridgeport, CT
Naugatuck Valley
Community College

Despite COVID-19 and her medical challenges, Jasmyn has continued clinical assignments as she works to finish her RN program at Naugatuck next summer. Jasmyn then plans to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing with a concentration in Maternal and Delivery. While taking online classes, she works every day at Cambridge Manor and enjoys interacting with patients of all ages and backgrounds. Her supervisor wrote, "Jasmyn's work ethic and professionalism are greatly admired... She is reliable, trustworthy and possesses a can-do attitude." This is her fifth year as a Susan Fund recipient.



JACK HAVARD

New Canaan, CT
Gettysburg College

Jack has one semester remaining before he graduates with a major in Organizational Management and double minor in Business and Economics. His goal is to pursue a career as a management/business consultant. Jack served as the Inter-fraternity Council Scholarship Chair at Gettysburg. In this role, he helped oversee scholarship allocations to members of Greek Organizations at the college. Jack was also an outstanding pitcher. Sadly, the pandemic cut Jack's successful college baseball career short. His letter of recommendation said, "When I think of Jack, the words "role model" immediately come to mind... He has moved forward in a manner showing dedication, maturity, and an inner, peaceful strength." This is Jack's second Susan Fund scholarship.



MICHAEL HOLTZ

Fairfield, CT
Stonehill College

Michael recently completed his first year at Stonehill College. He is majoring in Marketing and is looking forward to learning more about market research, customer service, development, promotion and sales. This year he interned at a local real estate company where he was a Marketing Assistant in Sales & Service. Michael remains a passionate volunteer, giving his time to multiple charities including Make-a-Wish, Macy's Believe and the Operation Hope shelter. He also sends care packages of toys and prizes to the Hassenfeld Children's Hospital Clinic at NYU Langone, where he received his treatment. Michael's letter of recommendation said, "Michael is able to use his past as motivation to achieve his goals for the future, which is a thrill to see as an academic advisor." This is Michael's second Susan Fund scholarship.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



DANIEL KREKOSKA

Stratford, CT
Providence College

Daniel is a freshman at Providence College where he will be pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Business. He has several interests including finance, management and pre-law. His career goal is to become a lawyer specializing in business or patent law. While attending St. Joseph High School, Daniel was a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society and the English Honor Society as well as Vice President of the Student Council. He is also an Eagle Scout. Daniel is a passionate volunteer, donating his time to The Housatonic River Cleanup, The Christian Heritage School and Al's Angels. Daniel's school counselor wrote, "Dan is a captivating public speaker, with an uplifting sense of humor, an open mind and an eagerness to help out his peers." This is Dan's first Susan Fund scholarship.



ERIC MENGEL

Southport, CT
University of Wisconsin

Eric is currently pursuing a degree in Economics at Wisconsin. His goal is to eventually enter either sports or politics. He likes how economics is preparing him for either. He reflected that it is "a more versatile way to manage." Eric is not only a competitive rugby player, but he is interested in competition itself. He explains, "In my free time I study and analyze how sports teams and political campaigns operate in the pursuit of victory. That pursuit is very exciting for me." With limited options due to COVID-19, Eric has spent his time running in the early morning, reading, or watching TV. His reference wrote, "Eric possesses a quiet, thoughtful approach to life... There is an intersection of kindness and truth within Eric that is special." This is his third year as a Susan Fund recipient.



SOFIA PETRAFESA

Stamford, CT
Southern CT State University

Sofia is studying to obtain her BS in Nursing and plans to become a pediatric oncology nurse. This is her third Susan Fund scholarship award. During the past year, Sofia was a Team Captain for Cycle for Survival, a fundraising event for Sloan Kettering Hospital. It supports research to discover cures for rare cancers. Sofia battled COVID-19 for two weeks and has fully recovered. In addition to online schoolwork, she is taking classes in crafts and cooking. Her letter of recommendation noted, "As a cancer survivor, Sofia's story is truly an inspiration. Her noble ambition to pay these lessons forward and study pediatric oncological nursing makes her an ideal recipient of a Susan Fund Scholarship."



JOSHUA RUBENSTEIN

Trumbull, CT
University of Maryland
College Park

Josh is a graduate of Trumbull High School and is in his freshman year at Maryland. He wrote, "Seeing first-hand the commitment, bravery and heroism of the doctors who saved my life, I feel that it is my destiny to eventually become a Pediatric Oncologist." Volunteerism has played an important role in Josh's life. At Trumbull High School, he was the President of the Infinite Love Junior Board. It works with the Infinite Love Foundation, an organization which was established in Connecticut to "raise awareness and fund research in regards to all things childhood cancer, but most importantly to support children and their families in their fight." He has also been an ambassador for The Casey Powell World Lacrosse Foundation and met with a child who was being treated for the same cancer he had. This is Josh's first Susan Fund scholarship.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



CORDELIA SCUDDER

West Haven, CT
Sacred Heart University

This is Cordelia's sixth Susan Fund scholarship. She is working to obtain her Masters in Social Work. In addition to pursuing her degree, Cordelia was a substitute teacher in the Bridgeport area prior to schools closing due to the pandemic. She wrote, "I have a lot of work to do with these children. They have so many complex issues and they are willing to discuss those problems with me." Her letter of recommendation describes Cordelia as, "a pillar in her community and church. Her faith is evident as she freely gives to those less fortunate and a hand to those in need. Her positive energy and contagious smile make her a delight to be around."



PATRICE TSOPANIDES

Fairfield, CT
Southern CT State University

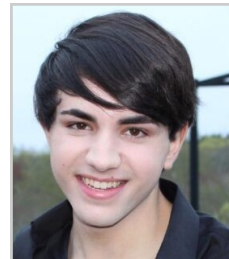
Patrice is a senior at Southern Connecticut State University majoring in Sociology and Criminology. She plans to intern either in law enforcement, public relations or at DCF. Patrice knows she would like to work in helping people to improve their lives. She has worked at the Mission Training Center for two years and is a member of their Adventure Athlete program which enables her to work out with a trainer. This keeps her healthy and strong. Her manager at Mission wrote, "Patrice is such a wonderful example of not only a young cancer survivor but of someone with resilience and determination to succeed no matter what obstacles may stand in her way." This is Patrice's second Susan Fund scholarship award.



JACK UNGAR

Darien, CT
University of Richmond

Jack graduated from Middlesex Prep School and will begin his college career in the fall. He plans to major in Psychology. Jack has been involved with his volunteer fire department and obtained his EMT license. Jack eloquently spoke to the Susan Fund Board about his desire to directly help people in need and about discovering his passion to become a firefighter at an early age. His letter of recommendation explained that Jack had been the recipient of Middlesex's Hervey Thompson '24 Award which, by vote of the faculty, is presented to that student who, by fortitude of character and exercise of will, has demonstrated exceptional courage and resiliency in becoming an accomplished student in athletics or academics or artistry. This represents how deeply Jack has inspired his school community with the way in which he has faced hardships and obstacles.

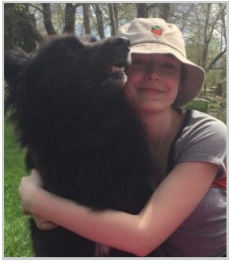


WILLIAM VARVARO

Easton, CT
Muehlenberg College

Will is a second-time Susan Fund scholarship recipient. He is a sophomore and is pursuing a degree in Communications and Media. His goal is to write a novel about a wicked witch name Zelena. Will has been creating it since he was fourteen years old. At Muhlenberg, Will was appointed as the vice president of the school's Pediatric Cancer Club. After graduation, he aspires to become a producer and incorporate his creative side with his business acumen. He believes his first year of college has broadened his horizons of career possibilities and goals for the future

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



MARIA WEYER

Westport, CT
Sarah Lawrence College

Maria is a recent graduate of Staples High School. She will be studying acting at college. She describes it as her “one true passion...her source of joy, hope and understanding.” Maria has taken acting classes in New York City during high school and would love to work in the theater professionally. She proudly describes the commercial for Crate and Barrel she acted in. Maria and her friend began a high school club which focused on fashion trends that are changing or should be changing. She designed clothes and also organized a clothing drive at her school. Maria reflects, “I would like to contribute to raising awareness and playing an active role on issues related to gender equality, gun control, racism and universal education.” This is Maria’s first Susan Fund Scholarship.

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](https://thesusanfund.org)

RECIPIENT QUOTES

“I would like to say how nice it was to see the Board members last night during our Zoom video chat. I am so grateful for the opportunity to interview again. I know that the pandemic has caused the strangest of circumstances, but it was nice to meet with all of you. Thank you for supporting me in achieving my goals.” - Michael Holtz

“I greatly appreciate the support of The Susan Fund and have been honored to be a recipient of the scholarship created in Susa n’s memory. I am unbelievably grateful for the support this organization has given me.” - Jack Havard

“I just wanted to express my gratitude to The Board of The Susan Fund for my scholarship grant and, even more, for the kindness everyone has shown me throughout the process. I was quite nervous for my interview in front of the entire Board. After two minutes, I was perfectly comfortable because everyone was incredibly kind, patient and understanding. It was probably the best interview I have ever had!” - Jack Ungar

“I just wanted to say thank you so much for the opportunity to meet with The Susan Fund Board members. The scholarship that you have awarded me means so much as I begin my college career. I am very grateful!” - Maria Weyer

“Thank you for your continued support of my education as I begin graduate school. I look forward to starting my studies at NYU Tandon School in the Integrated Digital Media program. The funds you’ve awarded me will provide much needed support. I look forward to sharing everything I create with you.” - Lauren Busser

“Thank you for what you do to make the world a better place. I am honored and grateful to be selected to be a Susan Fund scholarship recipient.” - Charlie Capalbo

RECIPIENT UPDATES

Morgan Galdenzi Graduates from James Madison University!



Morgan is a four-time recipient of The Susan Fund Scholarship. She earned her Bachelors of Social Work last December.

Hi, Ann,

I wanted you all to know that Morgan graduated from JMU in December. She was on the Dean's list her whole senior year!

Your organization was so special to all of us during this time. It wasn't only the money, which of course was a tremendous help. The kindness and compassion of you and the board is what really meant the most to us. I feel it became a comfortable place for Morgan to express some of her life with cancer. The Susan Fund was a significant part of her journey.

Lori Galdenzi and the Galdenzi Family

NBC Sports Hockey Day in America

Capalbo Strong: Brothers face off vs. cancer



How hockey player Charlie Capalbo crushed cancer



When Charlie Capalbo was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma and went into remission, he never could have imagined being diagnosed with Leukemia a year later. Thankfully, his brother Will was a 90% match as a marrow donor. As an avid hockey player his whole life, Charlie describes it as “in goalie perspective, Will made a once in a lifetime save.”

While Charlie underwent his aggressive treatment to battle the disease, he stayed positive by envisioning even the smallest details of being back on the ice, either coaching, playing or just watching the game. After three years of fighting back-to-back cancers, Charlie made his dream of getting back on the ice a reality, where he finally “felt home again.”

Visit TheSusanFund.org's homepage to watch and listen to Charlie talk about his battles with cancer, his family and his love of hockey in these two “Hockey Day in America” specials produced by NBC Sports.

OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

*We welcome Brandon Held and Logan Barer
- our newest Board Members and Past Recipients!*

BRANDON HELD



I was a Susan Fund Scholar from 2007 to 2011. During that time, I attended the University of Connecticut's School of Business in Storrs, graduating in May of 2011 with an Accounting major and a Communications minor.

I recall driving the windy backroads to Westport for my first Susan Fund interview nearly 14 years ago before

heading to UConn that Fall. A shirt and tie accompanied the butterflies in my stomach as I mentally prepared for my big meeting. Upon arriving, I was called into a quaint room where I was asked to sit at the head of a large table comprised of about a dozen strangers who made up the Board. As I readied myself for a serious evening of questioning, regarding why I deserved to be a Susan Fund Scholar, the Board members gave an oddly friendly "hello" and introduced themselves.

Having been to other scholarship interviews, I thought this must be some sort of ruse to lull me into a false sense of security. Once my interviewing defenses were lowered, they would certainly attempt to catch me off guard and send me home as just another applicant. Soon I found out, the exact opposite was true.

That collection of strangers in the "Board Room" continued the relaxed and casual nature of the conversation which made my time with them more akin to sitting at a Thanksgiving table of extended family members than an intense interrogation of my merits. Having expected to be peppered with multifaceted questions, I very much welcomed their smiling faces; they wanted to know and befriend me. The fifteen minutes we spent together flew by and I, again, returned to those windy backroads, except now with a loosened tie, skip in my step, smile on my face, and the sense of knowing I had just been in very good company!

Having joined the Board in 2015, that positive energy remains a staple of the Board's interview process each spring. At the very core of our Board, behind the welcoming faces and entertaining dialogue, is a well-intended aspiration to know and create genuine relationships with the courageous individuals who have or are experiencing the shared obstacle of a cancer diagnosis. Our scholars' ambition to overcome and better themselves by continuing their educational pursuits demonstrates there is still positivity and good-hearted people in this world who wish to make a difference. I am very grateful to be a member of The Susan Fund Board.

LOGAN BARER



I was diagnosed with Stage III melanoma at age nine and went through my course of treatment. Fast forward a few years and I was lucky enough to become a four-time Susan Fund scholarship recipient which helped me to attend Ithaca College. I started as an Environmental Science major, but switched to Communication Studies in my sophomore year.

After graduating, it took me some time to find my niche while doing some baseball writing, coaching, and substitute teaching. I have recently found a career at Momentum Solar, helping people save money and, more importantly, helping the environment, which has always been a passion of mine.

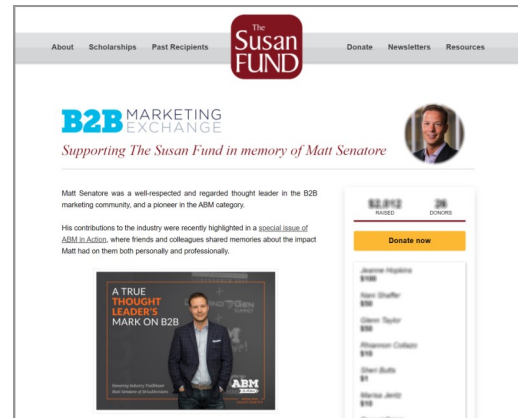
I am elated to be the newest member of The Susan Fund Board and hope to be a part of it for a very long time. I remember my very first interview - going to the Westport library and asking the librarian to help me find the conference room where the Susan Fund Board was waiting for me. While our interviews were virtual this year, it was still very exciting for me to sit on the other side of the table from where I sat seven years ago. I hope I am able to provide the same supportive, calming presence that I experienced back then. I can't help but wonder what I would have thought of myself, from either point of view. I certainly would have some advice for myself, that's for sure.

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE SUSAN FUND

- Mail a check to The Susan Fund at 8 Hilly Field Lane, Westport, CT 06880
- 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.

TAX INCENTIVES FOR 2020 ONLY

- Taxpayers who do not itemize can deduct charitable donations up to \$300 "above the line"
- Taxpayers who itemize can deduct charitable donations up to 100% of Adjusted Gross Income



B2B MARKETING EXCHANGE SUPPORTS THE SUSAN FUND IN MEMORY OF MATT SENATORE

Each year, the B2B Marketing Exchange helps to raise awareness and funding for worthy causes. Former Susan Fund recipient and Board Member, Matt Senatore, was such a well-respected thought leader and pioneer in the Account-Based Marketing community that they honored his memory by supporting The Susan Fund at this year's event.

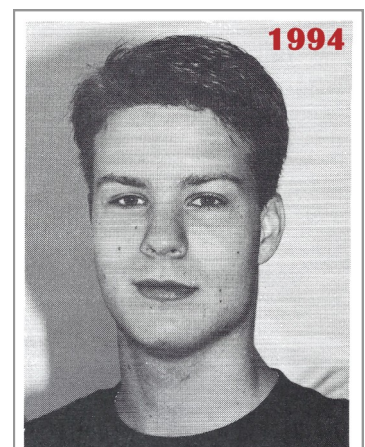
If you would like to setup a special fundraiser supporting The Susan Fund in honor of, in memory of, or in lieu of birthday gifts, please contact us at susanfund@gmail.com.

REMEMBERING MATT SENATORE: SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, RECEPTION SPEAKER AND SUSAN FUND BOARD MEMBER

Matt passed away in September 2019. Griffin Handley was a fraternity brother of his. He wrote this for the Newsletter because he wanted to describe what Matt meant to him. In writing this, he described what Matt meant to all of us.

“What’s the big deal? You’ll get through it.” This was Matt’s mantra and it underlines the effect he had on everyone and why today, we need to remember Matt’s words. Matt was a consoler, a comic, a music lover and a ferocious card player. He was a father to three beautiful daughters, Mia, Emma and Reese. He had a quiet style that brought out the best in people.

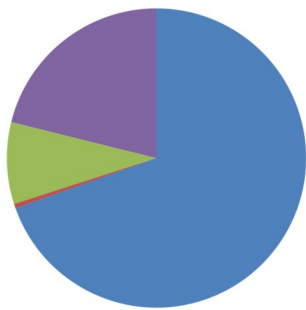
But there was another layer to Matt that used his intuition and kindness to inspire and encourage his family and friends when they needed him most. Right now, we hear him saying, “What’s the big deal? You’ll get through it.” And Matt is still here through his simple words when we have to know that we’ll get through it. The Susan Fund Board will always celebrate his generosity and courage.



Matthew T. Senatore, Fairfield University of Connecticut
A Dean's list student and a four-time recipient of the Susan Fund, Matthew was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease from which he has been in remission for seven years. Mather, a finance major, works as an intern at IBM as well as working two jobs during the school year.

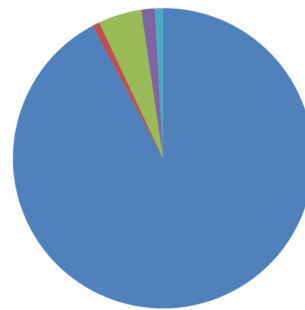
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