



## SSCF Newsletter January 2022

### Our Mission:

To financially assist families who have experienced the death of a child by offering monetary grants to help with some portion of funeral costs.

### **ALWAYS REMEMBERING...** Christopher John Conti, I.

It is to honor Christopher's life of kindness and joy that The SonShine Charitable Fund has been established. The Conti family and the Fund's Board of Directors are inviting you to join them in the mission to show love and support to families who are similarly affected.



### **WHAT WE WERE ABLE TO DO IN 2021...**

Through mostly online fundraisers, we have been building up our balance so that we can guarantee grants as they become necessary. Since the establishment of the organization in 2020, we have provided grants to more than 15 families.

In order to raise awareness and funds, we were able to host a few small face to face gatherings upstairs at [Demetris On The Lake in Dunkirk](#), and are so grateful to Mr. Manning and the staff there for helping us make those events possible.

The GIVE BIG CHQ online event in June and our summer raffle allowed many to donate. The five raffle winners were announced at our booth at The Fredonia Farm Festival in August. See the next page for more about this successful event.

In November, Pucci's (<https://www.gotopuccis.com/>) Carpet One Furniture and Bedding partnered with us for Giving Tuesday. They donated 10% of their sales that day to our Fund; once again proving that small town businesses appreciate and give back to the community.

We are always thankful for those who have visited us at our few face to face events and those who have shared our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

If you know of or are a family who needs assistance, please access our contact information using the QR code or the SonShine Fund links in this newsletter.

### **WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW...**

When one of our Board members is made aware of the death of a child (age 1-19 years) we reach out as soon as possible to the funeral home that will be providing services in order to present our grant towards the costs. As often as possible, Alex Conti (our founding member) travels to the funeral home to present this grant in person. But, we can only help those families that we know about, so it is important that we get the word out about our organization. Thanks to those of you who have visited our sites, our in person events and those who have donated to one of our online events, the awareness is growing.

Remember, our grants are not based on financial need. Some counties offer financial assistance to needy families, but they rarely cover all the costs. Our Board of Directors believes strongly that, regardless of financial need, it is important to support families experiencing the heartache of the loss of a child.

Many don't realize that average funeral costs in 2021 exceed \$7000 (<https://worldpopulationreview.com/>). And that New York State has one of the highest averages (\$10,000+).

### **WHAT IS COMING UP?**

Continued COVID restrictions are making event planning difficult again as we begin this new year.

We try to get the word out about any events we host using our [Facebook page](#) and the [EVENTS page of our website](#).

As always, donations can be made via our website using Venmo (@SonShinefund); PayPal or credit card:

<https://www.sonshinefund.com/donate>

As a registered 501(c)3 charity, your donations to our Fund may be tax deductible. All donations are used toward our mission to help defray the cost of a funeral for a child.

Mail-in donations can be sent  
By check or money order to:  
The SonShine Charitable Fund  
8921 Shumla Rd  
Fredonia, NY 14063  
**Attention Alex Conti**

Questions?  
Email us at:  
[Sonshinecharity@gmail.com](mailto:Sonshinecharity@gmail.com)

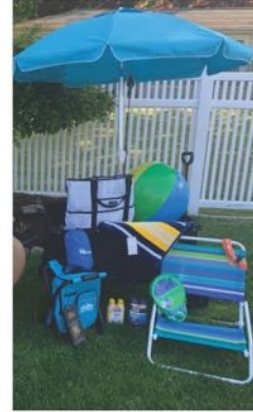
## The SonShine Fund's Summer Raffle 2021 prizes were awarded in August.

We want to thank all who donated so generously to our cause. This event allowed us to raise awareness about our organization without holding a large in-person event. So many people were willing to donate the all of the items that we used to put the prize packages together, and others donated funds above and beyond the price of the raffle tickets they bought.



### Prize 1

Home Gardening Package including a Wheelbarrow, Hand Tools and accessories



### Prize 2

Beach Party Package that includes a Beach Wagon, Chair, Umbrella and more

### Prize 3

Backyard Cookout Package Featuring a Smoker and all the fixin's



### Prize 4

Fishing Package including a Kayak, Yeti Fishing Bucket and Fishing Gear



**Prize 5** Power Wheels Jeep with SonShine Fund logo -- donated by Shults Resale



Prize winners were chosen during the Fredonia Farm Festival in August 2021. We hope to hold another raffle in 2022 ... stay tuned for details.



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sunshine

CHARITABLE FUND

PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS



## SSCF Newsletter July 2021

### Our Mission:

To financially assist families who have experienced the death of a child by offering monetary grants to help with some portion of funeral costs.

### **A REMINDER...**

This summer we will mark the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of 18-year-old Christopher John Conti, I.

It is to honor Christopher's life of kindness and joy that The SonShine Charitable Fund has been established. The Conti family and the Fund's Board of Directors are inviting you to join them in the mission to show love and support to families who are similarly affected.



### **WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR...**

Our preliminary task has been to build up our balance so that we can guarantee grants as they become necessary. We have been blessed beyond measure by one-time donations, repeat donations and by those who have pledged to be monthly donors. Since the establishment of the Fund in 2020, we have provided grants to eight families.

Personal contact with a member of our Board, word of mouth and social media shares have been used to introduce people to our cause. We appreciate those who have visited and shared our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

On June 10 we were fortunate to be one of the 119 Chautauqua County non-profit organizations that participated in an online event called GIVE BIG CHQ (<https://www.givebigchq.org/info/faq>). During this 24-hour fundraising event more than 30 donors chose to support our Fund. We are constantly amazed at the generosity that has been shown by our local community and beyond. Thanks to all who donated on June 10.

A big THANK YOU goes out to *The Ilio DiPaolo Scholarship Fund* for their continued support and their donation during this event.

(<https://iliodipaolos.com/history-of-ilio-dipaolo/>)

If you know of or are a family who needs assistance, please access our contact information using the QR code or any of the links in this newsletter.

### **WHAT IS COMING UP?**

As COVID restrictions seem ever-changing in 2021 we decided that a **summer raffle** would be our best option for a fundraiser at this time. Several wonderful people donated brand new items so that we could put together FIVE prize packages. You can see the prizes and all necessary information about this fundraiser on the [EVENTS page of our website](#). We began selling tickets in May and will draw for prizes throughout the summer, with the final drawing in mid-September. Tickets are not being sold online. Simply contact one of our Board members or message us on FB or via email if you would like to support us in this way.

In addition to the raffle, we are able to host a few small face to face gatherings in the upstairs space at [Demetris On The Lake in Dunkirk](#). Our first **Meet and Greet event** was on Thursday June 17. The next two are on **July 15<sup>th</sup>** and **August 19<sup>th</sup>**. These events will run from **7pm -- 9pm**. We encourage you to drop in for a few minutes, grab a snack and chat with us about our mission and what we've done so far. Raffle tickets will be available at these events. We'd like to thank the Manning family for allowing us to use their venue and for providing some tasty treats!

### **WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW...**

Many don't realize that average funeral costs in 2020 exceed \$7000 (<https://worldpopulationreview.com/>). Some counties offer financial assistance to needy families, but they rarely cover all the costs. Our Board of Directors believes strongly that, regardless of financial need, it is important to support families experiencing the heartache of the loss of a child (age 1-19 years.) Our grants are not based on financial need.

Donations can be made via PayPal or credit card using the link on our website:

<https://www.sonshinefund.com/donate>

As a registered 501(c)3 charity, your donations to our Fund may be tax deductible. All donations go toward defraying the cost of a funeral for a child.

Mail-in donations can be sent  
By check or money order to:  
The SonShine Charitable Fund  
8921 Shumla Rd  
Fredonia, NY 14063  
**Attention Alex Conti**

Questions?  
Email us at:  
[Sonshinecharity@gmail.com](mailto:Sonshinecharity@gmail.com)