

# The Donna Crandall FOUNDATION NEWS



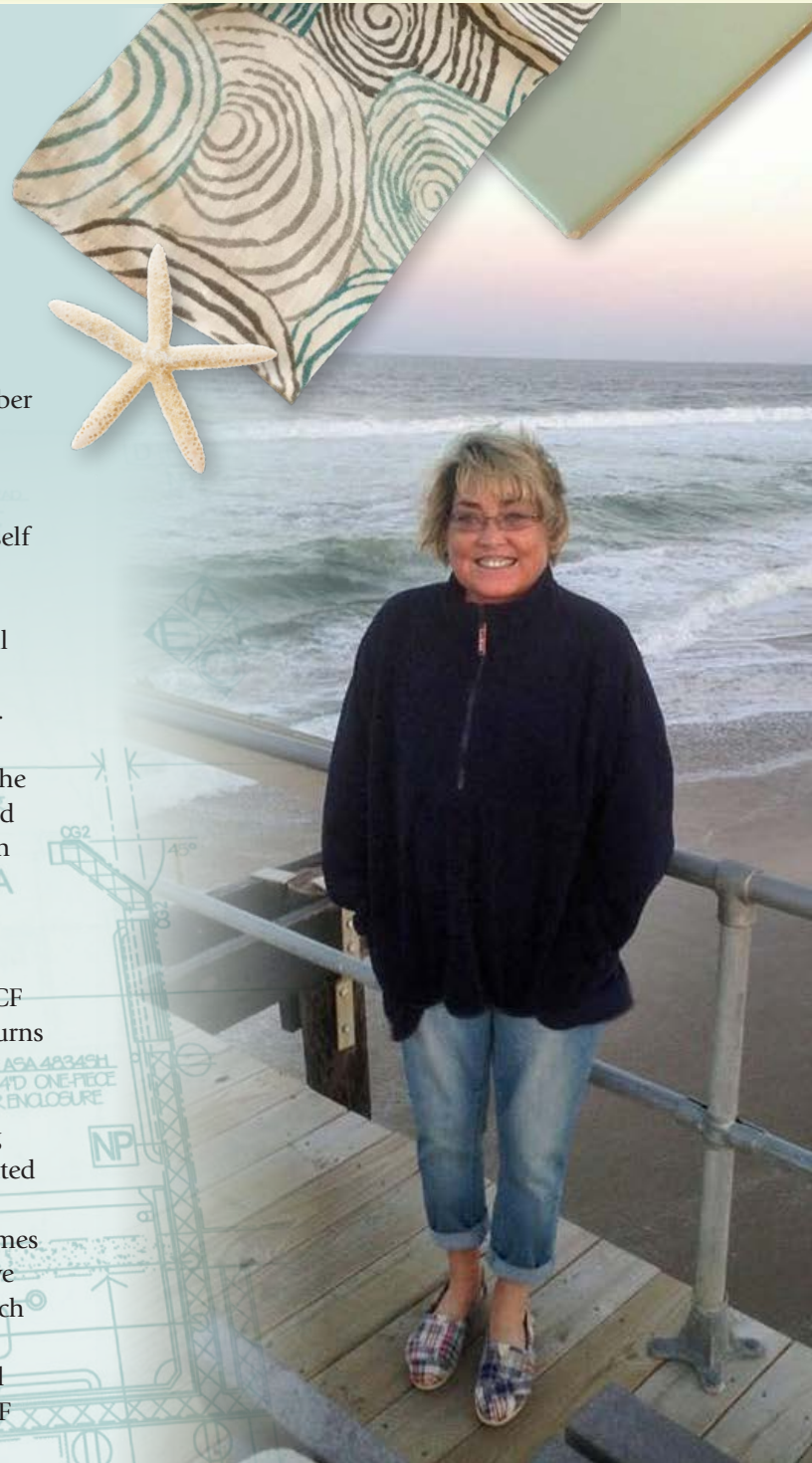
PROVIDING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT POSITIVELY IMPACT CYSTIC FIBROSIS PATIENTS. • [WWW.DONNACRANDALLFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.DONNACRANDALLFOUNDATION.ORG)

## Construction begins on "Dawn's Room" at Albany Med!

After more than two years of fundraising, planning, and designing, construction on Dawn's Room began in September 2018! Dawn's Room was inspired by Dawn McGuinness, the Donna M. Crandall Foundation's guidepost and biggest advocate. Dawn, like many adult CF patients, had to spend several weeks each year in the hospital. She considered herself blessed to spend her hospitalizations on the Dazian Floor at Beth Israel Hospital in New York City, which has special private rooms that look more like hotel rooms than hospital rooms. Dawn always wished that her fellow CFers back in Albany could have similar rooms at Albany Medical Center. After Dawn passed away in April 2016, the Donna Crandall Foundation began trying to make Dawn's Room a reality. The DMCF got the ball rolling with a \$25,000 commitment, and the rest of 2016 was full of Lemonade Challenges, the Dawn McGuinness Memorial Golf Tournament, and many other fundraisers dedicated to raising money specifically for this special tribute to Dawn.

Lisa Cheney, DMCF Vice President, and the rest of the DMCF team have worked closely with Meghan Baltich and Tom Burns from Blairhouse Interiors and Mike Lopez from Albany Medical Center to complete the plans for the new room. Dawn's Room will be adjacent to the Donna Crandall Living Room on E5 at Albany Med. This powerhouse group dedicated themselves to making the beach-themed, luxurious space a reality. "Tom and I had the chance to meet Dawn several times and were truly touched by her contagious smile and positive approach to life," shared Meghan. "Her passion for the beach was an obvious inspiration when we began designing her namesake room. We are honored to be a part of this special project and hope it will be a perfect place for others with CF to receive their care in the years to come."

*continued on page 2*



*Dawn McGuinness on one of her favorite beaches.*

Special thanks to our Newsletter Editor, Erin Snow.



## Construction begins on "Dawn's Room" at Albany Med!

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Design samples and floorplan for Dawn's Room.

The private room will have many amenities and special features, including plank tile floors, dimmer lights throughout, plantation shutters, a closet system, charging station, sleeper sofa, TV, and pictures from Ocean Grove (the beach town that Dawn loved best). Further, the room will have the only private bathroom and shower on the floor, a special feature for CF patients. The bathroom will have a barn door and beautiful beach glass tile trim.

The final cost of Dawn's Room is \$85,000, and DMCF is so grateful for all of our special friends who have worked tirelessly to fundraise for this project. "We are very excited to create a permanent reminder of a very special friend to the Foundation," Lisa Cheney shared. "Dawn would be so happy to see her dream room here at Albany Med."



CF moms on horseback at the retreat

## A Restful and Transformative Retreat for Capital-Area CF Moms

When Tonya Egleston first heard about the "We Walk Together" retreat for mothers of children with cystic fibrosis, she was immediately intrigued. But, when she discovered the retreat was in Montana, she didn't think it would be possible to attend because of the expensive travel costs. Enter the Donna Crandall Foundation!

The Donna Crandall Foundation provided travel costs for four Capital-area CF moms to attend the retreat in Big Sky, Montana in the fall of 2017. The weekend retreat, organized and hosted by the Cody Dieruf Benefit Foundation, is meant to give mothers of children with CF a chance to connect with each other, while sending them home renewed and perhaps with new ideas for how to care for themselves and meet the constant requirements of CF in their families.

Tonya Egleston, Stephanie Beaulieu, Mandy Tooker, and Jessica Gilmore each received \$1,000 from DMCF to cover their travel expenses. "The experience was simply amazing and life changing. We all became so close and gained many new friends from different states. It will live with us forever, and I truly wish every CF mom could experience this retreat," Tonya Egleston shared. At the retreat, the women relaxed with meditation, yoga, bead-making, journaling, drumming, horseback riding, and more. Tonya continued, "We were able to laugh, love, and, gosh, cry a lot together. But the emotion was real, raw, and needed to be released. It gave us the ability to reboot and be the best moms we can be! The Donna Crandall Foundation has once again touched my life. My experience at the retreat truly couldn't have happened without the Foundation's support."

Stephanie Beaulieu added, "It was so inspiring to get together with other moms, share our stories, and learn how we all handle life as a CF parent differently. It was also nice to take a time out from the everyday routines and take time for ourselves. While we focus so much on our children's breathing, we forget that we, as moms, need to breathe too."

After their positive experience in Montana, the Capital-area moms who attended the retreat are hopeful to try to expand this retreat to New York as another way to spread awareness and give parents an outlet to release and relate. David Crandall, President of the Foundation, said, "DMCF is excited to send even more local moms to Montana in fall 2018, and we have reached out to the Cody Dieruf Benefit Foundation about potentially partnering further in the future."



Capital-area moms (L-R): Mandy Tooker, Jessica Gilmore, Tonya Egelston, and Stephanie Beaulieu

Stephanie and Tonya at a drumming workshop.





## In his own words . . .

### *Justin Goldsmith on the transplant process and how the Donna M. Crandall Foundation helps*

*Justin, can you please share what life with CF was like for you before your transplant?*

As a child, I was extremely healthy. I never felt limited by cystic fibrosis; I just took the changes to my body in stride. My first admission for an exacerbation was when I was 16. When I was in my mid twenties, I needed more admissions every year to stay active, and that's when my CF team started the transplant conversation with me. I stayed stable until about my early thirties: at that time my health needed more focus, so I retired from my job to take care of myself full time. It was then that I started following up with the transplant team in NYC. Although I felt diminished by my lung function, I still was getting out and traveling to places like Ireland and Italy.

At 36 I finally needed supplementary oxygen because I couldn't walk 30 feet without feeling the need to stop. It was distressing because it was then that it finally hit me that my CF was adversely affecting my life and happiness. When I was out with friends, which I was doing less and less, I felt like a burden (thankfully my friends never shared that sentiment because they are awesome, amazing people). In September 2017 (when I turned 37), I started showing signs of hypercapnia, and three months later I ended up in AMC for a cleanout and to start biPAP. When the doctors noticed that biPAP wasn't effective, Dr. Smith contacted my transplant coordinator.

*Explain what the transplant process was like for you. Where did you have to travel? How much notice did you have before your transplant? How long did you have to stay there before and after the operation?*

The transplant process is long and requires effort on the patient's part. Thankfully, I decided early on that I would like to get a transplant and started well before I needed one. My initial visits were over a period of three days: mainly tests so they could get a clear picture of my physical and mental health. For five years, I followed up with Colombia Presbyterian in New York City about twice a year. They had me on the inactive transplant list (after accepting me into their program) for four years; they moved me to the active transplant list in April 2017. My Lung Allocation Score was in the mid 30s (out of 100), so I was very low on the list. I was on supplemental oxygen, but I was still ambulatory enough to get around without a wheelchair (probably mostly because I knew the value of walking). Exercise is SO important with CF!

In December 2017, I was not doing well. I was inpatient, getting IV antibiotics and antivirals, and on biPAP. That's when my transplant team wanted me to come down to



*Justin Goldsmith in September 2018, the day before his 38th birthday*

New York Presbyterian for observation. It took about a month for them to find me a bed, and when I arrived my Lung Allocation Score was updated—to 90. The doctors told me to expect calls for offers and to make sure my phone was on. I stayed on the step down

unit for a month and a half before they found viable lungs to transplant. At this point I had been in the hospital for three months. On February 22, 2018, I went to the pre-transplant holding area for the last time. My surgery took 6 hours, and afterward, I stayed in the surgical ICU for two days. I then moved to the post transplant unit for another 3 weeks before finally being discharged. All and all, I was in the hospital for 4 months. My experience with the transplant was great. Everyone involved (including my family and friends) helped me through so much, and I am truly thankful for my experience.

*Can you share how the Donna Crandall Foundation made a difference before your transplant, but also how did it help during the transplant process and recovery?*

The Donna Crandall Foundation has helped me so much. I still remember my first gift bag and how happy it made me. The "Living Room" on E5 has given my friends and family and me a place to hangout that didn't feel like we were in a hospital. The seasonal events in the clinic made visits more interesting and bought me lunch more than once! When I first started following up with the transplant team in NYC, DMCF helped with my hotel and travel expenses. After the transplant they helped my family with accommodations that made it easier for my mom and sister, as well as working out an agreement with the restaurant in New York Presbyterian so I could eat something other than hospital food. Having that support for my family and me alleviated a lot of stress and anxiety.

*How are you doing now?*

I feel better now than I have felt in recent memory. I tell everyone that I feel like a teenager again. My energy, drive, and ambition are higher than I ever remember. My breathing is better than it has been in the last 20 years. My weight has gone up by almost 20 pounds, and my appetite as improved greatly. I cannot tell you how good it is to just get up and go somewhere without having to think about how much oxygen I'll need or feeling tired.

*What would you tell your friends about the Foundation?*

I tell my friends to support them. For years I've told family, friends, and the transplant team about the Donna M. Crandall Foundation and how important they are to the CF patients in the area. They give the CFers and their families hope and happiness. We are all very blessed to have them!



# *Emerald Eve 2017 sets a new fundraising record as DMCF announces new support initiative for lung transplant patients!*

The seventeenth Emerald Eve raised a record-breaking amount of money for the Donna M. Crandall Foundation—\$155,000 (\$20,000 more than 2015's previous record)! More than 380 friends of the Foundation joined us at the Canfield Casino on November 18, 2017. With



1. Vikki and John Corliss watch the Emerald Eve video
2. Emerald Eve guests enjoying the evening
3. Norma Carson (who has never missed an Emerald Eve in 17 years!) browses silent auction items.

live music provided by the Scott Bassinson Trio and special guest Ben Crandall on keyboard and guitar, guests enjoyed a delicious dinner and drinks while mingling and browsing the incredible silent auction items.

The silent auction, always one of the evening's highlights and orchestrated by DMCF board member Terri Snow, featured many desirable trips, tickets to sporting and entertainment events, themed baskets, and more. Once again,

Emerald Eve guests had a travel bug, as the vacation getaways were the most highly sought after auction items, with a one week stay in Charleston, South Carolina going for \$3,750; one week in Anna Maria Island, Florida for \$3,000; one week in Lake George for \$2,000; three nights in Maine for \$1,800; and one week in Palm Springs, California for \$1,100!

The live auction was thrilling as guests outbid each other over a weekend with the Crandalls at Lake George, tickets to see Harry Potter and the Cursed Child in New York City, and a private dinner party for 10 at Malcolm's. In addition to the silent and live auctions, guests participated in both the traditional Emerald Eve raffle—with the chance to win either \$100, \$500, or \$1,000—and a wine raffle, in which every participant took home a bottle of wine.

The 2017 video gave a glimpse into the transplant journey of cystic fibrosis patients, focusing on Chris Young and his wife, who shared their family's story and how the DMCF helped them while Chris was going through both his first and second lung transplants. "I'm a post-transplant adult now. I didn't realize that the Donna Crandall Foundation would still be focused on any issues I had or assistance I



## **Burke P. Bear Recipients Honored**

Every year at Emerald Eve, the Donna M. Crandall Foundation recognizes some of its special friends with "Burke P. Bear Awards," our small way of acknowledging their devotion to the Foundation and people with cystic fibrosis. At the 2017 Emerald Eve, we were delighted to present Laura Doolin, Mary Flaherty, and Aimee Wokenfuss with Burke Bears.

Laura Doolin has been a corporate sponsor of DMCF for seventeen years. Her company has donated over \$42,000 over the years, as well as adopting several CF families each Christmas. She supported us from the beginning as one of

the original organizers of the first Christmas cookie tins distributed at Albany Medical Center, and she still

supports us now, hosting her own Lemonade Challenge more recently! She is a steadfast supporter who has not only shared our story countless times, but has also encouraged others to become corporate sponsors as well.

Mary Flaherty has supported the Donna Crandall Foundation since the beginning. A part of our honorary committee for 18 years, she has shared our story countless times in the community, even willing to participate beyond her comfort zone and appear in one of our Emerald Eve videos. A friend to DMCF since before there was even an Emerald Eve to attend, she is now famous for her legendary support and



needed,” shared Chris. “I assumed they were focused on patients still living with cystic fibrosis, but they were there to help me—and my family—pre- and post-transplant.”

When the Donna M. Crandall Foundation was started, there were no local CF patients who had received a lung transplant. As of Emerald Eve 2017, there were 12 in the Capital region. DMCF has long provided \$1,000 to each patient who explores the option of a transplant and \$2,500 immediately after transplant. This support was rooted in Donna Crandall’s journey. After Donna and David traveled to Columbia Hospital in New York City to explore a transplant, she discussed how the associated expenses must be a deterrent for some. Expensive parking, hotel stays, gas, and tolls are just some of the costs that add up and are barriers for some families who could explore this life-saving treatment. These costs are not just one-time events either—patients must travel back to their transplant centers annually for follow-up care.

After the video, Foundation President David Crandall announced the launch of a very special new program to further support CF lung transplant recipients in our area. The Donna M. Crandall Foundation will now give an additional \$1,000 to each lung transplant patient annually to assist with the expense of follow-up care. Further, as another way to support this special group of patients, we will be offering help with meals when families are out of town for a transplant. “We want post-transplant adults and their families to know that they will always be a part of the DMCF family,” David said. “And, we want all local CF patients to know that no matter where they need to travel for their transplant, DMCF is there to help.”



1.



2.



3.



4.

1. Lou Smaldone on bass and Scott Bassinson on the keyboard
2. Chelsea and Chris Young, after sharing their story with our guests
3. Albany Medical Staff enjoy the evening.
4. Mary Flaherty enjoys Ben Crandall's performance

To watch the 2017 Emerald Eve video, visit  
<http://www.donnacrandallfoundation.org/2017-emerald-eve-video/>

enthusiasm at Emerald Eve’s live auction. She has won dinners, as well as tickets to sporting events and shows. She has even been known to outbid herself to positively benefit the work of the DMCF!

Aimee Wockenfuss is our Mazzone Hospitality designer who is the reason Emerald Eve looks as spectacular as it does every single year. Aimee has been helping us for 13 years and puts her special touch on every event. Her personal interest in the Foundation turns her work in to a labor of love, and she consistently goes above and beyond when designing DMCF events.

## Burke Bear Winners



Laura Doolin



Mary Flaherty



Aimee Wockenfuss



# The Donna M. Crandall Foundation



Golf Event Organizers, Mike Utzig, Danielle Grasso, Erin Mark, and Ryan Mark

## Dawn McGuinness Memorial Golf Event

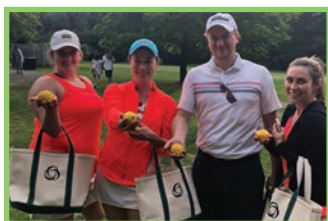
(a.k.a the Lemon Classic!) raised over **\$17,000** at the sold-out event on June 9, 2018. In addition to the spirited round of golf, 120 golfers and guests enjoyed the beautiful day, dinner, drinks, and live auction. Erin Mark, one of the organizers, shared her personal story of CF and the impact the Donna Crandall Foundation has had on her life. She and her co-founders—Mike Utzig, Danielle Grasso, and Ryan Mark—created this tournament four years ago as a way to give back to the Foundation, and in those four years, have raised over **\$54,000** for DMCF! Save the date for next year's golf event—**June 8, 2019!**



Nancy Carroll and Katie Fuller volunteer at check-in to honor their son and brother, David Carroll, who passed away in 2004. They are always willing to help the DMCF because it meant so much to David.



Two-time tournament winners (Justin Chamberland, Bob Payst, Michael Zuccaro and Scott Dunkers) celebrate their victory with event organizers.



Good sports and tournament "losers" Kaitlyn MacLeod, Minda Conroe, Phillippe Boisvert, Ashlee Casper hold their lemons!

## Starfish Swim Club Swim Mania

The annual Starfish Swim Club's fundraising event was held in January 2018, and they donated **\$3,000** to DMCF! Jill Dougherty and Denise Murphy McGraw organize Swim Mania every year, which has raised more than **\$80,000** for the Foundation since 2001.

**Ryan's Run** The eighth Ryan's Run was held in Hannacroix in July. Approximately 100 people participated in this annual motorcycle ride and poker run that honors Ryan Lee MacDonald, who had CF and passed away in 2009 at the age of 23. The first seven Ryan's Run events raised over **\$30,000** for the DMCF. Tina Hamilton will be presenting a check from 2018's Run at Emerald Eve.

## Wild Turkey Summer Swim

Organized by Caroline McGraw, the Niskayuna Wild Turkeys held their twelfth annual Swim and Dive Team Swim-A-Thon in July. Over 100 swimmers gave up their Friday night and raised **\$2,650** for DMCF!

## Family Feud Fundraiser



► The winning team, Risky Quizness, with host Mr. Lynch!

► Sydney Reichart and her teacher, Mr. Lynch



In April, Sydney Reichart, an eighteen-year old living with CF, organized a Family Feud Fundraiser at Stillwater High School to benefit DMCF. With the help of high school teacher (and game show host!) Mr. Lynch, the event raised an amazing **\$2,180!**

# Foundation Thanks Its Supporters!

**Our Lady Queen of Peace/Saint Margaret of Cortona Mission in Schenectady** donated \$2,000 to DMCF after Cheri Martell shared our story with Pastor Vincent Ciotoli. Father Ciotoli shared, "The contribution represents our parish commitment to share a portion off the top of what we contribute to the faith community with those who are most in need locally, national, and internationally. Each week a percentage of what is contributed is set aside to help others."



Sheila Brown and Jim Richardson—  
Joshua Richardson's parents and  
"Just Breathe" organizers

The first annual **Just Breathe Bike Run** event in memory of Joshua Richardson was held on July 14, 2018 in Schenectady. Bikes and cars participated in a ride, then returned to Longshots Bar for food, live music, a Chinese auction, and a 50/50 raffle. Organized by his mom, Sheila Brown, who wanted to "raise money for an organization that touched his life," the event raised \$1,100.

**Lake George Staff and Education Association** donated \$513 to DMCF, the proceeds from their once-a-month "dress down day" fundraiser; thanks to Becky Delong, a high school employee with two family members with CF, who suggested us.

The **Shaker High School Boys Soccer Team** hosted a Lemonade Challenge at their Senior Night game. The team collected \$352 to benefit the Foundation.



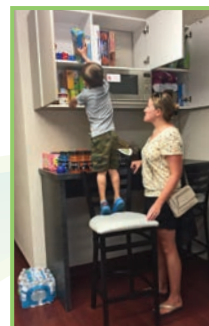
The **Shaker Junior High Swim Team**, with their coaches Leslie Archer and Heather Daniels, organized three DMCF Lemonade Challenges during their swim meets throughout the year.



Shaker high school student  
Jenny Seo runs a Lemonade  
Challenge at a swim meet.



**Thanks** to Corey, Serena, and Ryan Kirkpatrick for stocking the DMCF Living Room on behalf of the Foundation.



**Thanks** to Jac Goldsmith, Julie McGrail, Carolyn Nichols, and Liz Vansdale for setting up Facebook birthday fundraisers to benefit DMCF.

## Contributions honoring loved ones

We are honored and humbled that families and friends celebrating joyous occasions or honoring lost loved ones consider donating to The Donna M. Crandall Memorial Foundation. Such generosity makes it possible for us to reach out to others in need. Recent contributions commemorated the following:

**Contributions to Honor ~**  
Tommy Potanovic's 50th birthday

**In Memory Of ~**

Joyce Amundsen

Mary Breton

David Carroll

Vicki Dewine

Codey Walsh

Lauren Phelps



Happy birthday,  
Tommy Potanovic!



# 1,800th gift bag delivers smiles—and a surprise check!

The Donna M. Crandall Foundation delivered its 1,800th gift bag to Albany Medical Center in June. In addition to the usual LL Bean tote stuffed full of goodies, the lucky recipient received a check for \$1,800!

What started as a simple way for Donna's family members to make a difference in the lives of CF patients at Albany Med has turned in to one of the Foundation's signature undertakings. The Foundation delivers approximately 100 bags per year to Albany Medical Center. Maggie Fritz is the primary shopper, with occasional help from her siblings and Annette Phelps. She has been putting together DMCF bags for four years and will be sorely missed as she heads to Villanova for her freshman year this fall. DMCF wishes her all the best and looks forward to her help when she is home on break!



The bags are given to adult and pediatric patients upon admission to the hospital to make their stays a little brighter. The totes this year have a few new items to make hospital stays more comfortable, such as six foot extension cords for electronic devices (the wall outlets in hospitals are frequently not convenient to the beds) and lap blankets for chilly patient rooms. Bags also include fun items intended to bring a smile to patients' faces, like games, books, snacks, and electronics—this year's bags added selfie sticks and Amazon gift cards to the mix! You will always find a box of Mike and Ikes, Donna's favorite candy, and a deck of UNO cards, in homage to Mary Breton, a brave, beautiful little girl who continues to inspire.



Maggie and Mary Fritz drop off gift bags at Albany Med.



THE DONNA M. CRANDALL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

*Reserve your tickets today!*  
**Saturday, November 17, 2018**

7 – 11 p.m. • Canfield Casino, Saratoga Springs, NY

At this year's Emerald Eve, the Donna M. Crandall Foundation will celebrate the unsung heroes in the battle against CF—the caregivers, including parents, siblings, grandparents, and spouses. E-mail [Lisa@CrandallFoundation.org](mailto:Lisa@CrandallFoundation.org) to buy tickets.

Quantities are limited!





# Patients have a "reel-y" good time with DMCF's Summer Clinic Surprise!

## DMCF: MAKING SUMMERS MORE FUN SINCE 2002!

**2018:** *Catch of the Day*  
**2017:** *The Wall*  
**2016:** *Lemonade Out of Lemons*  
**2015:** *Custom Pillow Carriers*  
**2014:** *Dancing in the Rain*  
**2013:** *Summer Scratch-Off*  
**2012:** *London Olympics*  
**2011:** *Travel File*  
**2010:** *Sorting Hat*  
**2009:** *Gold, Silver, Bronze*  
**2008:** *Deal or No Deal*  
**2007:** *The Golden Ticket*  
**2006:** *Vacation VISA*  
**2005:** *Duffle Bags with Beach Towels*  
**2004:** *LL Bean Coolers*  
**2003:** *LL Bean Backpacks*  
**2002:** *School Supplies*

Donna Crandall never liked wasting a beautiful day, so she certainly hated visiting the CF clinic in the summer. Since its beginning, the Donna Crandall Foundation has paid tribute to Donna by organizing a "Summer Surprise" to make summer clinic visits at Albany Med a little more enjoyable. This summer, Donna's nephews, Jack Cheney and Ben Crandall organized the "Catch of the Day" contest. "Ben and I wanted to work on the summer surprise because we are the only cousins who never had the chance to meet Aunt Donna," shares Jack Cheney. "Volunteering with the Foundation gives us an insight into her everyday life and makes us feel like we get to have a little bit of a relationship with her."

Upon arrival at Albany Med, both adult and pediatric CF clinic visitors were handed a fishing pole. They then stood 12 feet away from the special DMCF "Catch of the Day" board, which had 15 compartments, each labeled with fish of differing weights. The patients' first two casts were totaled and entered in to that week's "fishing tournament." At the end of each week, the patient from the adult and pediatric clinic with the largest combined weight won \$250!

Each clinic visitor also threw a third cast to determine what they would win that day: \$20, \$50, or \$100! Snacks (Swedish fish and Goldfish crackers!) were provided to all tournament participants. "I have no words to express how wonderful the Donna M. Crandall Foundation is! I love how you always come up with such unique and fun little ways to show those living with CF how much they are cared about and help put a smile on their face," shared Tracy Van Hattum, mom to clinic visitor, CJ. "CJ had a blast fishing when we visited the CF clinic! Thank you so much for your continued love and support year after year."

The "Catch of the Day" giveaway and contest lasted for 10 weeks, from June through August. Approximately 125 CF clinic visitors at Albany Med participated in this year's Summer Surprise, and the Donna Crandall Foundation gave away \$10,000!



A pediatric clinic visitor fishes for her prize!



Jack Cheney and Ben Crandall prepare to drop off the Summer Surprise at Albany Med.



CJ Van Hattum is all smiles with his winnings and tournament snacks!



# DMCF spreads holiday cheer!



*Sarah Cheney delivering flowers to a patient on Thanksgiving*

Donna Crandall loved the holiday season. She was a renowned baker, decorator, and gift giver. In honor of her, the DMCF always likes to make the holidays brighter for families living with cystic fibrosis.

Every year, as the holiday season approaches, DMCF provides the Albany Med CF social workers with gift cards to help make sure all families have what they need to make the holidays special. In 2017, Corey Kirkpatrick shopped for and delivered \$3,000 worth of Price Chopper and Walmart gift cards on behalf of the Foundation!

In addition to financial assistance, the Foundation and its friends like to provide other festive treats. In November, Erin Filippone and her boys put together adorable Thanksgiving treat bags for the pediatric CF clinic. Sarah Cheney delivered beautiful floral arrangements from Ambiance Florals to two adult CF patients who were in the hospital for the holiday.

Another favorite DMCF holiday tradition is the delivery of cookie tins to Albany Medical Center—2017 marked the 17th year of the "Cookie Project!" Joan and Steve Hart once again organized the cookie donations, packaging, and delivery of 92 tins of cookies for patients visiting the CF clinic in December. The Harts have been managing the Cookie Project for 11 years, and Joan shares, "This has become our traditional way to kick off the holiday season! We get such joy knowing these tins brighten up the days of those receiving them. Some of our bakers are those who have lost a family member to CF or currently have someone they love facing the disease, and they will share what these cookies mean to their loved ones. It just fills our heart and reinforces the importance of the work of the Foundation."

In addition to cookies, pediatric patients visiting the CF clinic in December also received special holiday treats put together by DMCF's Christmas elf, Paige Catafomo!





The E5 "Living Room" once again looked festive and sparkled with the beautiful tree and Christmas decorations put up by Leo and Maryanne Breton. "We really do not remember how long we have been doing the Christmas decorations!," shared the Bretons. "We do it because our daughter Mary loved Christmas and still 'believed.' One year Mary was inpatient for a couple of weeks on the pediatric floor, close to Christmas, and we had so much fun. Every morning elves and reindeer went caroling down the hall; Santa visited and used sign language for Mary. She had all the time she wanted to spend with him, which she took!!! Mary passed away at age 12, so she was never on the adult floor, but because of emotions and memories we cannot go back to the peds floor. Decorating the E5 Living Room is our way of remembering the great time we had during the Christmas season that she was



Leo and Mary Anne Breton

a patient and paying back the Donna Crandall Foundation for all the smiles it gave to our daughter. We hope that the adult patients who are hospitalized during the Christmas season can find some of the good feelings that Christmas brings while being away from home."



The beautiful tree decorated by the Bretons

## How can I help the Foundation?

1. **Sign Up for Amazon Smile at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select the Donna M. Crandall Foundation as your charity.**

A portion of every Amazon purchase you make by going to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will go to DMCF. It might not sound like much, but DMCF has already received several hundred dollars thanks to Amazon shoppers!

2. **Purchase one of the 450 limited tickets to the 18th Annual Emerald Eve.**

E-mail [lisa@crandallfoundation.org](mailto:lisa@crandallfoundation.org) to reserve your tickets today!

3. **Donate an auction item—large or small!—to Emerald Eve.**

Contact Terri Snow at [snow43056@aol.com](mailto:snow43056@aol.com) to learn how.

4. **Donate a bottle of wine to the Emerald Eve wine raffle.**

Call or e-mail Mike or Jeff at *Newton Wine and Spirits* at 518-782-2322, and they will help you buy a bottle online to be saved for the Foundation to pick up. Please let them know if you are purchasing a bottle in memory or in honor of someone.

5. **Be one of the 23 table flower sponsors at Emerald Eve for \$100.**

E-mail Lisa Cheney at [lisa@crandallfoundation.org](mailto:lisa@crandallfoundation.org).

6. **Donate three dozen cookies to be used in our holiday cookie tins, distributed to patients at Albany Med in December.**

E-mail Joan Hart at [JHart1987@live.com](mailto:JHart1987@live.com).

7. **Donate a package of UNO cards in memory of Mary Breton.**

Mail or drop off the cards to:

DMCF / 50 Traditional Lane / Loudonville, NY 12211.

8. **Donate a \$25 gas card or Price Chopper gift card to the Foundation.**

Mail or drop off the cards to:

DMCF / 50 Traditional Lane / Loudonville, NY 12211.

9. **Consider being an Emerald Eve Corporate Sponsor. Amounts range from \$500 to \$2,500.**

E-mail Lisa Cheney at [lisa@crandallfoundation.org](mailto:lisa@crandallfoundation.org).

10. **Consider a donation to the Foundation in lieu of birthday or Christmas gifts this year.**

We will be happy to send you a card! E-mail Lisa Cheney at [lisa@crandallfoundation.org](mailto:lisa@crandallfoundation.org).

11. **Donate a favorite book to the "Living Room" on E5 at Albany Med. You could even ship directly from Amazon!**

Mail to:

DMCF / 50 Traditional Lane / Loudonville, NY 12211.



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