

The Donna Crandall FOUNDATION NEWS



PROVIDING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT POSITIVELY IMPACT CYSTIC FIBROSIS PATIENTS. • WWW.DONNACRANDALLFOUNDATION.ORG



COVID-19 presents a new challenge for people living with cystic fibrosis.

Local patient Keira Houlihan, photo by Dan Crowther

In March 2020, life in the United States drastically shifted as COVID-19 quickly spread around the country and the world. Little was known about the new virus, but vulnerable people were dying. "Social distance" became a common phrase; schools shifted to online learning, and businesses shut down. We kept inside and away from others.

For most of the population, concern over staying away from friends and family members who were not feeling well was a new phenomenon. Staying six feet apart, frequent hand washing, always carrying hand sanitizer, and wearing masks were completely foreign to most of us, but not to the courageous people living with cystic fibrosis in our community. Our CF friends regularly must face the risks inherent in attending crowded events in an effort to stay safe and healthy.

For the first time, much of the world is getting a glimpse into the everyday life of someone battling CF.

People with cystic fibrosis and their families have invested a lifetime in maintaining good health, and now, on the cusp of remarkable new therapies changing

the course of their disease (*see the Trikafta article on page 6*), they must face a global pandemic. While the effect and impact of coronavirus to the CF community is still unknown, experts are clear that people with underlying health conditions, including lung disease, are at a greater risk of developing serious complications if they become infected.

Many of you have a friend or family member with cystic fibrosis; others of you have spent the last 20 years watching our videos, reading our newsletters, and educating yourself about the struggles of the disease our local CF friends endure. At the moment, those living with CF need our support. They need us to wear masks when out in the community, especially when we cannot stay six feet apart. They need us to wash our hands. They need us to stay home if we aren't feeling well.

These minor inconveniences to us might just save the life of a member of our community, a local CF patient that we have dedicated the last 20 years to serving.



Special thanks to our Newsletter Editor, Erin Snow.

DMCF adjusts to local CF community's changing needs.

At the start of 2020, DMCF board members and volunteers noticed that CF patient admissions to Albany Medical Center seemed to decline. DMCF was delivering fewer gift bags and buying fewer cafeteria vouchers. Anecdotally, we acknowledged that patients had recently begun receiving a new triple combination precision medication called Trikafta and hoped it was reducing CF exacerbation for the local CF community. As COVID-19 began to spread in our country, fewer exacerbations and the increased usage of telemedicine helped to keep CF patients safe at home. Many local families believe Trikafta has been a godsend to the CF community at this time. Patients on the new medication have been feeling better with fewer setbacks. As COVID-19 overwhelmed hospital systems, most local patients this spring and summer did not have to be hospitalized!

With the decrease in hospitalizations, the Donna Crandall Foundation definitely delivered fewer of our legendary gift bags and gift cards for inpatients, bought fewer visitor parking vouchers, and provided fewer families with hotel accommodations across the street from the hospital. Noting that the financial impact of COVID-19 has been significant—with families trying to manage job furloughs and less demand for certain services, the DMCF has seen an increase in requests for financial assistance. Because of our generous supporters, we have never had to say no to a patient in financial crisis. **The Foundation has paid late bills, purchased groceries, paid rent, and made sure vital services are not turned off. We have also helped families get ready for online learning, purchasing a new laptop for a local high school senior.**

In another 2020 twist, the 20th Annual Emerald Eve is sadly cancelled because of COVID. We realized early on that it would not be safe to proceed with our annual fundraising event and celebration. In addition to safety concerns, we also realized that many are facing real financial constraints and asking to attend an event would not be appropriate this year.



Instead, we will offer a Thanksgiving meal prepared by Mazzone Hospitality to each CF family treated at Albany Medical Center and each CF center staff member who worked so hard during the difficult early days of the pandemic. We realize that many holiday gatherings might be smaller this year as families choose to hunker down with their immediate families rather than travel to big family reunions. This year's "invitation" will give you the opportunity to purchase one of those meals. We will sincerely miss seeing everyone this November, but hope to gather again in 2021 to celebrate. Mark your calendar—November 20, 2021 at the Canfield Casino!





Socially-Distanced Summer Surprise!

As COVID-19 changed the look of everyone's summers—from cancelled trips to extra hardships, the DMCF board increased the budget of our "Summer Surprise Project." Every summer, the Foundation plans themed surprises for CF patients when they visit the outpatient clinic. We reallocated the funds typically used for our inpatient programs to surprise the more than 180 CF patients served at Albany Medical Center with an even bigger treat than usual. Because of COVID, and limitations on who can visit the hospital, the Foundation mailed the summer surprises for the first time ever. Each patient received \$170 in gift cards—\$100 to Walmart, \$50 for gas, and \$20 to Stewarts! That's over \$30,000 to brighten the summers of our local CF community. Lori Jenkins, Foundation Treasurer, said, "Even though we had to send the treats in a socially-distanced way, we hope this extra support brought smiles to CF families we serve."



"Thank you so much for the generous gift cards. They were much needed in this difficult time. The Crandall Foundation has always been there for me and my family!"

- Grateful patient

"Thank you so much for the gift cards. It was so uplifting that day when they arrived in the mail. You don't know how much we appreciate everything you do for us."

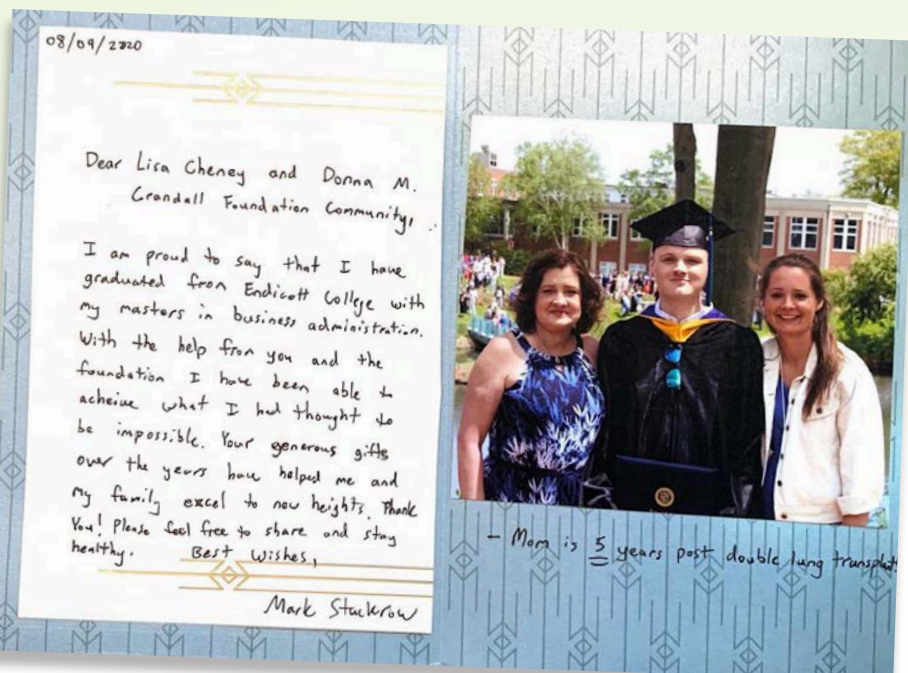
- Grateful patient

What has DMCF been up to in 2020?!

Everyone's plans have changed in 2020, and that's even true of the Donna Crandall Foundation. Even in the midst of this unprecedented health and economic crisis, the DMCF is dedicated to serving our local CF community.

In 2020, DMCF:

- Increased Summer Surprise project funding from \$10,000 to \$30,000 (see article at left for more);
- Set aside \$100,000 to help to local CF families with financial hardships, including:
 - Mortgage and rent payments,
 - National Grid payments,
 - Car repairs,
 - Dental bills,
 - Phone bills,
 - Groceries, and more;
- Recognizing that COVID will change many holiday plans, DMCF is offering free Thanksgiving meals to every CF family treated at Albany Medical Center (for more see page 2);
- Launched a **brand new** website! Visit www.donnacrandallfoundation.org to check it out! Not only is it simpler to navigate, but you can also sign up for updates and donate online more easily!
- Funded inpatient telephone and TV service, visitor parking vouchers, cafeteria gift cards, and hotel accommodations for patients' families;
- Distributed 47 generous inpatient gift bags;
- Provided 1 CF patient with funding for lung transplant evaluation expenses, and 12 patients with post-transplant financial assistance; and
- Gave congratulatory checks to three graduating high school seniors with CF.





An Interview with Erin Mark...

*Organizer of the
beloved Lemon Classic
Golf Tournament and
one of our local friends
living with cystic fibrosis.*

What is life like for you since COVID-19 began?

Last week marked six months since I haven't been able to really leave my home. I'll be honest, it's getting difficult, and I'm struggling a bit with it. As society has started to reopen it's hard not to feel that people like me are being left behind. A huge part of that is because our reintroduction into society depends on trusting the people around us—so it's painful to see so many not social distancing, refusing to wear masks, and for some, brushing this virus off as not a big deal.

A lot of people are speaking about COVID as a hypothetical scenario. They are naive to the reality of being hospitalized and facing their own mortality. They can't wrap their head around it because they have never experienced a chronic respiratory illness. Unlike many with CF, they are used to living in a body that doesn't fail them—one that recovers easily from illness and doesn't get sick often. But as we've seen, many "healthy" people are getting sick and even dying from it. I can't reiterate this enough, if you have a way to lessen your chance to not catch a devastating respiratory illness like this, please take it.

For me, I'm holding out hope that there will be a safe vaccine available by the start of 2021. However, I do fear I may have to go through the long and cold winter months isolated inside, which will be a struggle. Ryan and I have even discussed looking for a rental in warmer weather, possibly near a beach, just so I would be able to go for walks outside and breathe in the fresh salty air, but unfortunately we have yet to find any reasonable and safe options.

I can't reiterate this enough, if you have a way to lessen your chance to not catch a devastating respiratory illness like this, please take it.

So, I'm trying to take it month-by-month, and above all remain grateful that I am able to stay home, that my health has been somewhat stable, and for the warm weather and sunshine currently in New York. At the end of the day, if I focus on all the things I've missed out on or lost because of this pandemic, I won't pay attention to what I still have, or all the beautiful things that are still yet to come.

A lot of things are cancelled, but the generosity and hard work done by The Donna Crandall Foundation is not one of them.

What precautions are you taking to stay safe?

I'm lucky to have a job that allows me to work from home, as does Ryan.

When Ryan does go out to stores, he tries to go on "off hours" where it will be less busy. Additionally, we've started to take a few minimal risks, like getting take-out food and coffee from Starbucks (I've been missing that!).

Do you feel like you have lived with COVID precautions your whole life?

Absolutely. I know these adjustments like masks, social distancing, extra cleaning protocols, etc. can feel isolating and scary. I know this feeling well because for me and many other CF patients, we feel this EVERY cold and flu season, if not all year long. Unfortunately for us, this practice of infection control and fear of catching viruses never goes away. The reality is, the symptoms of COVID—chronic cough, decreased lung function, distancing yourself from people who are sick—that's an everyday reality of someone living with cystic fibrosis.

What would you say to someone who thinks masks are annoying?

I'll say this, I've been wearing masks my entire life. I have a lung function of 47%, extensive airway scarring, bronchiectasis, and multidrug resistant infections—if I can breathe with a mask on, so can you! Wearing a mask is an act of compassion toward those around you. It is a way of saying, "I don't know your story, or what you are going through, but I know your existence here matters, and I'm willing to do what I can to protect that and your life."

Erin Mark and her husband Ryan

Were you planning on having another Lemon Classic golf tourney this summer that had to be cancelled? How far along in planning were you? How early on in the pandemic did you realize it wouldn't happen?

Yes! It was all set for June 13th, but we weren't too far into the planning process. I'll be honest: I had a feeling at the start of the pandemic that it wasn't going to happen. We chose to be better safe than sorry, but we're planning to be back and better than ever next year! Mark your calendars for a tentative date of Saturday, June 12th—more details and confirmation of that date to come!

How does it make you feel to know the Foundation is still there if you are in need?

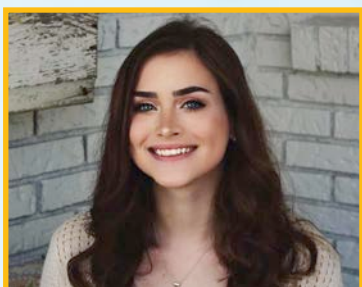
It's comforting to know that they are available to help in any way if we need them; it really helps with peace of mind. A lot of things are cancelled, but the generosity and hard work done by The Crandall Foundation is not one of them.



TRIKAFTA: *A breakthrough new drug therapy for the treatment of cystic fibrosis.*

In October 2019, the FDA fast-tracked the approval process for a new drug therapy to treat CF—Trikafta. Trikafta represents the single biggest advancement in treating cystic fibrosis in the history of the disease. The clinical trial results were so incredible that the FDA knew they needed to make the drug available to patients as quickly as possible. Trikafta is a combination of three drugs that is approved for use by approximately 90% of patients with cystic fibrosis, many of whom had no approved therapeutic options. Some reports are cautiously reporting that with this new drug, cystic fibrosis may soon no longer be considered a terminal disease, but rather a chronic condition, similar to diabetes.

Read what some of our friends with cystic fibrosis have to say about Trikafta:



Sydney Reichart

Sydney Reichart:

“Trikafta quite literally saved my life. Before Trikafta, my lung function was in the low 20s; I was on supplemental oxygen; I was extremely frail and underweight, and I struggled to do simple tasks like showering and walking up a flight of stairs. Within a few weeks of being on Trikafta, my lung function shot up 14%, I gained weight rapidly without any kind of high-calorie diet, my CF-related diabetes almost disappeared, and I no longer take insulin. The quality of life I have these days is astronomical compared to what it once was. Because of Trikafta, I am excited to be alive and to live a long, healthy life without the constant burden of wondering when my life will be cut short by cystic fibrosis.”



Erin Mark receiving her first dose of Trikafta in the mail

Erin Mark:

“I started Trikafta in November of last year—since then, I have been coughing a lot less, have had more energy, and have started to see some weight gain. While my results have not been as amazing as some, I’m still seeing positive changes. This time last year I was teetering on moving into an end life stage of CF. There was one night in March 2019 that I remember sitting on the floor of the bathroom in my hospital room crying and gasping for breath, feeling hopeless, scared, and above all, defeated. That girl, crying and breathless on the bathroom floor, would do anything to feel like I feel right now, and that’s what matters, and that’s all thanks to Trikafta. For the first time, I have more hope than ever that I may get to grow old like everyone else. So instead of focusing on perfection, I choose growth.”

Tommy Potanovic:



Tommy Potanovic with wife Mary

“Trikafta is not a mere game-changer, but a life-changer. A life-saver. This med has literally changed the course of people’s lives. It works so effectively that people had to re-think their life direction. The shortened, final act of their lives written by CF has now been torn up! And it is being re-written, re-imagined, not by CF, but by the individual with CF, with hope and longevity. CF, a progressively worsening disease, has finally, finally, finally, met its match. The collective feeling among my friends with CF about Trikafta is that God, working through Vertex Pharmaceuticals, just told CF to go f*ck itself. Thank God. For me, my life-changing moment occurred on November 14th, 2019. I was facing a CF exacerbation and preparing myself for a hospital admission in just a few days. That evening, I took my first dose of the medication (one blue pill). The next day, I took the morning dose (two orange pills). By 7am, it began working. My lungs were clearing at an incredible speed. I could take a full breath and not cough or have a bronchospasm—I haven’t been able to do that in decades! In just ONE DAY my admission to Albany Med for a “tune-up” was no longer needed. It is hard to believe, difficult to comprehend, but the drug worked that well and that fast. Routine coughing, mucus, constant shortness of breath—gone. The feeling was, and still is, absolutely incredible. The parting of the Red Sea, the ‘69 Mets, and now Trikafta round out the top three miracles of all time in my book.”



John and Patty Nash with sister-in-law Mary Mansfield, son Sean Nash, and daughter-in-law Adrienne at Emerald Eve 2019

John Nash retires after 18 years of dedication to Albany Medical Center patients—and 18 years of support for DMCF

At the end of 2019, Albany Medical Center and the Donna Crandall Foundation bade a fond farewell to one of its biggest champions—John Nash. John was a Licensed Master Social Worker at the Pediatric CF Center and Genetics Program at Albany Medical Center. He worked with both adult and pediatric CF patients at Albany Med for 18 years and has worked side-by-side with DMCF board members and volunteers since our early years.

John is a one-of-a-kind friend who not only embraced the mission of DMCF, but also helped to shape it with his sage advice and gentle guidance over the years. His suggestions and recommendations helped to define what the Foundation stands for and whom it strives to help. He educated DMCF Board Members about the daily challenges families and people living with CF can experience—and even brought clarity to Donna’s courageous story.

In his career at Albany Med, John helped hundreds of wonderful families in the community navigate the CF journey. He put the needs of his patients above all else and went to bat when it was required. Cystic fibrosis families in the Capital District were blessed to have this compassionate individual on their care team.

Of her friend John Nash, Lisa Cheney, DMCF Vice President, shared, “We must have spent hundreds of hours on the phone over the past 18 years, collaborating to make life a little easier for a tremendous number of courageous people. From my vantage point, I saw him teach, mentor, and counsel so many. He simply knew when it was best just to listen and when people craved direction. He has that special gift to connect with people and provide the reassurance we all need from time to time.”

Working with DMCF, he supported and implemented its programs without hesitation. He identified the people who needed help and made sure that no one was left behind. Every now and then, someone from DMCF would need to meet with John on a moment’s notice to secure emergency funding for a patient. He never worried about being inconvenienced, as long as the plan would reduce someone’s stress and avert a crisis. In addition to always being readily available—to the DMCF board, to patients, and their families, he was also always willing to pick up, drop off, and store all those gift bags, giveaways, and copious tins of Christmas cookies in his office!

The impact of losing such a special social worker will be felt for years to come. John moved to the beautiful state of Colorado to be close to his beloved family. At Emerald Eve 2019, Lisa Cheney thanked John for his 18 years of service to the Donna Crandall Foundation. She said, “For years, John has met me at the curb to receive delivery of our legendary gift bags. But tonight, I am honored to meet you halfway to deliver you your very first Donna Crandall bag,” as she presented John with his own DMCF tote filled with a \$1,000 Southwest gift card, a voucher for a one-week stay on Anna Maria Island, Florida, sunscreen, snacks, a DMCF Yeti, and of course, UNO cards.



John Nash and DMCF board member Lisa Cheney

The Donna M. Crandall Foun



Shaker Modified Swim Team

As Coach **Leslie Archer's** retirement from the **Shaker Modified Swim Team** approached, she made sure to organize one more **Mile Swim Challenge** to benefit the foundation before her last day. Coach **Heather Daniels** joined her colleague in organizing another amazing event. The mile swim raised **\$2,190**.



Sharon Dingman and her family at the Redneck Gala

"Redneck Gala"

Sharon Dingman did not attend Emerald Eve 2019 in an effort to keep her distance from other fellow CF patients. On the same night, she organized a **"Redneck Gala"** and raised **\$1,900** for the Foundation!

Sharon shared, "Every year, I looked forward to Emerald Eve. For myself and for my family, it was a time to celebrate another year and to donate to a very worthy cause that is obviously near and dear to my heart. Little did I know I had attended my last Emerald Eve." Sharon, who has cystic fibrosis, was diagnosed with B. Cepacia—a bacterial infection that can be very dangerous to people living with cystic fibrosis. She continued, "Although social distancing has always been a CF staple, I now carried a dangerous bug that could lead to a rapid decline not just for myself, but also for others. I was horrified, embarrassed, and scared. B.Cepacia takes a disease that already makes you feel isolated and then multiplies that feeling tenfold."

Knowing she couldn't attend Emerald Eve 2019 got her down for a bit, but she decided to take matters into her own hands. "If I couldn't go to your fancy gala, then I would have a shindig of my own!," Sharon declared. "And I did! The exact polar opposite of the glamorous eve that I had come to love." To create an event the opposite of Emerald Eve, Sharon planned the "Redneck Gala!" Held in her sister's garage, the Redneck Gala was attended by approximately 80 people and raised **\$1,900** for the DMCF! Dressed in plaid and overalls, guests drank cheap beer and moonshine and "feasted on ramen noodles and possum stew!" They also enjoyed a live bluegrass band while playing potato relays and hitting a piñata made out of a Pabst Blue Ribbon 12-pack box. Another highlight of the event was the redneck parade, where the king and queen were chosen and presented with scepters made out of gold toilet plungers!

Sharon was quick to thank others who were crucial in orchestrating the event: her mom (Shirley Clark), her sister and brother-in-law (Julie and Ron Brochu), her brother (Bobby Clark), her husband (John), her son (Ian, who was also in the band), and Rick Thombs (in the band).



▲ A redneck feast!

◀ Redneck King and Queen with the royal "scepter"

dation Thanks Its Supporters!



DMCF received **\$500** in **Sarah Ritchie-Crowther's** name as the **two-time SEFCU Top Volunteer with Distinction**.



Her Snoopy Christmas cookies were also a huge hit in our annual holiday tins.

Thank you to **Leo and Maryanne Breton** who deliver magazines to the E5 Living Room every month and beautifully decorate it every year for Christmas.



Linda Carotenuto shares her talent by making lap blankets to add to our gift bags!



Paige Catalfomo and **Kiera Dubois** once again made special gifts for holiday clinic visits.

Members of the Crandall family's church—**Immaculate Conception Glenville**—reached out when they heard about the Foundation. They wanted to add a project to their annual service day to benefit the Foundation and made over 75 fleece blankets to keep patients warm.

Corey, Serena, and Ryan Kirkpatrick always stock the DMCF Living Room with a variety of snacks on behalf of the Foundation.



Cheri Martell designed special candles as favors for Emerald Eve 2019. Cheri's creations matched our color scheme and smelled wonderful.



Erin Nagy



Sarah Ritchie-Crowther and Dan Crowther

Katie Nagy, Dan Crowther, and Sarah Ritchie-Crowther share their photography talents at our events.

Annette Phelps continues to head up shopping for newly diagnosed babies.

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 ~

- Cheri Martell's Birthday
- Teri Potanovic's Birthday
- John Potanovic's 95th birthday
- Lynn Stackrow's birthday
- Regina Vanasdale's birthday (Donna Crandall's sister)

In Memory Of ~

- Elizabeth Camardello
- David Carroll
- David Crandall
- Marthabelle DePuy
- Ann Marie Fego
- Justin Haight
- Chad Lanford
- Erynn Vondell

Emerald Eve 2019 sets a new fundraising high!



Special thanks to Ambiance Floral and Events for sharing their talent each year

Emerald Eve 2019 seems like a world away now that we are over six months into the COVID pandemic and social distancing measures, but it is lovely to look back on that glamorous evening! The nineteenth Emerald Eve set a new fundraising record, bringing in \$170,000

for the Donna Crandall Foundation (the previous record of \$157,000 was set in 2018). On November 16, 2019 more than 380 friends of the Foundation gathered together at the Canfield Casino—the thought of which seems so foreign now!

One of the main attractions at Emerald Eve—and organized by DMCF board member Terri Snow, the silent auction featured getaways, tickets to sporting and entertainment events, jewelry, artwork, themed baskets and more. While browsing the amazing silent auction items, guests enjoyed drinks, a delicious dinner, and the music of the Scott Bassinson Trio and special guest Ben Crandall (Donna's nephew).

The theme of the evening was "CF takes Courage." The Donna Crandall Foundation wanted to celebrate the courage it takes to fight cystic fibrosis, as well as the courage of those living with CF and their family members and support systems. The video presentation shared the courageous stories of local CF patients Michael Potter and

Emma Neuman. Michael was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis and cerebral palsy when he was an infant. Despite the daily challenges of managing CF and CP, Michael graduated from Siena College and currently works as an Outreach Specialist for Saratoga County Mental Health and Alcohol Service. Emma graduated in 2005 from the University of New England with a degree in medical biology. Her senior year in college she studied from home as she waited for a lung transplant. Neither Michael nor Emma let cystic fibrosis stand in their way.

The program, emceed by Foundation President David Crandall, continued with a touching tribute to Dave Crandall, father-in-law to Donna and father of the DMCF board members—2019 was the first Emerald Eve without Dave's help or presence. He helped every year from stamping invitations to setting up the silent auction. Even as his health declined, he attended every year because he truly admired the courage of those fighting cystic fibrosis. Every attendee left Emerald Eve with a box of Tates Cookies—his favorite!

Foundation Vice President Lisa Cheney honored Albany Medical Center's CF social worker John Nash, retiring after 18 years. His support meant so much to so many, and she poignantly gave him credit for supporting the CF community, as well as DMCF and our mission for the past 18 years (*to read more on John Nash, see article on page 7*). The program also included the presentation of the Lemon Classic Golf Trophy and check from Erin and Ryan Mark and Danielle and Mike Utzig. The evening concluded with a spirited live auction, which included NCAA tickets, Taylor Swift tickets, and a weekend Camping with the Crandalls.



Michael Potter with friends and family



David Crandall oversees the Live Auction



Emma Neuman, star of Emerald Eve video, with her mom Lisa Zurawicki



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 dedication to the Foundation and people with cystic fibrosis. At the 2019 Emerald Eve, we were delighted to present **Erin Nagy** and **Dan Crowther** with Burke Bears.

DMCF started as and remains a 100% volunteer organization. When someone contacts us and says that they would like to volunteer, we are thrilled. Both Erin Nagy and Dan Crowther did just that. Both of these individuals are extremely talented photographers, and for many years, they have shared their talents with us. They photograph events like Emerald Eve and the Lemon Classic Golf Tourney, as well as other events that benefit DMCF. Their work makes our newsletter and social media presence infinitely more professional.

For sharing their time and talents by photographing DMCF events, we were delighted to recognize Erin Nagy and Dan Crowther as the 2019 Burke Bear recipients.



Erin Nagy with DMCF
President David Crandall



Dan Crowther with DMCF
President David Crandall

Program Update: Beads of Courage®



Albany Med staff at Beads of Courage® training
in December 2019

In 2019, the Donna Crandall Foundation spearheaded and funded the creation of a Beads of Courage® program for pediatric CF patients at Albany Medical Center. The goal of the program is to provide support, education, and encouragement for young people living with chronic illnesses, like CF. Patients earn beads through various treatment goals and procedures so that each strand tells their individual stories.

Staff training at Albany Medical Center was held in December 2019, and shortly after the new year, the program was up and running! While the program had a slight pause in enrollments when COVID hit, approximately 50 of the pediatric CF patients are now enrolled with more to come. DMCF supporter Joyce Bartlett shared her talents to create unique drawstring bags to hold the pediatric patients' growing strands of beads. "I have heard amazing feedback on the Beads of Courage program so far," shared Maureen Sharkey, Child Life Specialist at Albany Medical Center. "Many children are wearing their beads to clinic, and parents have shared that their children look forward to getting their beads at each visit. It has been a huge success!"





20th Annual Emerald Eve

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

The 20th Annual Emerald Eve is sadly cancelled because of COVID. In addition to safety concerns, we also realized that many are facing real financial constraints and asking to attend an event would not be appropriate this year.

Instead of hosting Emerald Eve and realizing that many holiday gatherings will be different this year, we will offer Thanksgiving meals prepared by Mazzone Hospitality to each CF family treated at Albany Medical Center.

This year's invitation will give you the opportunity to purchase one of those meals. We will sincerely miss seeing everyone this November, but hope to gather again in 2021 to celebrate.

Mark your calendar for our 21st birthday! Emerald Eve 2021 on November 20, 2021 at the Canfield Casino.

There is still time

to sponsor a Thanksgiving dinner for a local CF family or CF center staff member!

Visit www.donnacrandallfoundation.org/2020-thanksgiving-sponsor/ to learn how.

If you know a local CF patient or CF center staff member (or if you are one!), make sure they visit www.donnacrandallfoundation.org and sign up by November 16th to receive their meal!

