

JPFF NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2016

ISSUE 7

TABLE OF CONTENTS[Letter From Our Chairperson](#)[2015 Grants Recapped](#)[Circle of Care Room Makeover](#)[LifeBridge Services Community Closet](#)[Fairfield Warde High School Scholarship 2015](#)[United in Hope Scholarship 2015](#)[CT Audubon Nature Trail Dedicated to John Flanagan](#)[JPFF Financial Snapshot](#)[Thoughts of John](#)[Thank you 2015 Donors](#)[TEAM FLANAGAN RUNNERS: Come run in our NEW EVENT! Shamrock Shuffle, Aug. 13, 2016](#)

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

May 15, 2016

Dear Friends:

Now is our seventh year, the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation remains a vibrant testament to the life and spirit of John Flanagan. We are proud to be working with so many organizations that are improving the lives of children and families in need throughout Fairfield County.

I am pleased to present our Spring 2016 newsletter that provides an update on our activities over the past year.

It is only through your kindness and generosity that JPFF has been able to give local charities more than \$150,000 in John's name since our inception in 2008.

With your help, JPFF has enabled nearly 3,000 inner-city children to go on field trips to the CT Audubon Society in Fairfield as part of the John Patrick Flanagan Trailblazers program. We've funded programming and college preparation assistance for inner-city teens, helped economically-disadvantaged immigrant women and children learn English and life skills, helped children battling cancer, supported children affected by HIV/AIDS, sponsored volunteer attorneys who work to place children in safe permanent homes and given scholarships to children who have a financial need as well as children who have lost a parent to cancer.

Thank you again for your generosity and for your continued support for the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation.

Sincerely,
Amanda Flanagan, Chairperson

2015 GRANTS RECAPPED

In 2015, [JPFF](#) awarded \$35,330 in grants to nine local charities including the Cardinal Shehan Center; Connecticut Audubon Society; High School Scholarship Foundation of Fairfield; Circle of Care; Lawyers for Children America; Caroline House; Commence! College Counseling, and LifeBridge Community Services.

The 2015 grant allocations are as follows:

Cardinal Shehan Center (\$5,000) - Helped fund busing of summer campers to field trips and activities.

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Donors

For a complete list of 2015 donors, please [click here](#).

United in Hope Scholarship (\$1,250) - Provided college tuition assistance to a recent high school graduate from the area who has lost a parent to cancer. This grant is jointly supported by the Chad A. Jacobs Memorial Foundation.

CT Audubon Society Trailblazers program (\$10,080) - To fund the cost for the "JPFF Trailblazers Program," which enters its seventh year of existence, providing Bridgeport public school students with transportation to the Nature Center for field trips. Since its inception, nearly 3,000 students have participated in the Trailblazers program.

High School Scholarship Foundation of Fairfield (John Patrick Flanagan Memorial Scholarship) (\$1,000) - To help fund an annual scholarship to a college-bound, high-achieving student with an economic need at Fairfield Warde High School.

Circle of Care (\$5,000) - Circle of Care provides financial, practical and emotional support directly to all Connecticut children with cancer and their families, from the day of diagnosis through treatment and recovery.

- **\$3,500** in emergency financial relief to four families by paying overdue mortgage or utility bills.
- **\$1,000** in gas and grocery cards to alleviate the burden of repeated trips to the hospital for five families at \$100 each, and to provide meal cards for another five families.
- **\$500** towards an Art from the Heart room makeover for a child who is undergoing cancer treatment.

Lawyers for children America (\$3,000) -To help ensure that foster children aging out of the system continue to receive necessary legal services.

Caroline House (\$3,000)- To support their preschool program that teaches children who speak little or no English, school-readiness skills so they can enter kindergarten prepared with English language, social, emotional and cognitive skills.

Commence! College Counseling (\$3,000) - This organization helps highly motivated, excellent students in Bridgeport apply to college and navigate the scholarship and financial aid process. Most students are first generation college students and with Commence!'s help, the participants get into top universities and benefit from scholarships and aid.

LifeBridge Community Service (formerly Woodfield Family Services) (\$4,000) - To help fund the organization's Community Closet which enables LifeBridge to provide to their most impoverished clients basic supplies such as clothing, household goods, diapers and school supplies they urgently need.

We are very grateful to have the opportunity to give to these organizations that are dedicated to helping and shaping the lives of children in our community. As we reach the milestone of providing more than \$150,000 in grants, we look forward to continuing to celebrate John Flanagan's memory through these philanthropic endeavors and by giving back to our community in John's name.

CIRCLE OF CARE ROOM MAKEOVER

Cancer treatment is emotionally and physically draining, particularly for children who have to endure long hospital stays and extended periods of time at home away from school and friends.

[Circle of Care](#), a small Connecticut-based charity, works to make the journey a little bit easier for families facing pediatric cancer in Connecticut. Their ROOM MAKEOVER PROGRAM does this by transforming a cancer patient's room at home into the room of his or her dreams.

In 2015, JPFF was happy to sponsor a Circle of Care room makeover for a child battling cancer by funding Circle of Care's room makeover program.

Click the following link to read more about the program.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/lifestyle/2014/02/cancer-patient-6-gets-bedroom-makeover-of-his-dreams/>



Sample Room Makeover

LIFEBRIDGE COMMUNITY CLOSET

In 2015, JPFF proudly supported LifeBridge Services Community Closet. The Community Closet helps financially-challenged families obtain the basic-need items necessary for daily survival and increased self-sufficiency. It is one of the largest sources of free basic-needs items ranging from small household items to clothing to diapers in Bridgeport.

The following numbers speak to the need in the community for this service:

- more than 3,700 people come to The Community Closet each year.
- 94 volunteers completed 2,858 hours of service.
- 10,213 shopping visits.
- 2,528 donations.
- 400 adult and 500 child personal grooming kits.
- 97,379 disposable diapers distributed to 585 families through the Diaper Bank.

- 532 backpacks filled with school supplies provided to area children.

FAIRFIELD WARDE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP 2015

Congratulations to **Roberta Alison**, our 2015 John Flanagan Memorial Scholarship recipient. Roberta earned a 4.05 GPA at Warde and is currently attending Carnegie Mellon University. Roberta is described by Warde staff members as "distinctive, inquisitive, intellectually curious, and determined to learn."

While at Warde, Roberta was involved in pep band, fencing team, and was president of the Chinese club. Roberta's mother, who escaped from Vietnam, is incredibly proud of her daughter. We wish Roberta the best as she continues in college and beyond. Congratulations Roberta!



UNITED IN HOPE SCHOLARSHIP 2015

The [Chad A. Jacobs Memorial Foundation](#) and the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation have jointly founded the United in Hope Scholarship for students who have lost a parent to cancer. Graduating high school seniors who attend school in Fairfield or Westport are eligible to apply. Criteria for the scholarship include:

- * Loss of Parent to Cancer
- * Financial Need
- * Attends High School in Fairfield or Westport, Connecticut
- * Character of Applicant
- * Academic Goals and Performance

Losing a parent to cancer is devastating enough, but adding the financial burden often incurred by this disease and the death of a parent can be debilitating to a family. Our goal in creating the United in Hope Scholarship is to provide financial support for students heading to college to help them be all they can be.

In 2015, a United in Hope Scholarship was presented to **Matthew Donahue**, who graduated from Fairfield Ludlowe High School and is attending Johnson and Wales University in Providence, RI.

We wish Matt the best and look forward to hearing updates as he progresses in college and beyond.

For more information about the United in Hope scholarship, please visit <http://www.jpff.org/scholarship.html>



Nature Trail Dedicated To John Flanagan

The JPFF-sponsored Trailblazers program is lead by a teacher-naturalist and includes a guided tour of the sanctuary with activities that educate students. John loved to explore the Burr Street Nature Center in Fairfield. So we are so happy for JPFF to give that same opportunity to inner-city children in John's name.

In 2015, the CT Audubon dedicated the Deer Meadow Trail to John Flanagan.



We held a small dedication ceremony.



Trail Sign



The Frey family on a hike April 2016 (Brendon Frey is shy.)



The Burke family in Deer Meadow.

JPFF FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Total amount granted out by JPFF to-date since inception = \$151,079

Current JPFF Endowment (March 2016) = \$ 528,539

Grants JPFF awarded in 2015 = \$35,330

2015 Fundraising Income = \$31,187

2015 interest, dividend and capital gain income = \$ 6,614
(All 2015 operating costs were covered by our investment income.)

2015 Operating Costs = \$ 3,733
Our operating costs included web site hosting fees, credit card processing fees, P.O. box fee, accounting and bookkeeping fees, event planning and fundraising costs, printing, postage and other minor costs. All other operating costs, including legal work, graphic design, website design, and all managerial and administrative costs are donated.

JPFF is an all-volunteer organization. A special thank you to:

- ICR, LLC for donating the infrastructure, management and administrative services to enable JPFF to keep our operating costs so low.
- Tim Bishop, Esq. for his pro-bono legal advisement.
- Dif McGeough for donating her website development services. <http://www.vdesignct.com>
- Priscilla Igram of [The Studio](#) for donating her graphic design services.

THOUGHTS OF JOHN

As most of you know, we chose the shamrock as the symbol for JPFF because of John how loved to celebrate his Irish heritage. Every year since his passing, when we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, we remember it as John's favorite holiday and raise a glass to him on this special day. We also wear our Team Flanagan race t-shirts!



*Friends of JPFF in their JPFF green tees on St. Patty's Day 2016.
And Tim Bishop gets extra credit for wearing a green shamrock suit!*

FUN FACT: As a boy, John Flanagan refused to wear a kilt to his first Irish step dancing [feis](#) (a competition pronounced "fesh") and instead broke with tradition and wore pants. He blazed the trail for other boys, and soon after all boys began wearing pants. Once that was established, John traded in the white shirt and tie for his preferred look of black pants and an Irish sweater.



John Flanagan Irish Step-Dancing Feis 1977

THANK YOU 2015 DONORS

The JPFF board members and the Flanagan family would like express a most sincere thank you for your continued support of our mission in 2015. It is your support that makes JPFF possible. [Click here for a list of 2015 donors.](#)

ATTENTION TEAM FLANAGAN RUNNERS! NEW JPFF EVENT!! SHAMROCKSHUFFLE: AUGUST 13, 2016!

After doing the Fairfield Half and 5K for 7 years, it's time to switch things up. This year, instead of doing the Fairfield 5K/Half Marathon, so we are going to **put on our own 5K road race on August 13th.**
Details to follow. Stay tuned...

JPFF MISSION: The mission of the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation is to help vulnerable children and families by supporting charities that provide the direction, education, and healthy environment that vulnerable children and families need to have the opportunity to reach their full potential. We will give special consideration to supporting Connecticut children and families. Charities interested in applying for a JPFF grant, should visit jpff.org, and download our grant application.

John Patrick Flanagan Foundation www.jpff.org P.O. Box 818, Southport, CT 06890

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