

JOHN PATRICK FLANAGAN FOUNDATION ANNUAL
NEWSLETTER 2018

ISSUE 9

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LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

July 2, 2018

Dear Friends of JPFF,

It is only because of your incredible support and generosity that we've been able to create and sustain this wonderful charitable legacy for nine years now. In that time, we've raised more than \$600,000 and granted out more than \$240,000 to programs that provide resources and opportunities to disadvantaged children and families.

With every dollar contributed, every mile run and every hour volunteered, each of you has been part of this incredible experience of helping to keep the memory of John Flanagan alive for all of us who loved him so much. THANK YOU!

We've done many good works in John's name over the years, including:

- giving out scholarships to kids who've lost a parent to cancer
- building children's lounges at two hospital locations
- bringing thousands of kids on nature science field trips with the Connecticut Audubon Society

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

- supporting STEM educational programs, summer programs, and afterschool programs
- helping kids with cancer
- helped kids affected by AIDs
- helping kids in CT's legal system
- supporting Wakeman Boys & Girls Club, McGivney Community Center, and the Sheehan Center

and the list goes on and on...

On a very personal note, I will always feel sad that John's three children never got the opportunity to grow up with their father. But through JPFF, they continue to get to know their dad better each day. Every time JPFF has an event such as our 5K race, a dedication ceremony for one of our grants, or a board meeting, we all tell stories about John, share memories and conversations -- and in those moments John is here with us -- and with Emma, Bridget and Jack. And for that, I am eternally grateful.

I hope you'll enjoy reading about the wonderful work that's been done by JPFF this past year. On behalf of the JPFF board and the Flanagan family, thank you for supporting our organization.

I wish you all a safe, happy and healthy summer.

With gratitude,

Amanda Flanagan
Chairperson

RECENT GRANTS RECAPPED: \$49,000 Donated to Local Charities

JPFF is pleased to share that we've granted out \$49,000 over the past twelve months to the following Connecticut-based charities:

- **Circle of Care (\$5,000)** - to support their Lifeline Emergency Fund, a financial assistance program aimed at alleviating some of the financial difficulties many families experience when their children are undergoing treatment for cancer.
- **Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Fairfield JPFF Trailblazers program (\$11,000)** - to fund the "JPFF Trailblazers Program," which enters its eighth year of existence and provides Bridgeport public school students with transportation to the Nature Center for science field trips. Since its inception, nearly 5,000 students have participated in the Trailblazers program.
- **The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Janus Center (\$5,000)** - to fund the Janus Center's Summer Enrichment Program which provides at-risk teens with a five-week summer program that exposes youth to various career choices, and engages them with educational and skill-building topics.
- **Hall Neighborhood House (\$5,000)** - to support after-school programs for Bridgeport youth that emphasize positive character development through social and emotional learning.
-

High School Scholarship Foundation of Fairfield (\$2,000) - to fund the John Flanagan Memorial annual scholarship awarded to a college-bound, high-achieving student with an economic need at Fairfield Warde High School.

- **LifeBridge Community Services (\$5,000)** - to support the Community Closet program which distributes basic needs items to over 2,500 families impacted by poverty. This grant also funds their School Supplies Project, which focuses on children's preparedness for school through the provision of basic items that students need to participate in classroom and homework activities such as pens, pencils, and notebooks).
- **Mikey's Way foundation (\$5,000)** - to support the charity's mission to provide interactive, handheld electronics to sick children in the hospital as a way to escape the fear, boredom and isolation of their hospital beds. This is a small, local charity named in memory of 16 year-old Mikey Friedman, who also passed away in 2008.
- **United in Hope Scholarship Fund (\$11,250)** - to provide college tuition assistance to high school graduates who have lost a parent to cancer. This scholarship is jointly supported by the Chad A. Jacobs Memorial Foundation.
- **Wakeman Boys & Girls Club's Smilow-Burroughs Clubhouse in Bridgeport (\$5,000)** - to support a new fitness and nutrition after-school program named FitFutures, that serves 150 members annually to educate them on healthy eating habits, improved physical activity and the positive effects healthy eating and exercise have on their well-being.

Wakeman's FitFutures Program was a huge success as shown by these great photos!







JPFF Sponsors the John Patrick Flanagan Children's Corner at the Yale New Haven Health Park Avenue Medical Center

We were were thrilled to partner with the Bridgeport Hospital Foundation for a second time to build out a second children's lounge dedicated to John Flanagan -- this time at the Yale New Haven Health Park Avenue Medical Center.

The new John Patrick Flanagan Children's Corner is part of the outpatient surgery waiting room. It offers children who are there for outpatient surgery a place to play and meet with onsite counselors who help the children through the surgery process. It's also a place for non-patient children to play while waiting - often for many hours - for a family member to be discharged from outpatient

surgery.

Thank you to Steve Jakab, President of the Bridgeport Hospital Foundation, and the entire Bridgeport Hospital team for the opportunity to create this wonderful space in John's name.



Dedication ceremony: Flanagan Family with Steve Jakab



The Flanagan and Crawford children test out toys with counseling staff members.

FAIRFIELD WARDE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Congratulations to JPFF's 2018 Fairfield Warde HS scholarship recipient **Amelia Sicignano**.

Amelia's school counselor wrote, "Amelia is one of the most disciplined students I have worked with in the time that I have been a counselor."

Amelia has also served as a volunteer for Special Olympics and the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, and is a member of the Warde Varsity Swim Team, the Chinese National Honors Society, the Science National Honors Society, the Key Club and the Kiva Club. She has received awards as a Connecticut Swimming Scholar Athlete, USA Swimming Winter Junior National Qualifier, and is the state record holder and member of the number one ranked 200 Medley relay for 15-16 year old girls in the United States.

In writing a letter of recommendation on her behalf, her English teacher has noted that Amelia "...is just one of those people whom one can count on to try her best, to be kind to others, to be self-motivated, and to be a role model."

Amelia will attend Emory University in the fall and plans to major in social work and pre-law.



Congratulations Amelia!

UNITED IN HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Now in its 6th year, the United in Hope scholarship is jointly funded by The [Chad A. Jacobs Memorial Foundation](#) and the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation. This scholarship is awarded to students who have lost a parent to cancer and attend school in Fairfield or Westport, or are residents of these towns.

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.

Since 2013, we have granted out more than \$50,000 to 13 students.

This year, our United in Hope Scholarship recipients are:

- **Ceyda Erol**, graduate of Fairfield Ludlowe H.S. and attending University of Connecticut.
- **William Casey**, graduate of Staples H.S. and attending Southern Methodist University.
- **Luke McManus**, graduate of Staples H.S. and attending University of New Haven.
- **William Stenz**, graduate of Fairfield Prep H.S. and attending University of Alabama.

Congratulations to these promising students!



2018 United in Hope scholarship recipients with the Flanagan & Jacobs families

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

Flanagan & Shannehan Kids Fundraise to Give Books to Children in Local Hospitals

Dear Friends,

We are happy to share that because of your generosity we were able to buy more than \$5,000 worth of books for children at Yale New Haven NICU and the John Flanagan Children's corners at both Bridgeport Hospital and the Yale New Haven Park Avenue Medical Center.

Your kindness has reached so many children and parents. THANK YOU!!!

We really appreciate your support to honor John Flanagan and William Shannehan.

We hope we have added some happiness to your day in knowing that families are enjoying these books because of you.

Thank you!

Emma, Quinlan, Bridget
Timothy, Luke and Jack



Delivering books to Bridgeport Hospital

THOUGHTS OF JOHN

John met two cherished friends, Jim O'Brien and Mike Renaud, while he was attending the University of Connecticut School of Law. Thank you Jim and Mike for sharing these touching memories with us all.

Background: While John attended law school at night in the mid-90's, he worked for current U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal who was CT Attorney General at the time. So John was very active in Democratic politics across the state. Fellow night school law student Jim O'Brien worked as an advisor to Republican Governor John Rowland. Despite their divergent political views, John and Jim became fast friends. At the time, current Attorney General George Jepsen was an up-and-coming Democratic Force at the CT Capitol and also a close friend of John's...

Thoughts of John by Jim O'Brien:

"George Jepsen? You must be kidding! He has accused my boss (the Republican Governor) of every malfeasance known to man," I said. I didn't know much, but I knew John Flanagan was wrong on this - maybe he wasn't so smart after all.

"He is part of the opposition...He's doing his job. I am telling you, he's a great guy. You should meet him. I will introduce you to him," John repeated back to me. Although I had not known John Flanagan very long, I did trust his judgement. And although I knew that Sen. Jepsen was just doing his job, he did not seem like a "good guy." When John introduced us, Sen. Jepsen stuck out his hand and said "don't worry I don't have horns and I don't bite." I quickly came to realize that John was right about Sen. Jepsen.

What I didn't realize at the time was the reason why Sen. Jepsen was so easy to deal with: John had given me his stamp of approval and said I was "okay." Sen. Jepsen and John had been through many political battles together, and once John told Sen. Jepsen I was "okay" - that was all he needed to hear. That was because people liked John, and trusted him. I liked and trusted him.

I first met John sitting in the back row of a municipal law class that met at night. Next to us were PJ Cimini and Mike Renaud, who was John's roommate at the time. After one of our first classes, John invited me to join them at the Spigot, the neighborhood bar -- and a great friendship was born. John had a great way about him - people just liked him. I am not sure what it was. He was very easy to be around. He was smart, funny, and like many Irishmen, a great story teller.

It was not long after I began hanging out with him that we stopped by to see his parents after a pick-up basketball game. We sat and had coffee with them and it was apparent that they were a very close family. His parents were thoughtful, generous and curious. Obviously John had adopted their wonderful traits. We talked for a very long time before John said we had to hit the road. After that one coffee I was invited to family parties and get-togethers, along with many other people the Flanagans had picked up along the way.

The last time I saw John in 2008, we had lunch at a deli across from his office, and the conversation continued afterwards in front of his office. An assistant came out and said a client was on the phone - it was an emergency. A reporter

had called and wanted to know about the client's "green energy policy." "Well, what is their green energy policy?" John said. That was the problem, the assistant said. They didn't have one. "Well, tell the reporter that." The assistant looked surprised and ashen. "I'm only kidding - I will be right in." Relieved, the assistant turned and ran back in the building. With a smile on his face, John turned and said "I'd better go - I have to write up a green energy policy this afternoon."

That was John - irreverent, funny, calm and smart.

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Background: When fellow law-school friend Michael Renaud read Jim's piece above, Michael sent this thoughtful and heartwarming email below, and gave us permission to share:

Dear Amanda,

I think of John and those law school days often and it's always with a warm memory of times with you, the law school crew, the great Flanagan family and, of course, John in the center of it all spreading cheer and laughter.

While John was all the things that Jim conveyed in his letter, he also had a big heart. When I first got out of law school, I struggled mightily to find a good job and to make my mark as a lawyer. John was the person I relied on to help me "fake to make it" while I learned to be a lawyer. He thanklessly edited my briefs, provided research on legal issues and offered his tireless moral support.

I can't count how many times he sent me a fax after hours of a marked up brief or some legal research to bail me out. Frankly, I don't know who else I could have turned to help me the way that John did. I was embarrassed to be unskilled and needy but John always gave his time, respect and guidance. He never refused my requests and never made me feel worse for having to ask for help. I haven't found many friends in my life like that and I am very grateful to have had one in John.

I also remember John, you and the Flanagans with a special fondness during the holidays because it was with John and the Flanagan family that I spent my only Thanksgiving without my family at The Flanagan's house in Fairfield. That's not really true - the Flanagans made me part of the family that day. It remains one of my favorite Thanksgiving memories. Like all of us, I miss him greatly.

Your friend,
Michael

JFFF Remembers Board Member Father John Baran

JFFF lost one of its founding Board members with the passing of Fr. John Baran on March 24, 2018.

Fr. John was a very close friend and spiritual guide for the Flanagan family and those associated with JPFF. He officiated most weddings and baptisms for the family and presided over John's funeral in 2008.

Fr. John had many gifts that he generously shared with those around him, friends and strangers alike. He was so wonderfully suited for his work as a priest; his mind, heart, sense of humor and compassion were fully utilized for the benefit and comfort of so many individuals and families in our community. And his weekly sermons were incredibly inspiring.

Fr. John Baran was raised in Shelton, graduated from St. Joseph High School in Trumbull, received his Bachelor's of Arts degree from Fairfield University, and his Master's of Divinity degree from St. John's Seminary, Brighton, MA. At the time of his death, he was the Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Bridgeport, where he served since 2002.



Fr John christening Emma Flanagan



Walter Flanagan, Fr John and John Flanagan

JPFF Remembers Judge Howard T. Owens

Judge Howard T. Owens, a dear friend and supporter of JPFF, passed away on April 3, 2018 at age 83, after a very full life of family, fun and a remarkable record of public service.

The Owens and Flanagan families have been closely linked for more than 50 years, since the days of living side-by-side on Pierce Avenue in Bridgeport. Through the years, they have shared everything that life has to offer - the good and bad, the wonderful and the tragic, with each other.

And it was only fitting, but enormously generous and thoughtful, that after the passing of Judge Owens, the family asked that in lieu of flowers, the donations be made to the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation. We offer our most heartfelt condolences to Ann Owens and the Owens family.



Judge Howard Owens

JPFF FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Total amount granted out by JPFF to-date since inception = \$245,000

Current JPFF endowment (June 2018) = \$ 574,423

Fiscal Year 2017 fundraising Income = \$28,295

Fiscal Year 2017 interest, dividend and capital gain income = \$ 15,892

Fiscal Year 2017 operating costs = \$ 7,967

(All 2017 operating costs were covered by our investment income.)

Our operating costs included web site hosting fees, credit card processing fees, P.O. box fee, accounting and bookkeeping fees, race 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. Please patronize Dif's Thai restaurant [Ruuthai's Kitchen](#).
- Priscilla Igram of [The Studio](#) for donating her graphic design services. Please patronize The Studio for classes in painting, pottery, and drawing for all ages.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The JPFF board members and the Flanagan family would like express a most sincere thank you for your continued support of our mission. It is your support that makes JPFF possible.

[Click here for a complete list of 2017-2018 donors.](#)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE COUNTY ASSEMBLIES

Thank you Fairfield Warde H.S. ambassadors to The County Assemblies for naming the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation as Warde's charitable beneficiary this year.



Fairfield Warde HS Ambassadors Rachel Previti, Matthew Cenminaro, Brooke Powning and Peter Schwinn with Amanda & Bridget Flanagan

Registration is OPEN!
3rd Annual Shamrock Sprint 5K
Sat. August 11, 2018, 9:00 am
Connecticut Audubon Society, Burr Street, Fairfield, CT
[Click here to register.](#)



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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](http://www.jpff.org), and download our grant application.

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

To donate, visit <http://www.jpff.org/donate.html>



John Patrick Flanagan

FOUNDATION



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