

# The Steven M. Perez Foundation

*Hot off the press, we are excited to share our 2022 Newsletter. I went back and read some of the early Newsletters and it is a true testament to all of you that 19 years later, Steven still makes us all smile and that in His name we can continue to help people affected by cancer*

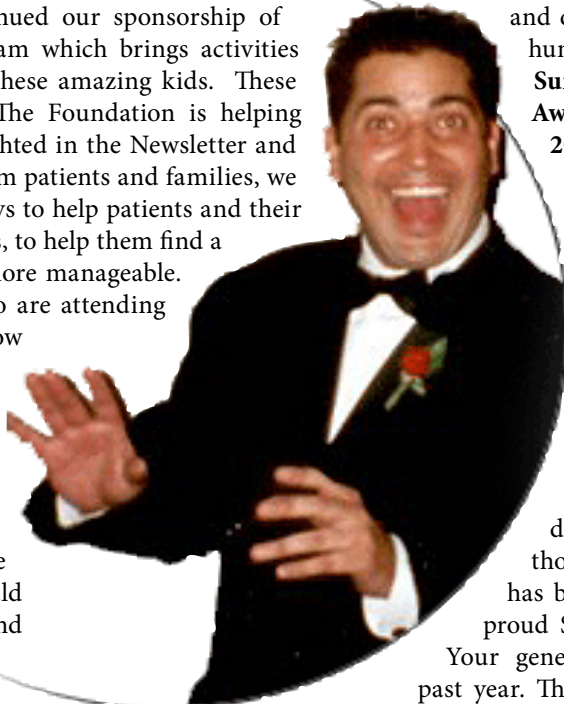
*“Live their Lives to the Fullest.”*

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Our focus, since we started in 2004, remains to help patients and their families fight their battles against blood related cancers and the struggles these diseases bring. One of the toughest struggles with blood related cancer is the treatment protocol which can be very challenging, and the recovery is likely to be long and arduous. The Foundation was founded to try to identify opportunities to shed some light or provide some solace for these patients and their families and allow them opportunities to forget even for a short while and “Live their Lives to the Fullest.”

Throughout 2020 and 2021, some of the summer camps we have partnered with, opened, and had the campers on site lighting up the fields with bright smiles and laughter. Other camps and programs adapted, and we were there to support their online programs, holiday campaigns, and care packages. We continued our sponsorship of the Sunrise on Wheels program which brings activities directly into the hospital for these amazing kids. These are a few examples of how The Foundation is helping people look ahead. As highlighted in the Newsletter and the many letters we receive from patients and families, we are always looking for new ways to help patients and their families through difficult times, to help them find a way to make the long battle more manageable.

As parents of children who are attending camp, we appreciate how incredible it is to go on the bus, build life-long relationships with other young children and just play and enjoy life. That is why we feel it is so important to continue our support for camps like Sunrise Day Camp, Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times and Camp Sunshine, all of which focus on the camp



experience for patients and their families while providing the campers access to the medical treatments they need. After visiting one of the camps this past summer and seeing the smiles that brighten up the playground and the joy the camp experience brings to these patients and their families it is truly an amazing gift. With your help, we are honored to have a hand in providing a fun summer experience for these special kids.

Your continued generosity and support is what fuels The Foundation's programs and initiatives. Your support, generosity and attendance at our Golf Event makes all our initiatives possible. Ten years ago, we were doing 2 and 3 events a year, these days we go big or go home and on **July 11th, the 19th Annual El Rey Banana Golf Event at Brookville Country Club will take place.** For those

of you who are not golfers, we hope you can join us for cocktails and dinner after the golf festivities. We are also beyond humbled and honored to have been selected by **Camp Sunrise as their 2022 Dare to Dream Sunrise Champion Award Honorees!** We will be honored on **November 16, 2022, at the Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers.** Please see information below. Camp Sunrise has a special place with the Perez Family and has been an incredible partner for the past 16 years. We hope you will join and support us in November at this special event.

The Foundation and the Executive Committee cannot say thank you enough and express our sincere appreciation for all that each of you has done. We look forward to your continued support for what we have planned in the future. Our mission will remain to identify programs committed to helping children affected by these diseases, and to improving the quality of life for those suffering from Leukemia and other cancers. That has been our mission from the start, and we know how proud Steven would be of all that we have accomplished. Your generosity has helped us raise almost \$150,000 this past year. This would not be possible without all your support.

As a 501(c)(3) status organization, The Foundation is entitled to operate as a not-for-profit. This allows donors to deduct the value of their donations for tax purposes. The Foundation continues to look for new opportunities to help those who are affected by Leukemia and other related cancers. We are always looking for ways to celebrate Steven's life, to bring friends and family together, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Please contact any of the Executive Committee or go to our website [www.smpfoundation.org](http://www.smpfoundation.org) for more information about how you can make a difference.



## Upcoming Events

The 19th Annual "El Rey Banana" Golf Outing will be held on Monday, July 11th at Brookville Country Club in Brookville, New York. It is a tremendous day of fun and a great opportunity to get old friends together or bring a few clients out for the best day of the year. We are still looking for sponsorships so please contact us if this is something you are interested in. Limited spots are still available for golf, and we welcome non-golfers and anyone else for drinks and dinner. Please visit the website [www.smpfoundation.org](http://www.smpfoundation.org) to register today.

- The search for candidates for 2022 Steven M. Perez Scholarships remains open. Please contact The Foundation with potential candidates.
- We continue to look for local opportunities to help patients and their families battling leukemia and other blood related cancers. If you have a friend or a family you know is going through a tough situation, please let the Foundation know how we can make a difference for this patient or their family to "Live Life to the Fullest."

## Recent News

**April 2022** - The Steven M. Perez Scholarship continues to be awarded to deserving high school students. We remain open for additional candidates. Over the past years, we have provided over 225 scholarships for a total over \$300,000

**April 2022** - Partnered with the Koenig Childhood Cancer Foundation (see below) to provide direct financial assistance to two families battling cancer.

**April 2022** - Referred to a family with a single mom who has leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and has had multiple surgeries and was near death from COVID. Providing direct financial assistance as difficult to make ends meet for her and her 3 boys.

**March 2022** - Proud sponsor of Sunrise Day Camp and the Sunrise on Wheels Program. We donated \$36,000 for campers to attend camp this summer and continue to sponsor the Wheels Program bringing activities directly to children while they are being treated in the hospital.

**January 2022** - Supported Grahamstastic Connection - Supported children with cancer by providing funds for laptops and Ipads so the children can stay connected to school, friends, and family. Donated \$7,500 for laptops and Ipads to patients.

**December 2021** - Supported Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine and matched the first \$5,000 they raised in a holiday campaign to send care

packages to patients and their families. Camp Sunshine is an amazing organization that provides a week-long experience for patients and their families to enjoy time together and share experiences with other families living through similar circumstances.

**November 2021** - A Bergen County community member was diagnosed with Leukemia which caused the mother of two to take a leave of absence. The SMP Foundation sprung to action and provided financial assistance to make life easier and help her manage her finances.

**September 2021** - Proud to continue our partnership with Camp Ronald McDonald by donating \$10,000 to sponsor patients to attend a virtual summer camp experience. See summary in Newsletter

**August 2021** - Signed contract with Brookville Country Club for the 19th Annual El Rey Banana Golf Outing on Monday July 11, 2022. Please visit [www.smpfoundation.org](http://www.smpfoundation.org) to get all the information about registering, sponsoring, and donating to this special day as we honor Steven and raise important funds to help families battling cancers.

**July 2021** - The 18th Annual El Rey Banana Golf Outing raised over \$130,000 on July 12th at Brookville Country Club. Another spectacular day to see friends, have fun and get together to remember Steven and the impact he had on us all. Brookville is welcoming us back and we hope to see you on Monday July 11th at Brookville Country Club for another great event. Please visit the website [www.smpfoundation.org](http://www.smpfoundation.org) to register today.

## SMP to be Honored at Sunrise Event

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2022 Dare to Dream Sunrise Champion Award Honorees, The Steven M. Perez Foundation! The Steven M. Perez Foundation, represented by the Perez and Elhai families, will be honored on Wednesday November 16, 2022, at the Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers.

Since its inception in 2006, three generations of the Perez and Elhai families have supported Sunrise Day Camp – Long Island. In honor of their beloved brother, these two families have led the Foundation and shared Sunrise Association's deep commitment of caring for children with cancer and their siblings. Together, through their leadership, generosity and love of our mission, the Steven M. Perez Foundation has changed the lives of thousands of children and their families.

Please join us on November 16th as we celebrate a unique foundation and two extraordinary families.



**In 2003, the first baby was named after Steven and since then Steven has been honored to have several babies named in his memory.**

**Will Samuel Epstein**  
**son of Robyn & David Epstein**  
**Maxwell Steven Hechler**  
**son of Tracey & Glenn Hechler**  
**Michael Steven Spinelli**  
**son of Maria & Michael Spinelle**  
**Justin Steven Genatt**  
**son of Mellen & Jack Genatt**  
**Sarah Lily Perez**  
**daughter of Rachel & Rickey Perez**  
**Jackson Steven Adler**  
**son of Rebekah & David Adler**  
**Jaxon Steven Elhai**  
**son of Dana & Jesse Elhai**

## Partnering with Koenig Childhood Cancer Foundation

The Koenig Childhood Cancer Foundation was initiated by a 13-year-old NYC cancer survivor in 2020. The mission of their foundation is to provide life-saving financial and emotional support to children battling cancer and their families. Elena and her family were recently on the news for the tremendous efforts to help a young Ukrainian patient and his family find their way to NY for treatment. We were inspired and wanted to see how we could help.

The Steven M Perez Foundation donated \$5,000 and it will be used to cover expenses of two families:

1. A Super sweet, sassy, and fun 7-year-old kid who had no

chance for treatment back in her country and was brought to NY by KCCF with a single mom going through cancer treatment at MSKCC. Just completed 2 rounds of aggressive high dose chemotherapy and one of the surgeries required a 12-hour tumor removal surgery. Her treatment will be at least a year.

2. A 2-year-old cancer fighter from Ukraine - Elana connected with the dad through social media and their foundation helped them to flee Ukraine to come to NY for treatment. The boy is being evaluated at the hospital and he will have 6 weeks of proton treatment and possibly two rounds of chemo treatment if required.



Since 2006, three generations of our family have taken the children of the Sunrise Association into our hearts and through the Steven M. Perez Foundation, have supported this organization's mission by providing \$270,000. That's miles and miles of Sunrise smiles!

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Sunrise, they're an incredible organization whose mission is to bring back the joys of childhood to children with cancer and their siblings worldwide. Sunrise accomplishes this through the creation and oversight of welcoming, inclusive summer day camps, year-round programs, and in-hospital recreational activities, all offered free of charge. What could be a more perfect fit for

## Sunrise campers and Sunrise on Wheels

our organization?!

Our family was introduced to Sunrise sixteen years ago, when there was one camp on Long Island serving just 96 children with cancer and their siblings – Sunrise has come a very long way in just sixteen years and we're so proud to be an integral part of their growth! This summer, Sunrise will be operating 11-day camps: 1 each in Atlanta and Baltimore, 3 in New York (Long Island, Pearl River, and Staten Island) and 3 in Israel. Plus, they'll be offering 2 new camps in Greater Philadelphia and Northern Virginia. Additionally, they'll be opening Sunrise VX, a virtual camp that will be offered to 50+ pediatric oncology hospitals across the country! During the last 16 years the Steven M. Perez Foundation has supported Sunrise in myriad ways; we've been a sponsor each year of their annual SunriseWALKS on Long Island. This year, the June 12th walk had nearly 3,000 people walking and had a goal to raise \$1M! Our family was there, supporting Sunrise, and we hope you will join us next year.

We also provided support to one of their newest camps, Sunrise Day Camp – Greater Philadelphia well in advance of its opening this summer. As one of the first supporters of their Sunrise on Wheels program at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), we showed our leadership to a long-time partner and helped ensure that Philadelphia's children were receiving the love and care of this extraordinary program.

From Sunrise's earliest days, when our parents, Carole and Lou would join the walk-a-thon, to today when Haley, Sarah and their friends volunteer their time stuffing Sunrise packages or creating Sunrise on Wheels kits, we have brought Sunrise into our family and we're incredibly proud to support the impact of this extraordinary organization.

As we know, children with cancer live in a world filled with medical treatment, pain, fear, and isolation. What they miss



are normative childhood experiences; to play, to share, to build confidence, to laugh, to make a friend. We are proud to help provide the opportunity to just be a child and not to be defined by their disease and our foundation is proud to be supporting their mission.

Looking ahead, this year we are so proud to announce that the Steven M. Perez Foundation will be the 2022 Dare to Dream Sunrise Champion Award Honorees! We will be honored on November 16, 2022, at the Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers and at that time hope to further support the Sunrise Association in their mission. We ask that you please look out for the invitation, and we hope you can join us. This will be a very special evening for all of us!



Annually, we also support their in-hospital program, Sunrise on Wheels. The Sunrise Association Wheels programs are an innovative initiative that provides a day filled with Sunrise fun for children awaiting and during treatment in pediatric oncology units of participating hospitals. Volunteers wheel a rainbow trunk bursting with crafts, toys, games, and activities right into many of their affiliated hospitals and transform what can often be a difficult and scary day into a day of magical camp fun!

# 18th Annual “El Rey Banana” Golf Outing Highlights

On July 12, 2021, we were proud to host the 18th Annual El Rey Banana Golf Outing at Brookville Country Club in Brookville, NY. Tam O’Shanter Country Club finally closed, and it was the end of an era... We were beyond thrilled that Carl the GM at Brookville remembered us from when he was at Tam and welcomed the FUN and chaos with open arms.

It was a nice day and Steven kept the rain away, which if you looked at the forecast, it was supposed to be a disaster. We had a beyond full field of players and volunteers, followed by cocktails, dinner, and awards. As always, the day reflected Steven’s love of life, his love of golf, and his

It has been said many times before that Steven loved to play golf. That’s kind of like saying Steven loved to dance. Sure, he enjoyed it as a sport and as a pastime, but I think, for Steven, it was always about bringing people together. If you went out for a round with Steven, it wasn’t just for camaraderie and cigars. He also had a captive audience with lots of laughs and excitement for four hours (if you play at the outing more like 6 hours). Golf is a game that forces you to be in the moment, to concentrate on what you are doing and who you are with, right then and there, just like Steven always did. This year, that spirit held true as it has for

unbelievable auction. Teammates found each other, the picture was taken, and we were off to find our starting tees.

There were games throughout the course, plenty of food and plenty to drink as the day wore on. I mean who has a bounce house, a “live entertainer”, a DJ, Hometown BBQ, an Empanada and Cuban Sandwich truck, an ice cream man, a steel drum band, a football combine, Hooters girls and a hole where you get to Beat the Schiff. There is more... believe me! After the round, we came inside to cool off at the bar, enjoy the silent auction and preview the raffle prizes. There was an array of items on offer – jewelry, sports memorabilia, and trips to a variety of places were among the most sought after.

Dinner was a great time to catch up with old friends and make new ones. It is a true testament to Steven that so many people who knew him continue to come out for the day and honor him year after year, and to so many of you who never had the chance to meet him but now feel like you always were his pal.



efforts to always be surrounded by friends and family. We are thrilled to report that we raised over \$130,000, and we have all our players, sponsors, and volunteers to thank for once again making the El Rey Banana golf outing such a successful event.



the past 18 years. To start, players were checked in with a smile, enjoyed a full breakfast to coat the stomach, served a special drink and took note to an

The generosity of players, volunteers and sponsors cannot be mentioned enough or appreciated enough. Without the support of people like you, willing to write checks, take off work and give of yourselves, we would never be able to continue our mission. Steven taught us to “Live Life to the Fullest.” Nothing embodies that sentiment quite like the El Rey Banana Golf Outing. We are planning another fun-filled day Monday July 11th. Please register today and once again if you do not golf come and joining us for cocktails and dinner. It is the best day of the year! See you on the tee box!

# Camp Sunshine

For many years The Steven M. Perez Foundation has been donating funds to Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine. The camp is equipped with a full medical team to cater to the needs of the sick campers. Camp Sunshine meets the challenges of many children stricken with all kinds of life-threatening diseases. Our donations have always been directed to the tuition for children battling Leukemia. We are very proud to inform you that our 2021 donation brought our total to over \$200,000. Camp Sunshine will be welcoming campers back to camp this summer and will be hosting 11 Family Camp sessions this summer. These in-person sessions are designed to begin bringing families back to Camp. The Family Camp program model will be focused on the joy of participating as a family unit in activities on its beautiful lakeside campus. Camp Sunshine has expanded its services to the community. They continue to have a residential summer camp for ill children along with their siblings and



parents and have added weekend camp experiences throughout the year, winter camp vacations and an extremely well-received bereavement program. We receive thank you cards from the children and letters from their parents praising us for providing these

experiences for their family. Each letter reflects the success of Camp Sunshine and the wonderful experiences your donations provide. Thank you for all your donations which allow us to continue our work on behalf of these kids.

## Providing an Experience of a Lifetime for Campers



Throughout 2021 the Steven M Perez Foundation has maintained its commitment to Sunrise Day Camp on Long Island, Camp Sunshine in Main and the Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times®. Each of these camps provide a caring environment for children and teens battling blood related can-

cers. The camps are equipped with medical staff and services to provide a healthy and safe environment for all the campers. The Steven M. Perez Foundation donated funds to all these camps in 2021 and, as always, we stipulated that our funds provide the tuition for patients battling Leukemia or Lympho-

ma, their siblings, and parents. At first the camp experience was only a summertime respite, but these camps have expanded their services throughout the year including parents' bereavement programs which we have helped to support.

At most of the camps, the staff write to us to communicate the camp experience of the children they serve and share letters from campers and families that warm your heart, bring tears to your eyes, and keep us motivated to raise funds.

**Our total financial commitment to camps, from the inception of our program through 2021, has been:**

**Sunrise Day Camp, LI \$270,000+**

**Camp Sunshine, Maine \$200,000+**

**Camp Ronald Mc Donald  
for Good Times \$175,000+**

Through these camps and many other programs, the Foundation has touched those who are battling these diseases. We are gratified to see the progress they have made. We continue to thank you for your support and donations.

## Virtual Programming Camp Ronald McDonald during the Pandemic



Camp at Home is composed of two parts: “Camp in the Box” and Camp Online. “Camp in the Box” kits were filled with Camp swag and all of the supplies that campers need to participate in online activities. Since we received the Steven M Perez Foundation’s support in December of 2020, hundreds of campers have participated in our Camp at Home programming (76 teens in our winter Wilderness Outdoor Leadership Program session, 121 in our two spring Family Camp sessions for families with children ages 0-8, and 213 in our recently completed two summer session for youth ages 9-high school graduation).

92 volunteer counselors created and/or led the online activities that have been pivotal to the success of our shift to virtual programming during the pandemic.

Following is feedback they received from two of their teen campers during session 1’s closing campfire:

*Thank you everyone for making my life so meaningful. I've been going to Camp for such a long time, and I feel that this has been the best part of my life. To anyone that has ever wanted or needed to have a happy space, this is where it is - this is the magic. Thank you. - Aaron, Camper*

*Like most people, I've heard Camp is our 'home away from home.' It's a community that you can't find anywhere else, and I can't thank you all enough for being part of that community, being there for us, and taking time out of your day to participate and run activities for all of us. Jackie, Camper*

### THE STEVEN M. PEREZ FOUNDATION & CAMP RONALD MCDONALD FOR GOOD TIMES

The transformative and healing effects of Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times for the children and families impacted by cancer have been awe-inspiring. We thank The Steven M. Perez Foundation for its support of our vital work, which now is focused on continuing to bring Camp to families in their homes, so that

even as the pandemic continues to compromise our ability to safely meet in-person, they will have access to a robust community of support. The SMP Foundation renewed support in the amount of \$10,000, which will underwrite the direct program costs of 300 campers who participate in our Camp at Home programming.

## Grahamtastic

Our mission is to provide free technology to children with cancer and other serious illnesses to support their education, as well as their social and emotional well-being. Technology, including iPads, laptops, robots and internet access, enables the children to continue their education during treatment while also remaining connected to family, friends and medical providers.

Grahamtastic, was founded by a mom who lost her sweet son to Leukemia at eight years of age. Graham was a happy energetic boy who loved life. Staying connected to his school, family and friends were always important to him while spending time in the hospital. It's our honor to provide seriously ill children a means to maintain connections in his name. The Steven M Perez Foundation's donated \$7,500 in 2022 and our support has been crucial to the services they provide in the NY area.



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION

Abrams Family  
Adler Family  
Anthony Iuffredo  
Apfel Family  
Baker Family Foundation  
Bloomberg Family  
Bradley & Gigi Schwartz  
Brian Sklar  
Brookville Country Club  
BTIG Trading  
Starker & Sklar Families  
Christopher Scott  
Craig Giordano & Family  
Durkin Family  
Epstein Family  
Evan Schwartzberg  
Farrell Family  
Genatt Family  
Gendal Family  
Gitlin Family  
Harris Family  
Hechler Family  
Hendelman Family  
Hometown BBQ & Mitch Rosen  
Jesse & Dana Elhai  
Jimmy Vali - Vali Music  
Joon Rhee  
Jordan Chirico  
Lind Family  
Michael & Erica Distenfeld  
National Securities  
Citadel SPV -Orlando Figueroa  
Printing House Press  
Redler Family  
Richard Stieglitz  
Schiff Family  
Schwartz Family  
Scott Leemon  
Sean Hendelman  
Sokoloff Family  
Steven Dixon  
T3 Trading  
Wallach Family  
Yormack Family



### Foundation & Contact Information:

For donations & general information:

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### To volunteer or get involved in upcoming events:

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