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February 2013 NEWSLETTER

Issue No 3

1st Annual Toy Drive Held



The First Annual Toy Drive in memory of Mark "Ski" Gajewski, was held on December 11, 2012 at Canza-Citi Roadhouse in Patchogue. At the toy drive we collected

unwrapped toys and gift cards for children aged 1 to 15. Nearly 300 people attended the drive, and the Foundation was able to fill their entire trailer with donations. At the Toy Drive there was a 50/50 raffle, a special performance by Aby from the band TKO and a guest appearance by Santa and Mrs. Clause. The Foundation also auctioned off a door prize and held a Chinese Auction. All the toys were donated to several local charities, as well as to Victims of Hurricane Sandy and families whom were in need this holiday season. Some of the locations included:

- * Stony Brook University Childrens Hospital
- * Tuesday's Children
- * Toys for Hope
- * Surburban Children Inc
- * Suffolk County Sheriffs Department
- * Suffolk County Police Department
- * Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- * Honeysuckle Foundation for Children with Cancer
- * The Lighthouse Mission
- * American Legion Post 1244
- * Sachem Central School District
- * Brookhaven Children's Center

We would like to thank everyone who came to make this event memorable. In addition to collecting toys during the annual toy drive, the Foundation collects toys and gift cards through out the year to help families during times of need. If you are intested in helping,



Full Throttle Toy Run



Full Throttle Magazine together with Ski's Open Heart Foundation held a toy run on Sunday, December 16, 2012. The run started in Smithtown and ended at the Stony Brook University Medical Center, where toys were brought to the children of the hospital.

9-11 Vets Appreciation Dinner

On January 24, 2013 two members of Ski's Open Heart Foundation attended the 9-1-1 Veterans Appreciation Dinner.

please contact us.



Hurricane Sandy

In November 2012, Long Island, New York City, Staten Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, and the rest of the East Coast experienced one of the worst hurricanes in recorded history. Many families lost everything, including their houses, cars, beloved animals and many of their prized possessions. During that time, Ski's Open Heart Foundation partnered with the Johnny Mac Foundation and the Feal Good Foundation to set up various

donation sites in order to aid to the victims of Sandy.

Several drop off spots were organized throughout Suffolk and Nassau to allow people to drop off anything including clothing, toiletries, school supplies, cleaning supplies, and nonperishable items. Once the donations were gathered, they were then distributed to various charities and families throughout the East Coast.



Brick Purchased at Diamond in the Pines 9/11 Memorial

Recently, a beautiful park was built in Coram, New York called the Diamond in the Pines 9/11 Memorial. At the Diamond in Pines Park you can purchase bricks to memorialize and thank someone that helped or gave their life during 9/11. There is a gazebo where you can sit and



SEPTEMBER 11TH VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND INFORMATION FORUM

On Wednesday January 30, 2013 a member of Ski's Open Heart Foundation joined the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, Special Master Sheila Birnbaum, Reps Carolyn Maloney, Jerrold Nadler, Peter King and members of the Feal Good Foundation at an information forum at Baruch College in NYC to discuss the Victims Compensation Fund and the claim filing process.



Patchogue Patch Who Made A Difference in 2012 Nomination

Co-Founder of Ski's Open Heart Foundation, Crystal Gajewski was among the nominees of Who Made A Difference in 2012 in the Patchogue location. To view some of the nominees click on

: [Patchogue Patch](#)



Upcoming Events

In the next few months the following major events are coming up:

June 11, 2013 - 1st Anniversary Gala at Blue in Blue Point at 6 pm.

September 11-13- 2nd Annual Strength & Hope Walk/Relay

December 2013- Toy Drive

During the course of the next few months you can also find members of Ski's Open Heart Foundation at other events. Check back to our website frequently to find out details.

(All information will be available



our appreciation of the Foundation's inspiration,
Mark Gajewski.



view the games being played in the park or just enjoy the outdoors. Also, in the park are statues that are dedicated to 9/11. As such, we have

purchased a brick on the walkway of the park (next to the gazebo), in order to show

on the website)

Don't forget to check out our store where you can purchase teeshirts, sweatshirts, decals, tank tops, patches and more to come!!

Clothing



About Ski's Open Heart Foundation

Our mission is to provide help to the September 11, 2001 victims, heroes, and their families.

The foundation will concentrate on providing our neighbors, friends, family and Fellow Americans who lost their lives or continue to suffer the consequences of September 11, 2001 with the resources necessary such as food, clothing and/or financial assistance to live full and satisfying lives. The Foundation also concentrates on continuing the benevolent work of the its inspiration, Mark W. Gajewski, by working with children charities, animals, and simply lending a helping hand wherever possible. Please contact Ski's Open Heart Foundation if you're in need of our help. Visit our Share your Story tab and tell us your story or if you are interested in becoming a part of the Foundation, please visit our Contact Us tab. To see the story of this beloved hero and what you can do to help others take a look at our website....

www.skisopenheart.org



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