

Dimensions of living

From fundraising event, foundation formed

Women inspired by community's generosity, move forward helping needy families

By LISA MANCUSO

About two years ago, Smithtown residents and friends, Christina Alcure, Christine Fitzgerald and Kristy Jaeger rallied the community together to help a Smithtown family. They created the Branch Brook Children's Foundation and organized a fundraising event to help raise money for a friend's child who was diagnosed with cancer. Although the benefit was a success, the child, Kaylee Rivers, sadly died 13 months later. Although devastated by their friend's loss, the three women were inspired by the generosity of the Smithtown community and decided to keep the foundation going to help other Smithtown families in need.

Now renamed the Smithtown Children's Foundation, the mission of this nonprofit charitable organization is to reach out to local families who may be facing a crisis - whether it's a sick child, the loss of their home to a fire or some other tragic event. The foundation holds a number of events throughout the year, events that bring Smithtown residents and business owners together in an effort to raise money for local families in need. Nearly 140 people attended a recent golf outing that was held Monday, October 4. In attendance was former New York Giants player Sean Landeta. The first Kaylee Rivers Courage award was presented to Tom Archer by Smithtown Children's Foundation. Mr. Archer's son was hit by a car three years ago and is still in a coma. The Nesconset resident was honored for the work he has done on behalf of patients like his son who suffer from traumatic brain injuries.

A Networking Night will be held Thursday, October 14 at Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown, 630 Middle Country Road, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. "The networking event is open to anyone in our community although it is geared toward business owners. It's a chance for local businesses to network and meet people in the community and to help out families in need," said Christina Alcure, one of the foundation's founders. "The Smithtown Children's Foundation is open to anyone who lives in Smithtown or has a child attending a Smithtown school." The suggested donation for Networking Night is \$25 per person. There will be music, food and drinks, as well as raffle tickets for purchase.

Ms. Alcure said the money raised through the foundation events goes to families in need in the community.



Smithtown Children Foundation founders (from left) Christina Alcure, Christine Fitzgerald and Kristy Jaeger with former New York Giants player Sean Landeta at the Foundation's recent golf outing.

"We help with their medical expenses. We've purchased medical equipment. We also help the social services in our schools especially around the holidays by purchasing gift cards." On November 20, the foundation will once again hold its annual holiday breakfast/boutique that is sponsored by Maureen's Kitchen. "It is open to the entire community. Maureen's Kitchen supplies food. We'll have pictures with Santa, a holiday boutique where people can shop, crafts for kids and more," said Ms. Alcure.

For more information about attending the Networking Night at Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown, as well as other upcoming events, visit www.smithtownchildrensfoundation.com or contact Christina Alcure at 631-258-1122 or SCFalcure@gmail.com; Christine Fitzgerald at 631-584-9511 or fitzyBBCF@optonline.net or Kristy Jaeger at 631-258-0545 or Krbenefit1015@aol.com. Donations may be mailed to Smithtown Children's Foundation, PO Box 799, Nesconset, NY 11767.

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