

The FILIPPIS FOUNDATION

Annual Newsletter



Turning Dreams into Reality

The Filippis Foundation, established in 1983, is the non-profit organization of Wright & Filippis and was created to assist charitable nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations throughout Michigan and northern Ohio. We invest in our communities by supporting organizations that share our commitment to persons with disabilities.

Each year, the The Filippis Foundation selects local charities, programs and businesses to support. In addition to monetary support, we often can provide equipment, staff, and other types of support.

By partnering with these organizations, The Filippis Foundation offers a multitude of services and programs that allow the disadvantaged and physically challenged the independence to *turn their dreams into reality.*



Charity Spotlight



Ginny Sielert, Donor Relations Coordinator; Terri Miller, Wright & Filippis account representative; Michael D. Sapp, Sr., CEO; and yet to be named, adorable puppy.

The Filippis Foundation was a participant in the Paws for a Cause golf outing last year. Paws also received a donation of \$7,500 through the Gene Filippis Memorial Golf Outing.

Ginny Sielert, Donor Relations Coordinator at Paws with a Cause National Headquarters had this to say, "We are very grateful to you and your colleagues for your commitment to the lives of people living with disabilities and we are especially honored to have been chosen to receive this gift. Your gift will

help enhance the independence of someone's life through a custom-trained service dog."

A client came to pick up his new service dog today and remarked, "I dimly remember my inactivity and inertia before receiving my first service dog. When I received my dog, it felt like a switch was turned on that changed my life. Now I am able to do things and go places. You and

Wright and Filippis' supporters will be changing a life! That is priceless!"

"When I received my dog, it felt like a switch was turned on that changed my life."





Sponsorship of up to five children to attend Camp YesICan.

This year marked the 6th annual and most successful year yet! Sixteen youth campers joined us for Camp YesICan, a week-long summer camp for amputees ranging in age from 7 to 17. The staff consists only of volunteers, many of which were new to Camp this year.

While at Camp, the children have the opportunity to do many fun activities including, water skiing, rock climbing, martial arts, and swimming as well as take part in physical therapy and have important social interactions with other children who have experienced limb loss.

Said Lynn Vanwelsenaers, "I received as many thank you's from the staff as I did from the campers. All participants were emotionally touched in one way or another. Two campers learned to swim and another learned that walking unassisted was possible.

Staff members experienced firsthand the power of Camp as they watched the campers blossom in confidence and grow in maturity in handling challenging situations."

Through the support of The Filippis Foundation and other entities, a child who may not be able to afford to participate in Camp YesICan is now able to attend

Camp Yes I Can 2012 will be August 14-20th. We look forward to another exciting and challenging Camp. If you know of anyone interested they can contact any Wright & Filippis prosthetist for more information.



Collegiate Scholarships

Provides scholarship money to colleges every year; Oakland University, Macomb Community College and Wayne State University.

Scholarship recipients are different students every year, who qualify with some type of disability.

The 2011 scholarship recipients are:



Bradley Ebenhoeh



Jacob Finkelman



Rachael Billingley



Free Mammogram Programs

Donations to local hospitals that provide free mammogram programs



St. Joseph Mercy Oakland and Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital each received a donation of \$1,500 in support of their free mammogram programs that they offer to women in need.



Individual Sponsorship

Sponsorship of at least one individual, from an underserved country, to obtain a new or replacement prosthesis.

This year's recipient is a Central African woman named Deborah. A stray bullet hit her in the leg during a political coupe back in the early 2000's. Her leg was amputated in 2005 but because there is no facility in her area that could provide a prosthetic limb for her, she has been using only crutches to get around since then.

The Filippis Foundation was contacted by St. Joseph Hospital in Pontiac, on behalf of a church group from Trinity EPC, to see if there was anything that could be done to assist Deborah. The Filippis Foundation was touched by her story and decided that the entire cost of a prosthesis would be covered for Deborah. A cast of Deborah was provided to the Wright and Filippis Rochester Hills prosthetic team and they went to work. It posed as a very challenging endeavor because the team was not able to see the patient or take many of the specific measurements that are needed to craft an above knee prosthesis.



The Wright and Filippis clinical staff met with the group who was to deliver the prosthesis to Deborah in Central Africa and educated them on how to fit the prosthesis and make changes if needed.

When Deborah received her new leg she was absolutely thrilled and immediately tried walking with it while still using her crutches. After some adjustments were made to the alignment, Deborah was able to walk independently using her prosthesis. After more than six years of using crutches, Deborah can now walk unassisted and continue living her life without the added nuisance of crutches.



Disability Awareness Workshop

Sponsorship of equipment for the Disability Awareness Workshop, a traveling program geared toward school-aged children in our local communities.

Thirteen years ago, the Disability Awareness Workshop (DAW) program was developed out of a desire to teach the community, and especially young children, how people who have a disability are affected on a daily basis by their challenges and differences.

The goal of the workshop is for the students to learn through experience that people should be respected no matter how they may look, act, walk or talk. The program achieves this by providing hands-on activities that are centered on an empathetic understanding of physical, speech, hearing, vision, and learning impairments.

The Disability Awareness Workshop program is designed for upper elementary students. With a few adaptations, this program is successfully used at middle schools, high schools, professional development and for community outreach.

Working through the Rochester Community Schools (RCS) Foundation, public and private schools, businesses, churches, scouting troops, and community organizations are allowed the opportunity to use Rochester's DAW

ward improving the kits, which allowed the DAW to purchase the following equipment: Brailers, Go-Talk Communication Devices, Vibrating Alarm Clocks and vibrating pagers, and the ASD stations. Donated equipment from

Wright & Filippis includes 6 prosthetic legs, 3 soft helmets, and several braces. Additionally, employees of Wright & Filippis volunteered to help re-organize and make items for the kits.

The Filippis Foundation also wanted to ensure that all organizations have access to the

disability awareness program so a grant program has been put in place to assist those groups that cannot afford the standard fee for using the kits. Grant applications can be found by clicking on The Filippis Foundation link on: www.FirstToServe.com



kits for a fee. The fee is used to maintain and enhance the DAW program, plus cover the cost of disposable supplies.

Many of the kits need to be updated due to either missing or outdated items. The Filippis Foundation donated \$3,000 to-

2012 Nominations

The Filippis Foundation Community Partners Grant program supports nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations throughout Michigan and northern Ohio. We invest in our communities by supporting organizations that share our commitment to persons with disabilities.

The Filippis Foundation is now accepting grant proposals for the 2012 season. Please visit www.FirstToServe.com for grant qualifications, criteria and requirements.

2011 Filippis Foundation Community Partners



Offering Alternative Therapies with Smiles (O.A.T.S.) - is a therapeutic program for physically or mentally challenged participants that uses horse therapy. The Filippis Foundation covered the cost of materials to install concrete sidewalks from their offices to their barns to make the property more wheelchair accessible. In addition, Interlake's Landscaping donated their time to clear the pathway and trim trees.



Honor Flight Northwest Ohio transports American veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. Wright & Filippis, with the help of Drive Medical Design and Roscoe Medical, have donated wheelchairs to make the trip more comfortable. They are also working with employees to put together "goodie bags". In addition, The Filippis Foundation covered the cost of some of the flights.

Salvation Army After School Program in the Detroit and Metropolitan Detroit area, now in its 7th year, provides after school programming to approximately 400 children from underserved districts of the Metro Detroit area. Under the supervision of a certified teacher and two tutor assistants at each site, the program provides children with tutorials and homework assistance to help improve their reading, math, and science skills and ultimately to overcome their educational and social challenges to academic success. The children also receive nutritious meals and are engaged in recreational activities that help them stay fit, focused, and active.



2012 Events

April 19: Michigan Health and Rehab Conference

June 4: Gene Filippis Memorial Golf Outing

August 14 -20: Camp YesICan

(All proceeds go to benefit The Filippis Foundation)

Questions? Please contact any of the following Committee Members:

Ken Eick.....keick@wright-filippis.com
Nancy Hakala.....nhakala@wright-filippis.com
Chet Kuskowski.....chet.k@wright-filippis.com
Sharon Myatt.....smyatt@wright-filippis.com
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Beth Taylor.....btaylor@adnpage.com

Public Donations or non-automatic payroll deductions can be accepted. Checks should be payable to The Filippis Foundation, and sent to Ami Fermin at the address found to the left. For all donations less than \$250 per year, please consider your cancelled check as your receipt. Any donation over \$250 per year will receive a receipt from The Filippis Foundation for tax purposes.

Credit Card donations are also accepted and appreciated! Please complete the following:



The Filippis Foundation
2845 Crooks Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
1-800-482-0222
www.FirstToServe.com

Public Donations

Full name or Organization _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone number _____
Email Address _____
Credit Card Number _____
Expiration date _____
3-digit Security Code _____
Donation Amount _____



Staff Payroll Deductions

Employees can contribute directly to The Filippis Foundation through an automatic payroll deduction. Contributions may be tax-deductible on your Federal tax return. Simply fill-in the amount you wish to contribute and sign below. Please return to the Payroll Department.

I WISH TO CONTRIBUTE BI-WEEKLY TO THE FILIPPIS FOUNDATION:

_____ \$2 _____ \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$15 \$_____ Other

I authorize the payroll department to automatically deduct the above amount bi-weekly

Employee's name (Please Print Clearly)

Employee Signature

Processed by Payroll Dept.

Date