



Lauren's First and Goal Foundation

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Newsletter

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Founded in 2004, LFG is a 501c3 charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. EIN 20-1556643

2015 Grant Recipients Announced

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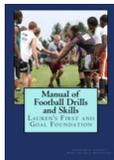
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Lauren's First and Goal Foundation announced more than \$126,000 in grant awards to pediatric cancer research, patient services and families impacted by the disease. LFG has now awarded more than \$1.62 million in grants as part of the fight against pediatric cancer since 2004.

LFG is once again focusing the largest amount of its grants on pediatric cancer research, with two projects receiving \$42,000 each. The research projects include:

- Dana Farber's Pediatric Low-Grade Astrocytoma (PGLA) program
- Johns Hopkins' Pilocytic/Pilomyxoid Research program

Each of these projects has received a foundation grant in previous years as well.

Along with their dedication to funding pediatric cancer research, Lauren's First and Goal continues its focus on supporting patient services that ease the burden on families. Four different programs have received a total of \$30,000.

The first award recipient is Camp Can Do, a week-long camp for children who are receiving treatment that provides a normal, active and safe camp experience. Camp Can Do attendees explore the outdoors, swim, fish, boat, work with arts and crafts, and spend a day at Hersheypark among other activities. Lauren, as well as numerous patients from the Lehigh Valley Oncology Clinic, has attended Camp Can Do, which now partners with Gretna Glen Retreat Center. LFG has awarded \$8,000 to Camp Can Do.

Additionally, the foundation is awarding \$12,000 to Camp Sunshine for families to attend camp for the Low Grade Pediatric Brain Tumor week. Camp Sunshine is a year-round program that provides res-

pite, support, joy and hope to children with life-threatening illnesses and their immediate families through various stages of a child's illness.

The Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley has had a long relationship with the foundation. LFG has awarded \$5,000 in support of their Chemo Circus activities at the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic and in-patient pediatrics.

A new grant recipient this year is the Ronald McDonald House of Philadelphia Adopt A Room Sponsorship Program. This program allows exclusive room funding from LFG to sponsor all of the families who sleep in the Lauren's First and Goal room at the Chesnut Hill location throughout the year. This partnership has a powerful impact in that it makes it easier for children to get the treatment they need and have their families close by their side, every step of the way. It eliminates many of the financial challenges that comes with traveling long distances for medical care so moms and dads can focus on their child's treatment and also provides parents with the support and rest they need to be there for their sick son or daughter and their other children.

The final piece of LFG's mission is family support, recognizing the financial strain of a cancer diagnosis. So far in 2015, the foundation has provided over \$14,600 on behalf of patients and families.

For further information and links to programs and services that Lauren's First and Goal supports, visit our website and click the Grants tab.

Save the Date! Register online @ www.lfgf.org

LFG PA 6/5/16

LFG OH TBA

LFG & the Ronald McDonald House Adopt A Room



Lauren all smiles during a stay at RMH Philly (above).

The partnership that LFG has committed to with Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House charities this year ensures that each family who stays in the LFG room throughout the year has a comfortable, restful place to call home – complete with home-cooked meals, shuttle transportation to and from the hospital, and an array of other complimentary services – just minutes from the country’s best hospitals at little to no cost. All of the families who will stay there throughout the year including parents, will better maintain their own well-being and manage their stress levels so they can be there for their children – both patients and their siblings. Moms and dads feel less isolated and alone because they have the support of other families who understand what they are going through and children have a better experience in the hospital because their family never has to be far from their side.

Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House had more than 2,194 family stays with families traveling from 44 states and 18 countries last year. The average length of stay was just over a week, but many stayed for much longer with the longest length of stay coming in at 365 nights away from home. According to a survey of the families that are served at the house – 98 percent – feel that

the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House reduced their stress levels during a difficult time. The support that will be provided through LFG and the Adopt A Room partnership will help many families facing the challenges during their child’s treatment.

James Franklin to Speak at PA Camp

Lauren’s First and Goal Foundation is pleased to announce James Franklin, Head Football Coach of the Penn State Nittany Lions, as its featured guest speaker at the PA camp on June 5, 2016. Franklin is in his second season with Penn State, and the passionate, positive and driven Franklin is in his fifth year as a collegiate head coach, leading his first four squads to a bowl game, with post-season victories the past three years. He owns a 31-21 career record, with three consecutive winning seasons.

Franklin began his coaching career as the wide receivers coach at Kutztown University and was a graduate assistant coach at his alma mater, East Stroudsburg working with the secondary. He then was the wide receivers coach at James Madison, a graduate assistant at Washington State and the wide receivers coach at Idaho State.

Franklin was named the wide receivers coach at Maryland under head coach Ron Vanderlinden. After five successful years at Maryland, Franklin was named wide receivers coach on Mike Sherman’s Green Bay Packers staff in 2005. During that season, Green Bay ranked third in the NFL in receptions and seventh in receiving yards.

Franklin served as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Kansas State during the 2006-07 seasons under head coach Ron Prince. In 2006, he helped the Wildcats to their first winning season in four years. Franklin coached quarterback Josh Freeman and oversaw an offense that produced a 3,000-yard passer (Freeman), 1,500-yard receiver (All-American wide receiver Jordy Nelson) and 1,000-yard rusher (James Johnson) during the 2007

season, a first in school history. Freeman would go on to become the Wildcats’ highest NFL offensive draft pick since 1954 when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers selected him 17th overall in the 2009 NFL Draft.

Franklin returned to Maryland in 2008 as the Terps’ assistant head coach and offensive coordinator. He helped the Terrapins to victories in the 2008 Humanitarian Bowl and the 2010 Military Bowl. The 2010 squad was among the national leaders in scoring offense at 32.2 points per game and was led by ACC Rookie of the Year quarterback Danny O’Brien. He threw for 2,438 yards, 22 touchdowns and only eight interceptions in 2010, with All-ACC receiver Torrey Smith making 67 catches for 1,055 yards and 12 scores.

Franklin was a four-year letterman at quarterback and a two-time All-PSAC selection at East Stroudsburg. He set seven school records as a senior to earn team MVP honors and was a Harlon Hill Trophy nominee as the NCAA Division II Player of the Year. Among the season records he set were for total offense (3,128 yards), passing yards (2,586) and touchdown passes (19). Franklin graduated having broken or tied 23 school records.



PSU Head Coach, James Franklin, will be the featured speaker at LFG PA on June 5,

COS Profile - Beth and Mike Donnelly

Lauren’s Circle of Strength, the network of family, friends and strangers alike, who have banded together to support the mission of Lauren’s First and Goal Foundation has multiplied and expanded through the years. The efforts of this circle of dedicated individuals are spearheaded on camp day by some extraordinary leaders. Among such remarkable people are Beth and Mike Donnelly, from Easton, PA. Beth and Mike have been involved with LFG since its inception.

Beth, a high school and college business teacher, takes on the huge responsibility of coordinating the breakfast, lunch and dinner service for the coaches and volunteers on camp day in PA. Along with her dedicated team leaders, Kim Hachmann and Courtney Fein, Beth manages to keep more than 350 coaches organized and fed in less than 45 minutes during lunch at camp!

She is joined by her husband Mike Donnelly, head football coach at Muhlenberg College, who has volunteered his time and talents at every one of the PA camps. Mike and Beth have also spread the mission of LFG by sharing Lauren’s story with Mike’s football team at Muhlenberg College. The team and coaches



at Muhlenberg have turned their spring lifting program into a very successful fundraiser for the Foundation, raising more than \$7500 in the past three years. The Donnellys have been longtime friends of the Loose family. Mike was John’s coach at Ithaca College in the 1980’s, and continues to be a mentor and example of coaching excellence.

Muhlenberg College Football Lift -A-Thon team with Lauren in support of LFG (left) and Mike and Beth Donnelly with Lauren at her Senior Prom in April 2015



Mike Garner - Captures LFG Moments

The reaches of Lauren’s COS expand out like the ripples from a stone dropped in the center of a pond. As goes the story of how environmental photographer Mike Garner came to volunteer as camp day photographer for LFG.

Case Garner, a 2013 Lafayette College graduate, played football at LC from 2009 - 2012, and volunteered alongside his teammates to assist at the PA camp. After learning of Case’s involvement at the camp, his father Mike contacted us at LFG, graciously volunteering his talents as a photographer to capture the action on camp day. You can enjoy many of his beautiful shots on our web site, as well as in our newsletters and press releases. We are extremely grateful to Mike for his willingness to share his gift with us.

Mike is a mid-westerner, who has lived with his family in New England since 1977. He is a trained and practiced architect



and woodworker and self taught in film and digital photography. To learn more about Mike and his work, please visit his website at <http://michaelvailegarner.com>.



Mike Garner working in the field at LFG football camp PA (above) and a sample of his work from camp (left).



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LFG PA June 5, 2016 LFG OH - TBA

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