

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

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Grant Recipients for 2016

Lauren's First and Goal Foundation announced nearly \$170,000 in grant awards to pediatric cancer research, patient services, and families impacted by the disease. LFG has awarded more than \$1.8 million in grants as part of the fight against pediatric cancer since 2004.

Continuing with its mission, LFG is focusing the largest amount of its grants on pediatric cancer research. The foundation supported three research projects that received \$45,000 each. The research projects, which have received funding from the foundation previously, are:

- Dana Farber's Pediatric Low-Grade Astrocytoma (PGLA) program
- Johns Hopkins' Pilocytic/Pilomyxoid research program
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Children's Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium/Low Grade Glioma research program

The next category of grant funding is patient services, with commitments to three different programs, totaling \$22,000. Two of the awards are designated for camp programs specifically



Lauren took a visit to the Johns Hopkins research facility this summer and got up close and personal with some friends in the lab (above).

designed for children battling pediatric cancer and other major illnesses. LFG has awarded \$12,000 to Camp Sunshine and \$5,000 to Camp Can Do.

The donation to Camp Sunshine allows families to attend camp for the Low Grade Pediatric Brain Tumor week. Camp Sunshine is a year-round program that provides respite, support, joy and hope to children with lifethreatening illnesses and their immediate families through various stages of a child's illness.

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 herself, as well as numerous patients from the Lehigh Valley Oncology Clinic, has attended Camp Can Do.

The final patient services grant for \$5,000 covers the adoption of a room at the Ronald McDonald House Philadelphia Chestnut Street location. By adopting a room, the foundation is sponsoring each family who will stay in that room as their child battles a serious illness. This is the second year of this grant, and LFG received a letter from a family who stayed in the room last year, who also coincidentally had a son participate in the foundation's one-day football camp in Pennsylvania last summer.

The final piece of LFG's mission is family support, recognizing the financial strain of a cancer diagnosis. The foundation has committed more than \$14,000 to more than 50 families.

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

Save the Date!
Please register online early
@ www.lfgf.org
LFG PA 6/4/17 LFG OH 6/11/17

The Football Camp - LFGs Major Fundraiser



Student athletes participate in a drill at camp in PA (above).

While LFG receives necessary financial support in a variety of ways, the primary fundraisers of the Foundation are the football camps that run annually at the beginning of June in PA and OH. These camps demonstrate the coordinated efforts of hundreds of committed volunteers and are the basis of the success of the Foundation.

LFG Football Camp is the largest one-day, non-contact camp for student-athletes entering grades 9-12 and current high school seniors in the country. Participants receive instruction in a variety of offensive and defensive skills from

volunteer college coaches from around the country and all divisions. The player to coach ratio is better than 8:1. Players are grouped by position and class year, and alternate between offensive and defensive drills and skills throughout the day. Players may also elect to work with the kicking specialist coaches for the day, or alternate between kicking and another position. The camp is not a combine – there is no height/weight measurements, no timed run, etc. It is an opportunity to learn, improve skills, showcase talents, experience being coached by college coaches and be exposed to the opportunities to continue one's career as a student athlete at the college level. Student-athletes who pre-register are asked to contribute a minimal registration fee that benefits LFG, with the first 400 pre-registered campers being guaranteed t-shirts. All proceeds from the camp benefit pediatric brain tumor research and cancer services.

Also at the PA camp, New York Giants consultants, Dr. Mark Weiner and Dr. Eric Simmons, volunteer to conduct workshops on sport psychology for parents, coaches and spectators, free of charge. A Family and Friends Fun Tent is also offered to pediatric cancer survivors, families and friends from our local clinic as well as to the children of volunteers, coaches and younger siblings of players who are participating in camp up to age 12. The tent provides informal crafts, an activity area, food, drinks, gifts to take home, as well as visits from the Lehigh Valley Therapy Dogs, their handlers and the Lafayette Leopard.

LFG Football Camp Ohio

In 2004, Lauren's First and Goal Foundation established its first football camp in PA, starting an annual tradition that would grow to become the country's biggest one day football camp for high school athletes. This camp was so successful in PA, that its satellite sister camp was developed and founded in Ohio in 2010 with the remarkable support of the Otterbein University Athletic Department, staff, athletes and community. The OH camp is set to celebrate its eighth year of support for the mission of LFG on June 11, 2017.

The OH camp, which takes place each year at Otterbein University in Westerville OH, has seen more than 2,700 student -athletes participate over the last 7 years. More than 630 coaches have volunteered at the OH camp. The camp has featured 6 tremendous coaching professionals as its guest speakers through the years, all of whom have volunteered to join Lauren's First and Goal Honorary Board of Directors. Jim Tressel, then Ohio State Head Coach and now President of Youngstown University was the first featured guest speaker at the 2010 camp. Other guest speakers and Honorary Board Members include; Archie Griffin, Urban Meyer, Luke Fickell,



Campers working hard at LFG Football Camp OH (left).

Darrell Hazell, and Frank Solich.

The camp has raised more than \$95,600 to support the mission of LFG over 7 years. Of that money raised, \$38,735 was provided in direct support to patient families of Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH. These contributions are made possible by the support LFG and the camp receives from the Otterbein Athletic Department, staff, volunteers, student athletes, local businesses, and community. LFG is truly grateful to this community for the work it does to support its mission.

The Bayly Family—An Integral Part of the COS



The Bayly Family

The coordinated effort of the dedicated individuals who comprise Lauren's Circle of Strength make camp day an enjoyable experience for all. This ever expanding network of family, friends and strangers provide the necessary support for the mission of Lauren's First and Goal Foundation. LFG is truly grateful for the labors of the circle's committed leaders. Among such extraordinary people are Matt Bayly and his wife Annie from Forks Township, PA. Matt and Annie, as well as their children, Brianna, Moira

and Jack have volunteered with LFG since 2004.

Matt, the Director of Sports Medicine at Lafayette College and a member of the sports medicine team at LC for more than two decades, has spearheaded the management of the sport medicine operations at the camp since it's inception. Matt organizes and oversees all aspects of Athletic Training, medical staffing and emergency preparation for the football camp each year. This is a monumental feat, considering more than 2,000 athletes, 350 coaches and several thousand spectators and volunteers are roaming the hundreds of acres of the Metzgar Athletic Complex on camp day. The talented and dedicated team of physicians, Athletic Trainers, EMTs and nurses who volunteer each year truly make the day possible. Matt also serves as our resident meteorologist, monitoring the weather station at Metzgar for us. He is always cool under pressure and a calming presence in tense situations—just the kind of person you want on your team! Matt is one of the hardest working people you will find on camp weekend, and always doing it with

We are so thankful to Matt and the Bayly family for their generosity and kindness throughout the years.



The dedicated Medical staff at LFG PA (above).

COS Profile—Ali and Corey Wenger

Lauren's Circle of Strength has been blessed with those who are exceptional models of charity, generosity and talent. Ali and Corey Wenger, from Myerstown, PA, are two such COS members who have been on board since LFG's inception in support of the mission of the Foundation.

Ali, Communications Specialist at Lebanon Valley College, volunteers year round as LFG's communications/ press contact, handling press and media releases. Ali was instrumental in the construction of the LFG website and handles the day to day management of the website for the Foundation as well. She is always on hand to lend her expert eye to the LFG Foundation publications and we are truly grateful for her support!

Corey, Assistant Principal at Lebanon Middle School and Secondary Coach of the Lebanon Valley College Dutchmen, has volunteered at camp since 2004. Corey played college football as a receiver at Robert Morris University and served as an assistant football coach at six college programs throughout his career, including Lafayette College during the 2002-03 season with John Loose, founder of LFG. We are sincerely thankful for the longtime support and commitment to Lauren's COS from Ali and Corey.



The Wenger family - Ali, Corey, Brett and Julia (above).



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LFG PA June 4, 2017

LFG OH - June 11, 2017

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