



# Thomas Reynolds Foundation



Newsletter 2018-19

## Thomas' Journey



On May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1998, I would give birth to my greatest gift. We would name him Thomas. Little did I know that my baby would become my hero. At age 2, Thomas was diagnosed with a malignant Ependymoma brain tumor. These tumors often arise from the Ependyma, a tissue in the central nervous system. Thomas' tumor was located in the 4<sup>th</sup> ventricle in the cerebellum, which makes a complete resection extremely difficult. Thomas would endure 5 invasive brain surgeries, countless rounds of ineffective chemotherapy, two separate forms of radiation; a successful battle with treatment related AML and would become a 6-time cancer survivor, until we lost my Thomas on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Thomas lived his 11-year battle with grace and class well beyond his years. He remained caring, compassionate and positive every day of his life. He was admired by the oldest of souls, & melted the most hardened of hearts. Cancer could never define Thomas, change Thomas, or steal his love of life. He always persevered through the darkest of days in hopes of a brighter tomorrow. Although Thomas' life was brief in years, he lived each moment to the fullest. This is why our motto is to "Live the Dash." Live your life like Thomas. Live fully, love completely, and make every breath count. This is what Thomas would want for everyone. #LivetheDash#LivelikeThomas

## What we've been Up To....

We've been fortunate to have the support of so many donors, not to mention, emotional support of many from our community, and surrounding communities. Without your support, we would not be able to fulfill Thomas' dreams of helping all of those in need in the pediatric cancer family. Here are some of our achievements:

- **Funded research for pediatric ependymoma through the Collaborative Ependymoma Research Network (CERN). Donations were allocated to 1). Tumor profiling and pathology 2). Tumor laboratory models 3). Clinical trials 4). Developmental Therapeutics which paves the way for better treatment and a cure for ependymoma.**
- Provided financial assistance for medical expenses, mortgage payments, and household bills.
- Assisted families with travel expenses to and from treatments/surgery.
- Assisted in paying for the funeral expenses. ☹
- Provided the Cancer Center for Kids with toys, bikes, scooters etc.. Additionally, supplied teens currently in treatment or completed treatment with gifts such as elliptical machines, iPhones, Nintendo games etc..
- Furnished rooms at the Cancer Center for Kids with Smart TV's for each treatment room (6).
- A Grieving Parents Special Day Program provides grieving parents a special day of their choice.
- Established 2 new programs 1). **Thomas' Super Sibs Program: provides special siblings of our cancer warriors a monetary check & framed certificate.** 2). **Thomas' Day Out Program:** provides a family with a much-needed special day to enjoy together as a family; such as a Yankee game and dinner for the family.
- May 28<sup>th</sup> (Thomas' birthday) is recognized annually as Thomas Reynolds Day in Nassau County.
- Established an annual scholarship at SEAS **\*\*Thomas Reynolds: Live the Dash Award\*\***

## Past Events...

The Thomas Reynolds Foundation hosts 3 events annually:



Nassau County Declares May  
28<sup>th</sup> Thomas Reynolds Day



Thomas Reynolds Annual  
5K Run/Walk



Ependymoma Awareness  
Day

## Upcoming events...

Ependymoma Awareness Day- May 22nd, 2019- Hurricane Grill, Garden City 6pm-11pm

Thomas Reynolds Angelversary Candlelight Celebration- October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Freezin' for a Reason: Thomas Reynolds' Polar Plunge- December, 2019

## Our sponsors....

Our success is due to Thomas' journey of love and compassion combined with the generosity of our continuous supporters. These are our business sponsors:

- JT Mechanical- Joe Tuminello
- Kerley, Walsh, Matera and Cinquemani Law Firm
- Doreen's Florist- 631 752-6842
- South Shore Eye Care- Dr. Jason Flicker
- Kenco Designs- Ken Sullivan
- The Graziose family
- Jay Bernstein NIC Holding Inc.
- Mullane Home Improvements- Dan Mullane
- Impact Collision- Vin Olsen
- Bellmore Knights of Columbus
- IDJNow Event Supplies
- Piccolo's Restaurant
- Hoffman & Behar Law Firm- Warren Hoffman
- Barberchops- Thomas & Debra Schwan
- Izzy's Cards- Tri- County
- North Fork Wine Wagon- Mike Roche
- Instant Verticals Farmingdale 631 501-0001
- Joe Graziose- RXR Realty
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Bellmore
- Hurricane Grill- Garden City
- Bartholomew Funeral Home Bellmore
- Grill Fire Restaurant- Merrick
- The Taylor family

*If you would like to make a donation please make checks payable to:*

**Thomas Reynolds Foundation**  
**2543 Bristol Drive, North Bellmore, 11710**