

# RYAN'S NEWSLETTER

The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation  
450 Gardner Hollow Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570  
845-724-4440 [www.ryansfoundation.org](http://www.ryansfoundation.org)



## Upcoming Events

We are excited to announce that our *Annual Gala* will once again be held April 9, 2016 at the Grandview in Poughkeepsie.

Our *Annual Clay Shoot* is scheduled for June 4, 2016 at the TMT Preserve.

Information on our events will be available on our webpage.

## Past Events

The *Annual Fall Wine Event* at the Poughkeepsie Grandview was a huge success. Thank you to all the vendors who came out to support Ryan's Foundation. It was a spectacular evening and everyone had a great time sampling great food and spirits from the Hudson Valley.

The *Clifford Kihlmire Golf Outing* was a very fun day. Everyone enjoyed the lobster dinner prepared by Kevin Kihlmire and his staff at the River Station Restaurant in Poughkeepsie.

Thank you to all who support our efforts at all of our events.

## Exciting News

Ryan's Foundation is excited to announce that our NEWSLETTER is going DIGITAL starting with the June 2016 Issue. Please go to our webpage and sign up for the Newsletter.

[www.ryansfoundation.org](http://www.ryansfoundation.org)

## A New Chapter Begins

A child with cancer changes the family dynamics and these changes are often especially difficult for the healthy siblings. When one child has cancer, it can be challenging for parents to focus on the needs and concerns of the other siblings. It is common for the brothers and sisters of a child with cancer to experience conflicting emotions and they very often express these emotions through their behavior. Fear. Anxiety. Anger. Jealousy. Resentment. Loneliness. Guilt. Sadness. Grief.

No one knows this better than Tralee McElroy. Tralee was just 4 years old when her brother Ryan was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, an aggressive bone cancer that accounts for only 1% of all childhood cancers. Her life was instantly turned upside down. She went through all of the stages of emotions with her parents, Chip and Judy. She was just a little girl when Ryan's Foundation was created and began its journey, selling a few pumpkins from a pick up truck and sending a young boy and his family for brunch in a limousine. Through the years of fundraisers, Galas, hospital visits to see sick children, Tralee grew up, virtually, in the Foundation.

Today at 23, Tralee has assumed the position of Chairwoman of the Board after her father stepped down. She has also assumed the day-to-day operations of the family business, World Gym in Pawling. She has grown into a self-assured and motivated young woman. She has taken the baton and is ready to run with it – keeping her brother's living spirit as her guide. It could have gone a number of different ways for Tralee, but she channeled all the emotions of this journey into a positive path.

We know that Ryan is looking down on her and is giving her the strength to carry on.





**Corrin Sternberg  
Director of Operations**

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Susan Havelka**

Ryan's Newsletter is published by The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation, a nonprofit 501c3 organization, dedicated to helping children who battle childhood illnesses and cancer by providing support that improve the quality of life for them and their families. If you have a story you want us to know about or someone who needs assistance, please contact us at the number listed or by going to our webpage.

***As we start a new year —***

There are journeys we start where that path is laid out, the route determined, the destination clear. While hard at times, they follow a set course and we plod along, knowing where we will end up, knowing where our hearts will be once we finally get there. Then there are those journeys that start when something ends, when something abruptly happens and we have a moment of clarity and we realize that now another direction is needed. Sometimes these journeys start without us knowing and we don't discover them until we are far on our path. Confused we wonder how we got here, where we are going, and why we didn't know we were traveling anew. Those are the journeys that can change us the most.

As we look into 2016, we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life. The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak – every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on. And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count? Help us Never Say No. Spend some time with us at our events. While you enjoy that time, you will be helping others who may be running out of time. Every day we help others makes our time here on earth worthwhile. Thank you!

**Ryan's Team** is our monthly giving program. Monthly donors are an invaluable part of Ryan's Foundation and without them we wouldn't be able to **Never Say No To A Child**. When you join **Ryan's Team**, you will be ensuring that we can continue to support the children of the Hudson Valley battling life-threatening illnesses. Our goal is to reach \$10,000 from monthly donors, \$15 at a time. Please help us make a difference in the life of a child and their family. Consider contributing for families trying to focus on their child's survival while struggling to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. What if this was your child? We hope you will never discover a parent's worst nightmare, No parent ever prepares emotionally or financially for such devastating news. Your contributions will add up to make a significant impact in the lives of these children and their families.

**Your support will make a difference!**

There are many levels of giving to suit everyone's budget. Please see our webpage for more information on how you can help.

**Never Say No**

**Ryan's Foundation would like to thank our outgoing Board Members for their many years of dedication to the Foundation.**

***George Busolt, Charlie Daniels, Kirk Imperati,  
Erin & Steve Reverri***

**Dear Ryan's Family,**

Sixteen years ago I made a promise to my son that people who didn't know him would and people who did know him would never forget him. With over a thousand families helped, close to \$3 million raised, a beautiful barn that sits on Ryan's Way that will be host to many families in the future, I'm confident that Ryan's legacy will live strong for a long time.

I am deeply indebted to all of you for your commitment in helping me keep my promise to Ryan. Please know that you will always be a crucial member of the team that helps in **Raising Hope, Ryan's Way**.

I cannot effectively express my gratitude to you for your service on Ryan's Board, but know that I am forever grateful. Without each one of you, Ryan's Foundation would not have grown into what it is today and I am truly blessed that all of you were a part of it. As we all step away from board positions, please remember that you have always been and always will be a part of the Ryan's Foundation family.

I thank you all for your commitment to Ryan's Foundation and to the families and children we have helped over the years. We have all done great work and I want to continue to do great work with all of you in the future. I thank you all. God bless.

***Chip McElroy***



**Donation Form — I want to help! I am pleased to make a contribution to support the efforts of Ryan's Foundation.**

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Method of Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK/MONEY ORDER \_\_\_\_\_ CREDIT CARD

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