

## December's BMF CARES Spotlight\*

'Tis the season to give from the heart.

The Brian Morden Foundation CARES Spotlight\* program has been shining a light on our *Children with Cancer, Raising Awareness, and Providing Funds for Research, Education, and Support* for children with cancer and their families every month this year since January.

Our December's BMF CARES Spotlight is on our Brian Morden Foundation children and their families, who, despite the challenges they face, give generously to others.\* BMF children and their families have donated money to the foundation that they have earned from a variety of fundraisers including t-shirt sales, lemonade stands, or through memorials. Many of our BMF children have also given back by attending Brian Bag events - decorating and filling bags for other children with cancer at the four Pennsylvania Children's Hospitals – and even helping to deliver the Brian Bags and Baskets to the hospitals and to other local children. Our BMF kids have also acted as ambassadors, spreading the word about the Brian Morden Foundation through the BMF CARES Spotlight program interviews on TV and radio, at parades, Gold Ribbon games, and numerous other events. Finally, even more precious than all of the above, our BMF kids inspire us, make us proud, and fill our hearts with love through their courageous acts and magnificent smiles during the fight of their lives.

The Brian Morden Foundation Board of Directors would like everyone to know that during this season of wishing and giving, we are grateful for all the blessings these incredible children and their families give to us and so many others.

\*The following list is not all inclusive, but it is certainly impressive since it represents a wide variety of gifts from a large number of our BMF kids and their families who pay it forward to other children battling cancer and/or researchers who strive to help them.

Emma Auker and Kiera Chiridon live on through the generosity of those who loved, admired, and/or were inspired by them. Both girls' families requested donations to the Brian Morden Foundation after they passed away in 2017. In 2018, Emma's sister Hillary set up a Go Fund Me page in memory of Emma for her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday in September. Coincidentally, an amazing \$1900 was donated to the Brian Morden Foundation.

Maddie Shura inspired an entire community and Bellwood-Antis High School now hosts a gold ribbon football game each year with the help of the Brian Morden Foundation during September's National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Donations given during this game help fund childhood cancer research or support other children and their families battling cancer.

Timothy Boyles, Samantha Brantner, and Isaiah Barnes, have all donated BMF CARES Spotlight money back to the Brian Morden Foundation to either help our local children or help fund scholarships, many of which go to survivors who also want to give back.

Owen Egan and his family have sold t-shirts and donated the proceeds to the BMF.

Addison Zearfaus and her family sold lemonade the first year Addison was diagnosed to help in the fight against childhood cancer.

Almost all of our BMF kids have helped decorate and fill Brian Bags at one point or another during or after their own treatment.

Two of our newly diagnosed children, Ava Miduri and Amelia Sharer, recently donated their time and smiling faces during the Hollidaysburg WinterFest parade. Timothy Boyles, Addison Zearfaus, Dominick DeVecchis and their families also helped out during the parade.

Our BMF kids help deliver Brian Baskets to the hospitals during the holidays whenever they can. Kaylee Kruse, Ava Miduri, Timothy Boyles, Addison Zearfaus, Ryder McDermitt are just a few of the children whose parents have made this possible.

Abigail Miller, Alexis Battisti, Gabby Colegrove, Jonah Zolnak, Illana Cecilia, Ryder McDermitt, Isaac Bennett, Dominick DeVecchis, Addison Zearfaus, Kaden Estep, Samantha Brantner, Alexis Kensinger, Paolo D'Ottavio, Kimmie Klein, Timothy Boyles, Gage Carnicella, Bryce Johnson, and others have helped at the annual Gold Ribbon Games or kick-off events in September. They've either been honorary captains, walked for Alex's Million Mile project, sold lemonade, and/or manned the BMF table selling gold ribbons, t-shirts, and distributing information about childhood cancer. While they were alive, Emma Auker, Kiera Chirton, Maddie Shura, and Erin Dodson did the same.

So many gifts of love!

\*The BMF Board created BMF CARES Spotlight at their annual board meeting on Brian's birthday (1/10/18). Each month in 2018 a local child with cancer has been in the spotlight with the exception of September (National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month) and December. The Brian Morden Foundation, with the help of our children and their families, has provided information about each child as well as the type of childhood cancer with which they were diagnosed. Families/children have suggested an organization or individual researcher to whom they'd like the BMF to send a \$1000 donation in honor of each child for the purpose of research or support to children with cancer and their families.

You can find more information about our children at the [BMF CARES Spotlight](#) page. For more information or to donate to the Brian Morden Foundation, please contact Dawn Morden, president of the BMF at [dbjmorden@brianmordenfoundation.org](mailto:dbjmorden@brianmordenfoundation.org) or 814-946-9369. Contributions may also be made at the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation or here on the BMF website at <http://brianmordenfoundation.org/support.html>.