



The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund  
c/o St. Thomas More Catholic Church  
1040 Flexer Avenue  
Allentown, PA 18103

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# The Bill Sugra Memorial

## GOLF TOURNAMENT NEWS

Editor: Erik Ridley Designer: Debra Martin Winter 2015

### Starter's Shack

We hope that your 2015 is off to a great start and that each and every one of you have a year filled with joy, peace, love and most of all, good health!

Well, as you can probably have noticed, we have a new facelift!!!! Everyone felt that we needed a new look for 2015 and we hope that you like it as much as we do. The picture of Bill is from his high school graduation in 1989 and we always called it his GQ picture.

While we have some exciting news to share with you in this issue, we'd like to first turn back the clock and pay tribute to our honorary co-chairs over the years.

Our first tournament was held on Saturday, September 7, 2002 and featured our first celebrity, **Brian Propp**. Propp is a former left-winger and color analyst for the Philadelphia Flyers.

Our next outing in 2003 saw **Father Dan Gambet** come on board as our first honorary chairman. He remains as our co-chair and his support, spiritual leadership, and unending energy is so valuable to us. He is an integral part of our golf outing and a true friend.

Our very first newsletter was published in **March 2004**. Later that year, **Mimi Griffin** came on board as our honorary co-chair along with Father Gambet. Griffin worked as a women's basketball color analyst for ESPN since 1983 and with CBS Sports from 1985- 1991. She has also owned and operated MSG Promotions, Inc., a company specializing

in event management. Mimi brought such energy to our golf outing and was so helpful to us.

**Mark Lieberman** joined us in 2005. A nationally recognized wrestler during his years at Lehigh University, Mark is currently a very successful entrepreneur. We were so grateful for his dedication, help, and willingness to serve.

**Mike Guman** signed up for our team in 2006. Mike was a three-sport standout at Bethlehem Catholic High School and later played both baseball and football during his four years at Penn State University. He was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in 1980 and enjoyed a nine-year career in the NFL. We were so honored to have Mike on board.

Joining us in 2008 was **Tony Muir**. He's a life-long resident of the Lehigh Valley and has been active in his home parish, St. Catherine of Sienna. While Tony has just recently retired from his law practice in Allentown, he's a key part of our committee and will continue with us.

Our lives have been touched by these outstanding friends who so willingly joined our cause to honor our son Bill and reach out to help so many in his name. Each one epitomizes commitment and a spirit of caring. It truly was a privilege having you with us and we love and respect each one of you. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the generous donation of your time and talents.



**Friday, August 28, 2015**  
**Green Pond Country Club**  
Bethlehem, PA

### THE BUTTERFLY...



The leaves of autumn are covered by the snows of winter-but the leaves will return in the spring. The waves of the sea break upon the shore and then slide back into the sea to become waves once again. There is nothing in this life that is without its cycle of life, death and rebirth.

The butterfly is one of God's finest images of the gift of new life, emerging from its dark cocoon to its new splendor and glory, beautiful to behold and symbolizing the magnificent mystery of springtime that out of seeming death comes new life.

The memory of Bill Sugra is very much like the butterfly. He loved life and he loved each and every person whose life he touched. He helped us all to emerge from our gray moments by the light he spread with his smile and his caring and his love. Because he cared, he lifted us up.

We chose the butterfly as a symbol on our brochures and letterheads for the Bill Sugra Memorial Fund because of his memory we strive to bring the hopeless to hope, the discouraged to confidence and the depressed to new life.

encourage, support and assist

Thank you again for your participation and support!!!



Terry B., Mike W., Jon F., Sam G.



George B., Chris B., Joe A., Chuck Y.



John S., Greg B., Mike T., Dave S.



Griff E., Larry E., Jim F., Joe K.



Dan S., Dan S., Jim A., John S.



Dan M., Ed W., Joe M., Pat H.



Howard R., Stephen M., Dick R., Larry H.



Walt F., Brian R., Lori S., Bob S.



Mike S., Carl S., Jim N., Mick S.



## MEMORIAL FUND MISSION STATEMENT

The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund was established in memory of Bill Sugra, a compassionate, caring and loving young man whose life was tragically taken by the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center in New York City.

The purpose of the fund is to encourage, support and assist the needy and disadvantaged to improve their lives during times of difficulty, regardless of location, race, religion, or gender.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP...

Please send contributions to:

**The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund**  
c/o St. Thomas More Church  
1040 Flexer Avenue  
Allentown, PA 18103

For information:  
[esugra@cs.com](mailto:esugra@cs.com)

The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund is a section 501(c)(3) charity and contributions are tax deductible.

*Thank you!*



We'd now like to introduce you to two new chairs. Joining **Father Gambet** will be **J.B. Reilly**, president of City Center Investment Corporation. Launched in 2011, City Center Investment Corp. is a visionary real-estate development and management company dedicated to renewing great American cities by combining the best new and existing cultural, commercial, and residential properties to create vibrant urban communities.



Reilly has been active in various community and charitable organizations in Allentown and the Lehigh Valley for more than 25 years. In 2012, he and his family were honored by the Boys & Girls Club of Allentown for their longstanding commitment to the organization and the city. Reilly is past president of the Allentown YMCA board of directors and a former member of the board of trustees of United Way of the Lehigh Valley. He is also a former member of the board of directors of the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation and of the Allentown Economic Development Corporation.

Reilly earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Lafayette College and received his Juris Doctor degree from Fordham University's School of Law. While at Lafayette, he studied at the London School of Economics. He has been a certified public accountant and a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association since 1987.



The second new chair is **Joseph Topper, Jr.**, President and Chief Executive Officer of CrossAmerica GP. CrossAmerica GP is the general partner of CrossAmerica Partners LP, a leading distributor of branded petroleum for motor vehicles in the United States.

Joe has 25 years of management experience in the wholesale and retail fuel distribution business. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of CST Brands, Inc., the Board of Trustees for Villanova University and the Board of Directors for Lehigh Valley PBS. He is the past President of the board for Lehigh Valley PBS and the Lehigh Valley PBS Foundation and previously served as a board member for the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital in Allentown.

Joe holds a master of Business Administration degree from Lehigh University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Villanova

University. He is also a Certified Public Accountant. Joe and his wife, Maureen, have four children.

While the temperatures remain cold outside, plans are warming up for our golf outing on **Friday, August 28, 2015 at Green Pond Country Club**. We are planning a new surprise for our golfers, including a new prize structure. Stay tuned for more info to follow.

If you haven't done so yet please check out our website: [www.billsugramemorialfund.org](http://www.billsugramemorialfund.org). Thanks again to **Alex Spatz** for helping with this.

As always, we thank all of our sponsors, volunteers, and our golfers!! Without



*Tanya J., S.J.*

your love and support to our cause we could not make a difference in the lives of those in need.

*Chuck K., Geri V., Mike V., Bill S., Joe M.*

Over the last 14 years we have been able to give **\$460,000** to various organizations and individuals.

As you know, we could not do this without **YOU**. We are deeply touched by your continued dedication, love and generosity. Our son's generous spirit lives on through the **Bill Sugra Memorial Fund**. As Bill did throughout his life, we strive to improve the lives of those less fortunate than most.

On a personal note, the ending to 2014 was a roller coaster ride for us. Bill had hip replacement surgery



on October 9th and, wow, **Dr. Ververelli** was amazing. Bill recovered from that in no time, but on November 7th he suffered a mini stroke. It was a difficult time but he is on the road to recovery with no ill effects. We have been blessed to be seeing the head of Lehigh Valley Neurology, Dr. John Castaldo. We are just

thankful for 2015 and looking forward to a year filled with good health.

Of course, no newsletter is complete without an update of our grandchildren. **Reagan** is now 5 and will be registering for kindergarten. In addition to continuing with her dancing career, she has also joined the Parkettes and loves it very much. You should see her on the balance beam. Tripp, who will be 4 years old when you receive this newsletter, has also joined Parkettes and boy, does he love it. He does so well with his somersaults.



We had a wonderful Christmas with family and the best gift of all was the gift of time. Bill and I took each child separately on a

magical color adventure to the Crayola Factory and out to lunch to a place of their choice. We can't begin to tell you how much fun we had and, of course, the restaurant of choice was McDonald's. **Steven and Tracy** are amazing and we are so proud of them. They are such loving, caring parents.



Well, we look forward to seeing you again on August 28, 2015. As these years go by, we find the tournament and the Fund are truly a means of perpetuating and honoring our dear son's memory. By helping those in need, Bill's gentle and generous spirit lives on. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*God Bless,  
Bill, El, Steven, Tracy, Reagan and Tripp*

## Memories... *Lisa Abdalla Springs*

I was lucky enough to be a classmate of Bill's all through St. Thomas More and Central Catholic High School. That is twelve years of togetherness, and I think I speak for all of us when I say that Bill was quite simply the nicest person in our class. He was a friend to everyone and never had anything bad to say about anyone or anything. Everyone liked Bill. I was excited to catch up with him at our Ten Year High School Reunion. He told me he was living and working in New York City. He liked his job and had a really nice girlfriend. I was so happy to see him doing so well. I have a photo of us from that night that I keep above my desk. It always makes me smile. His life was cut so tragically short, and the only silver lining in that is all the wonderful things his Memorial Fund has done. If Bill was here he would be enriching the lives of others. Since he is not, the Fund is doing it for him. I am so happy to support it in his memory.



*Krissy T., Bill S., Lisa A.*

## TESTIMONIAL CORNER

### Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County

*Executive Director- Michele Grasso*

**Mission:** We enhance the wellness and independence of adults, who are primarily homebound, by providing nutritious meals and supportive services.

Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County is a 501(c)(3) charitable not-for-profit community service organization. In 1970, a grassroots group of concerned citizens banded together when they found out about an elderly couple living in Allentown who were starving in their own home. This group wanted to ensure that this never happened again in Lehigh County.

On February 1, 1971 our agency began serving nine clients. 44 years later, our volunteers deliver nutritious and diet-specific meals (regular, renal, diabetic, soft and pureed) each weekday to 420 homebound seniors and adults with disabilities throughout Lehigh County. We also provide grocery shopping services, pet food for clients with pets and emergency meals as well as connect clients with other services they may need.



Although providing nutrition is the main part of our mission, the ongoing personal contact and social interaction with the people we serve are just as significant. For the homebound, the visit with our well-trained

Meals on Wheels volunteer often represents the most dependable, enjoyable human contact they have all day. This interaction with the volunteer helps alleviate loneliness, provides a connection to the community, and serves as a check on wellbeing. In a number of cases, our volunteers have actually saved lives because they were able to help a client in distress.

We depend upon the generosity of the Sugra family and other community partners to meet the need for our program. We offer a sliding fee scale to our clients so that none of them have to choose between eating and other basic necessities, such as medications and rent. 93% of our clients need to have their meal costs subsidized and we have to raise over \$500,000 every year.

We truly appreciate all that the Sugra family does to help us meet our mission. Since 2004 we have received \$11,500 from the Sugra Memorial Fund. This money has been used to subsidize over 3800 meals for people like 89-year-old Helen who told us: "I am very thankful for the meals and all the people who deliver them. When the meal comes, they are giving me my life. The volunteers are a big part of my survival. They are like angels entering my house."