WE COULDN’T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Thanks again to all of our sponsors and volunteers for so generously helping with the Memorial Fund for our dear son. It would simply not be possible for the fund to reach out and make a difference without your help.

STARTER’S SHACK

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.

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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.

Because we remember

To continue to honor his memory and support The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund, we are hard at work planning the 11th Annual Golf Outing on August 24, 2012 at Green Pond Country Club in Bethlehem.

Once again, our morning event will involve junior golf. Kids from the First Tee Program, Embrace Your Dreams and the Boys & Girls Club will take part in a clinic and then play a few holes of golf.

It touches our hearts to see the kids come back year after year and we see them evolve into wonderful young men and women. The ability to share this opportunity and provide a special day for the kids is exactly what the Bill Sugra Memorial Fund hopes to accomplish. Our son, Bill, would have truly enjoyed this part of the day.

We are so blessed by the volunteers who come to support us. Our volunteers arrive bright and early and anxiously await the kids. Once they arrive, they help with registration and making sure they have breakfast.

This would not be possible without our event manager Gregg Blaha, who has also been with us since the beginning. His day starts very early since he comes from Connecticut. Bruce Aldinger is in charge of the silent auction items and giveaways. Our memorial golf outing would not be a success without their support. We are also blessed to have Father Gambet and Tony Muir as our co-chairs.

Our volunteers then pair up and go out in a cart with the kids and watch them golf. After that portion of the morning, the kids have lunch and then Bill and Gregg Blaha hold the awards ceremony.

Shotgun start for the regular golf outing will take place at 12 pm. As always Green Pond is very cooperative and helpful. In particular, general manager Rodger Zellner, head chef Brian Drake and club professional John Kulhammer are so attentive and take care of our needs that day.

Thanks again to all of our sponsors and volunteers for so generously helping with the Memorial Fund for our dear son. It would simply not be possible for the fund to reach out and make a difference without your help.

Options: Erik Ridley Design: Dave Heffner

SUMMER 2012

McDonald’s in Hellertown, who has supported us from the beginning, will once again provide breakfast sandwiches.

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We will have some exciting entertainment for you during our cocktail hour and a very dynamic keynote speaker.

So if you have not registered, please do so. You can register online by going to:

www.billsugramemorialfund.org

WE COULDN’T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!
On our website we have a running tally of the number of golfers who have registered so far. We are very grateful to Alex Spatz who does our website.

We want to express to you our deepest gratitude to our early bird sponsors as of the printing of this newsletter. Christine Taylor Stiller & Ben Stiller, Keystone Charitable Trust, Lynne & Jim Finnegan, Scott Chevrolet and Gillespie Printing.

As you know, we could not do what we do without your support. We are continually inspired by your dedication, loyalty, love and support. We thank each and every one of you and will always treasure your kindness in our hearts.

a special painting

In other news, we have to share something that has touched our hearts. This May, a very special tribute to Bill was placed in the colonnade at St. Thomas More School, Bill’s elementary school alma mater. The painting, called Butterfly, by Brett Weber was donated by Brett and his parents, Carl and Anita, in memory of Bill.

Last year, Eli and Bill along with Steven and Tracy attended a gallery show highlighting Brett’s work at Muhlenberg College. Over the past several years, the Sugra’s have developed a relationship with the Weber family. Carl is the principal at St. Thomas More and has been a wonderful mentor for Tracy. Incidentally, his wife Anita graduated from Central Catholic with Bill and Eli.

While at the gallery show, Brett highlighted many of his paintings and provided touching stories as how they came to be. The painting Butterfly immediately had an emotional connection to the Sugra family.

At the gallery event, Brett told the following story... "The painting was completed in 2007 and represents Brett’s very last artistic work before Multiple Sclerosis denied him the use of his hands. In one sense it was a collaborative effort involving Brett’s service dog, Sophia. Brett’s partially completed canvas was drying on the lawn when Sophia ran across it, dragging grass clippings onto it. After further reflection, Brett subsequently added several natural flora components to the artistic piece, bringing it to completion."

Interestingly, Brett never intended to place a butterfly in his painting. It was Anita, Brett’s mother, who observed a butterfly in this artistic work... hence its name Butterfly. Brett includes a quotation with each lithograph that he creates: a quotation that enhances and amplifies the meaning of his paintings. The quotation for Butterfly reads:

“When we have done all the work we were sent to do, we are allowed to shed our bodies, which imprison our soul like a cocoon encloses the butterfly, and when the time is right we can let go of it. Then we will be free of pain, free of fears and free of worries — free as a beautiful butterfly returning home to God...”

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross M.D. (1926-2004)

It was this story that touched the Sugra’s so very deeply. We are so honored that Brett, Carl and Anita have so graciously donated this lithograph to our early bird sponsors as of the printing of this newsletter. In addition, Rick and Lois Wagner from C.J. Wagner Trophies and Awards donated a beautiful plaque to honor Brett’s artwork and pay tribute to Bill.

We are so thankful for the generosity of the Weber and Wagner families and are touched by their thoughtfulness. It is so special to us that Bill will always be remembered in this way. As you know the butterfly has a very special meaning for us.

IUP Scholarship

We also want to give you an update on the Bill Sugra Memorial Scholarship at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP).

The 2011 recipient is Brian Foster-Pegg of Erie.

He is the son of Gail and Tim Foster-Pegg and is a 2009 graduate of McDowell High School. Foster-Pegg is in the university’s information technology honors program.

He is also president of the Student Finance Association and works with the university’s student-managed investment portfolio group.

The scholarship is named for the late Bill Sugra, a 1993 graduate of IUP’s Eberly College of Business and Information Technology who was killed in the attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Sam and Mickey Jarvis joined us for a special event at IUP in October of 2011 when the check was presented to Brian. We were so impressed with this young man and so happy to have the opportunity to meet him.

Well, no newsletter would be complete without a picture of our grandchildren. I am running out of room for words, so as they say, a picture is worth a thousand words.