



All Gave Some, Some Gave All.
A Voice for the Silenced.

March 2013

RE: Donations

To Whom It May Concern;

Crystal L. Gajewski
Founder
cgajewski@skisopenheart.com

Sean R. Gajewski
Co-Founder
sgajewski@skisopenheart.com

Debra J. Gajewski
Co-Founder
dgajewski@skisopenheart.com

I'm contacting you on behalf of our charity and in regard to its upcoming event. The event I am writing to you about is our 1st Anniversary Gala of the foundation, Ski's Open Heart Foundation. The foundation was formed in memory of our late father, Mark "Ski" Gajewski. He was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer, and passed away as a result of spending 2900 hours down at Ground Zero. In April of 2011, four months after his passing, we created this foundation in order to help victims of 9/11 and their families.

The event will take place on our father's birthday, June 11, 2013. During this Gala we will have several speakers from the 9/11 community, as well as present various awards to outstanding civilians who have contributed to the foundation. We will also hold a Chinese auction, a silent auction, buffet dinner, and give everyone a chance to discuss their stories with members of the foundation.

Consequently, we are looking for gift donations, gift certificates to be auctioned off in our silent auction and Chinese auction, as well as sponsors to help us cover some of the costs of the event. If you are interested in helping by donating anything, please let us know. This event and the attendees are greatly appreciated and the proceeds go to help people in need of support due to the sacrifices they made over ten years ago.

For more information please feel free to call us at (631) 258-1907 or email me at cgajewski@skisopenheart.com

Sincerely,
Ski's Open Heart Foundation

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Crystal L. Gajewski".

By: Crystal L. Gajewski

Address:
P.O. Box 484
Bellport, NY 11713

Phone: (631) 258-1907

Email:
info@skisopenheart.com

Website:
www.skisopenheart.org



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Sponsorship Information

Platinum Sponsor: \$1000.00

- *Six (8) Tickets to Event*
- *Prominent Display on Photo backdrop*
- *Placement of company promo items throughout event.*
- *Placement of literature at front table*
- *Placement of promo items in thank you gifts at end of night*
- *Pre-event advertising on emails, face book, website*
- *Prominent display of company name on event signage*
- *Credit for tax deductible donation to Ski's Open Heart Foundation*

Gold Sponsor: \$500.00

- *Four (5) Tickets to Event*
- *Prominent Display on Photo backdrop*
- *Placement of literature at front table*
- *Placement of promo items in thank you gifts at end of night*
- *Pre-event advertising on emails, face book, website*
- *Display of company name on event signage*
- *Credit for tax deductible donation to Ski's Open Heart Foundation*

Silver Sponsor: \$200.00

- *Two (3) Tickets to Event*
- *Placement of literature at front table*
- *Placement of promo items in thank you gifts at end of night*
- *Display of company name on event signage*
- *Credit for tax deductible donation to Ski's Open Heart Foundation*

Bronze Sponsor: \$100.00

- *Two (1) Tickets to Event*
- *Placement of promo items in thank you gifts at end of night*
- *Credit for tax deductible donation to Ski's Open Heart Foundation*



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Sponsorship Information

2013 Sponsorship Form

(please complete and return to Ski's Open Heart Foundation)

Contact: Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Sponsorship Packages (please choose one)

_____ \$1000.00 Platinum Sponsor

_____ \$500.00 Gold Sponsor

_____ \$200.00 Silver Sponsor

_____ \$100.00 Bronze Sponsor

_____ Other donation Amount

Please make checks payable to Ski's Open Heart Foundation

Mastercard/Visa # _____ Exp: _____

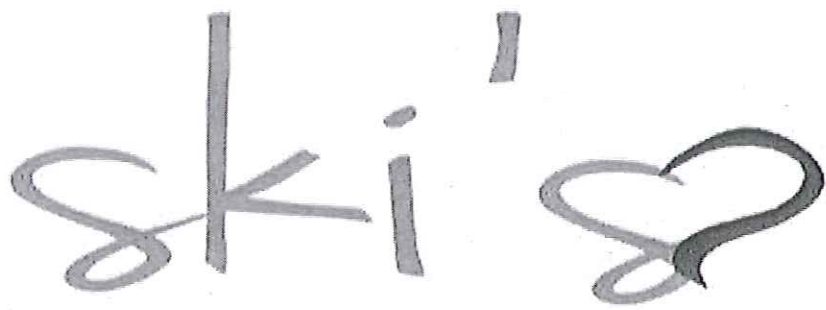
Signature: _____

Address for Card: _____

CVC Code: _____

If you have any questions, please contact:
Crystal Gajewski, Ski's Open Heart Foundation Coordinator
(631) 258-1907 or cgajewski@skisopenheart.com

We Truly Thank you for your support!!!



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Chinese Auction Donation Form

Yes, we would like to support Ski's Open Heart Foundation by contributing the following for the benefit:

(Description of item being donated)

Retail Value of Donated Items: _____

Expiration Date of Item (if applicable): _____

Name of Donor: _____

Contact Person: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form with your donation.

"Family First Forever Family"

About The Foundation

Ski's Open Heart Foundation was created by the surviving wife, Debra, and children, Crystal and Sean, of Mark "Ski" Gajewski to honor his memory and continue his legacy. This organization was founded to aid the heroes of 9-11 who selflessly helped rescue Americans on that day, recovered bodies of loved ones, and worked at a hazardous site for months to clean-up after the attack. Many put their country first, but later became ill and did not have the insurance coverage needed to satisfy increasing medical bills as well as dealing with lost wages from time taken off from work. Over a decade later, there are still heroes and their families who are unable to afford basic essentials, such as food, shelter and clothing. The Foundation also concentrates on continuing the benevolent work of the its inspiration, Mark W. Gajewski, by working with children charities, animals, and simply lending a helping hand wherever possible. Helping people is a small gesture that everyone can do.



Mark Gajewski was one of those heroes. He was one of the first responders on site after the attack at Ground Zero. "Ski", as he was lovingly called, was a former Marine and an Operating Engineer for Local 30. He also managed his own emergency repair service, where he continued his trade as a welder. On Septemeber 11th, he brought his skills and equipment to the site, which many of the responders often borrowed during the clean up. Ski put the needs of his country ahead of everything at that time, spending three full months at Ground Zero without coming home. He was on site until the last day of clean-up for a total of 2,900 hours. Ski experienced things that even his military training could not have prepared him for. For ten years, the World Trade Center Monitoring Program took care of all medical needs, but his eligibility for coverage ended when he was diagnosed with a rare form of Lung Cancer, affecting a very small number of people.

The foundation is named Ski's Open Heart Foundation because this is how Mark lived his life. If you have an open heart, you will always come out on top.



Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide help to the September 11, 2001 victims, heroes, and their families. As a result of the attack on our country, many of our fellow Americans became sick and did not have medical insurance to savings to cover the cost of their medical bills. Once a person becomes sick, they often have to take a leave of absence from work or in certain severe circumstances, refrain from working altogether for the rest of their life. Consequently, our heroes and their families are unable to afford to essentials such as food, shelter and clothes. The foundation will concentrate on providing our neighbors, friends, family and Fellow Americans who lost their lives or continue to suffer the consequences of September 11, 2011 with the resources necessary such as food, clothing and/or financial assistance to live full and satisfying lives. The Foundation also concentrates on continuing the benevolent work of the its inspiration, Mark W. Gajewski, by working with children charities, animals, and simply lending a helping hand wherever possible. Helping people is a small gesture that everyone can do.

Visitors to this site can share their own personal stories, learn more about the foundation and donate to our great causes via the mail, online or through upcoming events. As Ski would say, "There is no "I" in team". United we stand and together we can make a difference.



Our Inspiration

"Mark "Ski" Gajewski – through a daughter's eyes"

"The depth of a father's love shows in his daughter's eyes. What's known is what's shown from sunset to sunrise. A foundation built on more than just what is spoken. It's commitments kept and promised that go unbroken. An emotion so immense that nothing in this world can erase. The permanent impression of love is tattooed upon her face. A relation so peculiar that only the two can understand, Yet so immaculate it's obvious that it was planned." ~~© Michelle W. Emerson

At 6'4, 280 pounds, many found him intimidating, but to me, he was my dad and an extraordinary man. When people hear that he was a biker, their first impressions skew towards the negative, and they rush to judge without realizing the depth of his ability to love and the enormity of what they cannot see... his huge heart.

My dad, Mark Gajewski, was born on June 11, 1959 and most people just called him "SKI". He was the kind of man who turned heads when he entered a room. He was a monolithic man who's stature towered above all else and who's heart was so big that they had to remove most of his lung to make room for it. Almost always in jeans and a denim shirt with a welders cap on, he was hard to miss, especially when he wore his Care Bear hat that I bought him. Inside that man was a little kid that just wanted everyone to smile. He would lumber into a room and shout "Hello Cupcake" and everyone would crack up laughing.

My dad grew up outside of Detroit, Michigan with his adopted family where he attended L'Anse Creuse High School North. He developed testicular cancer in his younger years and was told he had 6 months to one year to live. After his surgery, he made sure to enjoy life and racked up \$47K in debt in the process. The doctors were wrong and he lived for the next 25 years paying down his debt! He joined the United States Marine Corps right after graduation. It was there where he met the love of his life, my mom, Debbie. They were married for 32 years and raised two children together, myself and my brother Sean. They stayed together in good times and in bad. He was a great husband, father, friend, uncle and brother.

My dad loved children. He would seize any opportunity to make a stranger's day by pulling a dollar from his pocket, dropping to his knee and telling a child: "Here, tell Mom and Dad you want some candy. Now you be good." Then he'd get up, give a wink and a smile and walk away. That's just who he was.

He was always prepared for anything and he was ready to lend a hand to anyone in need. He had more on his belt than most guys have in the saddle bag of their bike. If there was a tool, Dad had it and would lend it to anyone who needed it. He was someone that you could count on and he would give away his last nickel to help someone else.

So it's really no surprise that on the tragic day of 9/11/01, my dad was one of the first people to assess the situation and offer himself to any relief efforts that he could. He did not arrive at the scene dressed as a police officer or a firefighter but instead, as a humble blue collar worker. He was a former Marine who never forgot his allegiance to our country and felt it was his duty to assist his fellow Americans. Not only did he take time off from his job with Operational Engineers Local 30, but he spent months away from those he loved most, his family.



Skills weren't the only thing my father brought to Ground Zero. Besides being one of the most talented engineers and welders that I have ever met, my dad also owned a 40 foot tractor trailer and brought it as well as all of his tools in anticipation of what would be needed. He spent months sleeping in that truck and other places he could find to rest his head.

My dad taught my brother and me that being a U.S. citizen comes with responsibility and he lead by example. Even with all that he had given of his personal time and property at Ground Zero, he felt that it was not enough and he wanted to do more. As a proud member of the biker community, he had the power to rally people that could help make a difference. He lost many close friends on 9/11 and honored their memory by organizing and participating in several cross country bike runs. Funds raised as part of these events were donated to various children's charities including Tuesday's Children. The rides not only gave those who participated a sense of purpose, but more importantly, they helped to ease, even if only temporarily, their plagued minds taunted by reoccurring images of despair and devastation resulting from volunteering and witnessing firsthand.

My dad's benevolent efforts did not end with 9/11. When hurricane Katrina struck, we went down to New Orleans to help deal with the aftermath. Once again, he stocked his truck to full capacity and was off for one month away from his family but helping others. As someone close to my father once told him, "It's your calling to be an angel and helper to those who are in need of your help". He would drop everything to help where and who he could.

When I think about our nation's history, there are certainly many great people whose roles have been documented in making this great country what it is today. When I think of heroes, I can't help but think about men and women in capes with super human powers that I have read about as a child. As I've gotten older, I've realized that it isn't an artifact or special memento that makes a person a hero, but their innate intent to help others. My father may not have received a medal and he will not appear in any text books, but to me and those that know him best, he was one of the great unsung heroes. He was also my best friend, role model, inspiration, provider, shoulder to lean on and the person I would call with just about anything. Not many girls have the kind of relationship I had with my father and I'm so thankful for everything and every moment we spent together.

From this little girl to her father, I can honestly say without reservation that this foundation isn't about gaining publicity or popularity because he would have never wanted to be held above the countless others that risked their lives. However, I hope that his story and this foundation inspire others to look within themselves and find the time and the desire to help others too. My father was a firm believer in the saying, "There is no "I" in team". I can honestly say, with every fiber of my being, that I want to be just like my father and continue to build his legacy in his absence. My father took his last breath after battling Stage 4 Lung Cancer from his efforts at 9/11 on December 17, 2011, but I know he is always looking down and watching over each and every one of us and I will do my part in keeping his legacy alive.

~Crystal Gajewski (a.k.a Little Ski)