

Caring Hands



In every community around the country, tragic, uncontrollable events occur each year. Our Great Valley community is not immune and over the years, it has had its share of unfortunate experiences. With these heartbreaking incidents, comes many unforeseen consequences for those involved and affected. The **Great Valley Caring Hands** was created for the purpose of raising funds for those persons, families, or organizations in our community who have suffered some catastrophic event. Caring Hands is a student-run community outreach program.

As part of the GVCO Caring Hands Foundation "Families in Need" initiative to raise funds this time each year, we are auctioning an 8 foot gorgeous ceramic Nutcracker just in time to decorate your home or office. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards the "Families in Need" initiative.

Specifically this year, we will honor these Great Valley friends and families who have touched our GVCO community and need our love and support.



Julia Bitto

Julia Lynne "Jules" Bitto was an avid dancer, a pizza lover, and a caring friend, sister, daughter, granddaughter, niece, and cousin.

Julia Lynne "Jules" Bitto, 6, of Malvern, PA went to her forever home on the evening of March 14, 2019. Julia's passing comes nearly 19-months after being diagnosed with DIPG-Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, a rare and aggressive form of pediatric brain cancer.

The Bitto family, with the help of The Foundation at Great Valley 501(c)(3), has set up a fund that will be used to make improvements to their neighborhood playground where Julia often played as a way to honor her life and legacy.

<http://www.thefoundationatgreatvalley.org/julia-bitto-memorial-park-fund/>



Skylar Seeley

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/skylar-seeley>

Skylar Seeley is a 17 year old Senior at Great Valley High School. She is the captain of the Cross Country team and also runs indoor and outdoor track. Sky is involved in various clubs and volunteers in the community. Basically, she is just an all around great daughter, sister and friend to many.

Skylar and her family's world was turned upside down this week when she got the devastating news that she has Ewing's Sarcoma. This is a rare cancer that forms in and around the bones. Sky was misdiagnosed for months with having a running injury. She has endured quite a bit of pain and discomfort in her hip. It got progressively worse as time went on and an MRI last week revealed a tumor in her hip. The PET scan showed that it has spread to her pelvis. The doctors at St. Christopher's Hospital in Philadelphia have decided to start chemo ASAP starting today 8/16 for 3 days (if she can keep her fever down) and then a week off. Chemo will be on going for months in hopes to shrink the tumors and then possible surgery.

Skylar has a long road ahead and a big fight to fight. Her parents Jaime and Cliff as well as her siblings Ethan, Sullivan and Sydney need all the support they can get. They will especially need financial support because of medical expenses, including chemo, numerous scans, possible surgery and radiation, extended hospital stay, traveling costs and loss of work.

Any donation to help offset the cost of this horrible situation would be greatly appreciated!
Thank you so much for the support♥



Kendra Muscella

<https://www.caringbridge.org/public/kendramuscella>

Welcome to Kendra's Caring Bridge website. We are using this site to keep family and friends updated all in one place. We appreciate your support, words of hope, and encouragement as many have asked how they can help. Thank you for visiting.

Kendra was diagnosed with metastatic colon cancer on March 20, 2019 following a colonoscopy. She underwent radiation until the end of April and has undergone multiple rounds of chemotherapy through October 2019. Kendra was scheduled for a colon resection and lymph node dissection at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania on November 7th. Unfortunately, the surgery did not occur due to newly diagnosed adenocarcinoma of the peritoneum, which will require more treatments.

Most of you are aware that Kendra is one of the most positive individuals on this planet. She continues to feel immense gratitude for all of the love and support that has been provided to her and her family since her initial diagnosis. She shares her huge smile, friendly personality, and in-depth connections with all of those that she has met along the way. At this time, Kendra, Mike, Olivia, and Graham are asking for your love and prayers. In addition, friends of the family are asking for monetary contributions to help the Muscellas with the medical and travel expenses that have and will continue to accrue. You can click on the tab above for Ways to Help. Thank you so much.

Visit Kendra's Site



Jim Simmington

On Sunday, December 1, 2019, James (Jim) T. Simmington, loving husband of Phoebe and father to Kylie and Jack, peacefully passed away in his home.

Jim grew up in Berwyn, Pennsylvania, and earned his teaching degree from West Chester University. Jim taught at Wissahickon Middle School for 14 years.

Jim grew up spending his summer days in Ocean City, New Jersey, and he continued the tradition with his own family. He had a passion for coaching middle and high school lacrosse, but he didn't stop at just teaching the sport—he wanted each athlete to have perseverance and integrity, both on and off the field.

Some of his favorite moments were coaching his own children in the sport he loved. Jim was an avid Philadelphia sports fan and spent many Sunday afternoons at Lincoln Financial Field cheering for the Eagles. Jim was respected and beloved by all who knew him. His loyalty, genuine care and thoughtfulness, and fun-loving spirit brought joy and laughter to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed.

Please consider a donation to For Pete's Sake, an organization that provides respite vacations to families living with cancer. www.takeabreakfromcancer.org

#SimmingtonStrong