



Betterment National Board Members (from left) Dale Smith, Marc Milkie, Dana Milkie, Walt Hammond, Amy Weisbrod & Julie Chamberlain at Canton's 2014 Oktoberfest. D. Milkie, M. Milkie, Hammond & Weisbrod were voted onto the Executive Board in 2014.

Passing of the Torch

After fourteen wonderful years, our fearless leader, Brendan Curley, has decided to step aside and let another take the reigns. Brendan will remain on the National board and active in the Annapolis chapter. Below are a few words from both Brendan and our new President, Dana Milkie.

"I am very excited to announce that Dana Milkie has agreed to take on the role of president of the foundation. Dana first got involved with Betterment in 2001, our second year, when his brother Marc became a recipient. Dana was an active event participant, donor, and volunteer every year from then on, and for the past six years, he has been a valued leader on our national board. I can't think of a better person to step-in now and continue the Betterment mission: I expect great things from him!" - *Brendan Curley*

"My journey with Betterment started over a decade ago when my brother, Marc, became a recipient due to a serious illness. From that initial 'drop' of kindness, a considerable 'ripple effect' has occurred within the network of Milkie family and friends. Today, Marc and I both sit on the National Board and are the incoming Vice President and President respectively. Additionally, Marc is the Chair of the Cleveland Chapter.

I'm excited about where we've come from and where we are going as a foundation. As a grassroots organization, through your kindness and support, we have done absolutely amazing things. We have helped over 250 people and organizations by donating more than \$1 Million over the last 14 years. What a legacy to build on!

“Thanks to Brendan for all he has done for the Betterment community. His contributions go far beyond incredible.”
-Dana Milkie

In addition to my new role, I am excited to introduce our new executive board:

- Marc Milkie - Vice President
- R. Walter Hammond - Treasurer
- Amy Weisbrod - Secretary

I, along with the new board, intend to remain true to the vision set forth by Brendan and the founders of Betterment while finding new and inventive ways to spread the ripple! Luckily, we have a great National Board, phenomenal chapters, and incredible supporters to help us drive forward. - *Dana Milkie*

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Betterment wishes you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving

Enriching Recipients' Lives

Creating ripples in the Southern Tier for 10 years

The 10th annual ZooneyFest was held Saturday, September 13, at Ames Less Golf in the Town of Maine. As cool temperatures and early downpours gave way to sunshine in the afternoon, over 500 people attended what was described by many patrons as the best ZooneyFest in years and helped the Binghamton chapter raise \$17,000 for Sara Brown Quattrocci, a Team Gleason Adventure and Betterment. Past Beneficiaries Randy Buttman and Jean Stevens were in attendance to celebrate "Creating Ripples in the Southern Tier for 10 Years." This year's focus on ALS was jumpstarted by the Ice Bucket Challenge which resulted in a 50% increase in the number of donations.

The bands did not disappoint. From the Pop sounds of Brenna Swanger and Chris and Lori Haun's sweet harmonies, to Zooney Band's classic covers, followed by The Graveling Brothers playing rock-n-roll the way it's meant to be played, with the Falconers jamming style culminated by Headliner Driftwood who played two awesome sets and two encores. Driftwood was everything we hoped they would be and a ton more. It was by far the best cumulative set of musical performances in 10 years of ZooneyFest.

Each year we are humbled by the number of volunteers and support of key people who make running the event possible. With an open venue this year we needed more help than ever and a few people stood out to make it happen. Our friends from Buffalo, Rust Knapp, Tracy McCabe and Tim Attea hauled equipment and fencing 3 hours and spent Friday with Dave and Nadine Toton to get the facility ready for the event. Another 80 volunteers helped with everything from parking to serving chicken to clearing garbage. Our "Chicken Cookers" braved 45 degree downpours to get the food service rolling and our crew from Enfield's ensured beverages were flowing.

The 10 year milestone was significant in many ways. We returned to our roots in an open outdoor venue, kicked the music up a notch or even two, eclipsed the \$210,000 of donated funds mark and topped it off with Fireworks.



Puttin' & struttin' in DC



On Oct. 4th the DC Chapter held their 14th Annual Betterment Golf Classic at Compass Point Golf Course in Pasadena, MD. A total of 51 golfers participated. Through everyone's purchases of mulligans, raffles, varies contests and auction items, we raised over \$3,000 dollars that went to Betterment's national INF. DC was honored to have Brendan Curley help as the MC/auctioneer. He did a fantastic job to help move Redskins/Cowboys tickets, a Vermont vacation package and specialty cooking classes to name a few of the auction items. Lastly they took part in celebrating the Andrew Curley Memorial Cup Trophy presentation and gave thanks and kudos for the support and participation of the special friends group playing in memory of USN Commander Kevin Reynolds.

Keeping the community afloat in Alex Bay

The Alexandria Bay Chapter for Community Betterment hosted their 14th Annual Paddle and 6th Annual Golf Tournament in July of 2014. The weekend went off without a hitch and exceeded expectations with the two events raising over \$16,000. Next year they will host the First Annual Tennis Tournament in memory of long time Betterment supporter, John N. Russell. The Alex Bay chapter continues to use the Ron McLennan Immediate Needs Fund to support the community throughout the year. They welcome you all to join them for the next Paddle / Golf / Tennis weekend in the Thousand Islands on July 24-25, 2015.



Chicago wines and dines for two thankful families

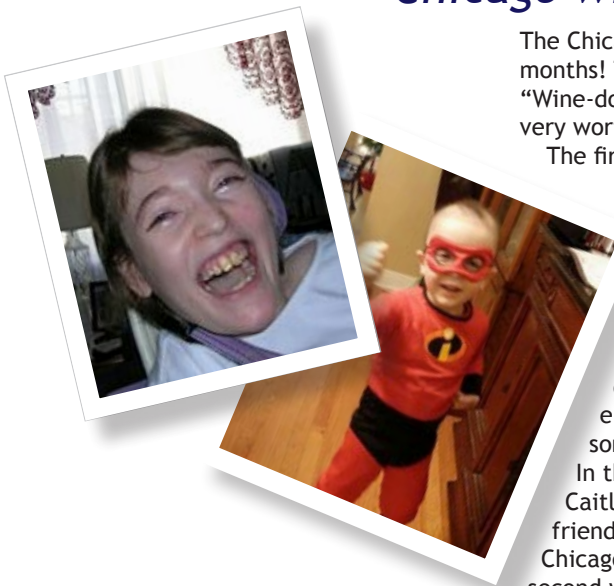
The Chicago Chapter has had a busy few months! They hosted 2 wine events called "Wine-down with Betterment" that helped very worthy recipients and their families.

The first was in May for Caitlin Washko.

Born with severe mental and physical impairment, Caitlin's parents refused to put her in an institution and have dedicated their lives to caring for her. As she has gotten older, their home is in desperate need of renovation. Betterment raised enough funds to help them start some of the major repairs.

In the spirit of the 'ripple effect', Caitlin's cousin, Kristen Van Dyk and friend Michelle Jacobsen joined the Chicago chapter in helping to plan the second wine event held in October.

The fall event was held to benefit the Shoffer Family and their young superhero, Henry. At 3 years old, Henry Shoffer was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. After many stays in the hospital and multiple rounds of chemotherapy, Henry is now cancer free! In the thick of Henry's treatments, the Shoffer's home sustained significant damage in a storm. The Betterment event helped to raise support to help make needed repairs to their roof. Special thanks to event co-chairs Mandy McAllistar and Don Tufano for all their hard work and organization. The Chicago chapter would also like to thank Ellie Rossi at Sweet Ellie's Edibles for her very generous donations of delicious food at both events.



Palm Beach is playing with purpose...again

The PBC Chapter began with their first event "Play for a Purpose" in 2009. 5 years later, they celebrated the anniversary by hosting the 2nd Play Day benefitting two local families on April 5th. Friends and families came out to play games, dress up like princesses, and bounce around in support of the Hernandez family and Cathy Cross and son Will Davis. Twin sisters Sakura, who suffers from cerebral palsy, and Akira Hernandez loved playing in the Howard Park playground while Will, who has acute asthma, enjoyed having his face painted and participating in relay races. Both families struggle financially to provide for the wellness of their children and Betterment was able to raise funds to alleviate the burden of monthly living expenses.



What are we THANKFUL for?

"I am not only thankful for all the good we are able to accomplish, but also for the amazing and lasting friendships I have formed throughout my years in Betterment."

- Amy Weisbrod

"I'm thankful for the amazing volunteers and local chapter board members that do so much to support our mission. Attending the recent Canton Rocktoberfest event was such an awesome reminder of how committed, passionate and powerful they are as a team!" - Dana Milkie

"At ZooneyFest we are thankful for the opportunity to enjoy great music, good food and the company of friends new and old to hold an event for people who really need help and to work with the Betterment Board and organizations like Team Gleason to create the next ripples." - Jared Bowling

"I've been thankful that people see the power of Betterment at an event and then step up to help. It's great to see the Chicago chapter gaining new members and supporters who have been moved by our recipients" - Elizabeth Vernick

"I am thankful for Betterment for all the years and accomplishments in making our recipients lives better. There have been so many times that I have felt enormously grateful to have this organization in my life. It makes my day every time I hear of another story where we have enriched someone's life." - Cara Lanza

"I'm thankful for Betterment's recipients. They give our mission a purpose. They share touching stories that personalize our organization. They keep us humble. They pay it forward." - Dale Smith

"I am very thankful, as a Board member and a Cleveland Chapter member, for the opportunity Betterment has provided for me, and the volunteers I work with, to 'create the ripple effect' by assisting our recipients in moving through a difficult time in their lives." - Marc Milkie

Canton Rockin' & Rollin' 7 years strong



In Canton, 2014 has been another GOOD year. That's because the chapter continued to focus on being the good and spreading the ripple effect of goodness in the community. These goals were accomplished through multiple volunteer and social events throughout the year, such as pouring pop or beer for events, baking birthday cakes for residents of the domestic violence shelter and helping to plant and harvest vegetables at a community garden. Several former recipients remain active with the chapter as well, and the enthusiasm for helping out through Betterment remains strong as word continues to spread about the good things being done by the organization. All of that good work this year culminated with a very successful Rocktoberfest on Sept. 27, the group's 7th annual major fundraiser. Looking forward to exciting things to come in 2015! #bethegood

Cleveland's Back in Black... and White



Jessica Zimmerman and Gustavo Morales at the Black and White Ball.

In celebration of the Chapter's 10th anniversary, Cleveland brought back its annual Black & White Ball on October 11th. Over 130 attendees turned out to celebrate in the ballroom of the historic Bohemian National Hall with music, incredible food, and a black and white photobooth. Proceeds from this year's Black & White Ball will support two individual recipients, Jessica Zimmerman (When Jessie was six years-old, she was hit by a car. The accident left her with brain damage, unable to do many of the things children love to do, including running, skipping and walking) and Gustavo Morales (He is in the 4th grade at STEPS Center for Excellence in Autism), and one community organization, Transitional Housing, Inc. (provides housing and support for homeless individuals in Cleveland). Attendees were fortunate to be able to meet and hear the touching stories from each of the recipients. Thanks for all who attended and contributed to this great event.

*Pictures from the Black & White Ball photobooth can be seen on the BettermentCLE Facebook page.

GRATEFUL for our Volunteers!

Sandy Croucher, Cleveland



(From Left) Sandy Croucher and Carrie Ranney at the Black & White Ball

Sandy Croucher has been instrumental in the growth and direction of the Cleveland Chapter since she joined Betterment nearly a decade ago. An advertising executive by trade, Sandy's creativity and management skills are apparent in her approach to planning and marketing the Chapter's events. Sandy has successfully co-chaired Cleveland's Black & White Ball on three occasions. Her passion for Betterment's recipients and mission is shown in her selfless contribution to the group!

Dave Toton, Binghamton

Through 10 years of ZooneyFest we have been fortunate to have a number of volunteers come out year after year to support the event and do whatever is needed to make ZooneyFest successful. From year one through year ten Dave Toton has assisted in nearly all aspects of our event preparation and execution, providing much needed sanity checks through our planning process, setting up, cooking chicken, and tearing down the event. This year was no exception, except Dave did more by handling our electrical service installation and working with our Buffalo Crew, Rusty Knapp, Tracie McCabe and Tim Attea, with the expanded facility set-up and tear down in addition to all his other tasks. One of Dave's most important roles however is comic relief; a natural jester, Dave is always pulling stunts to keep things light especially when Nadine, Chris and Jared are stressing out. To the one-and-only-guitar-case-playing extraordinaire, thank you!



Nicole Niemeyer & Sara Misselhorn, Palm Beach



Nicole has been an avid volunteer with the PB Chapter for the past 5 years. Seen here pouring lemonade at Play for a Purpose this past spring, Nicole has been there to support our mission and our network. When Nicole is not busy with Betterment, she is actively involved in Palm Beach County Animal Care & Control and Furry Friends Adoption & Clinic. Thank you, Nicole!

(From Left) Kathryn Steele and Nicole Niemeyer

Sara has been instrumental in the brainstorming and planning for almost all of our events in the last 5 seasons. Seen here with her "pimped" out bike at our 2010 Bike for Betterment, she always brings creativity and fun to the table. Sara personifies Betterment's core values of being a generous individual who believes a simple gesture that touches just one life can positively impact an entire community. Thank you, Sara!



Our Immediate Need Fund (INF)...

provides support to recipients who don't have the time to have an event planned in their honor, or who don't live in one of our chapter cities. We thank our generous donors who share much-needed general gifts to the foundation, because without them, this fund would not exist.

The Littletons, Cary, NC

The Littletons have two sons, Andrew and Reese, ages 10 and 13, both with a fatal disease, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. The health care expenses have increased drastically, as one of the boys will be using an electric wheelchair. Funds from the INF will go towards the purchase of a portable patient lift, which would assist the family in moving their son around in the wheel chair.

Andy Buehl, Cleveland, OH

Andy, age 29, was on his way to a friends wedding a little over a year ago when a snow storm changed his life. The result of a horrendous car accident has left him unable to move his limbs and only communicate by blinking his eyes. He now lives in a rehabilitation home and his mother handles most all of his affairs. Recently they discovered that his brain damage has not hindered his ability to read. Because of this discovery, he can use what is called an "eye gaze computer." This special device allows Andy to communicate with others, control electronic devices like the radio or TV, and browse the internet. It will truly change his quality of life. Betterment's INF donation will be used towards the computer costs.

Michelle Stallings, Arnold, MD

Michelle and her two children Savannah (7) and Nicholas (4) are currently renting a condo. She is a social worker for the Department of Aging and Disabilities. She is the patient advocate for elderly people of all walks of life that enter into nursing homes and medical facilities. Michelle is a hardworking single mother that tries to provide for her children. She has applied for assistance through government organizations but has been repeatedly told she is just over the income threshold to qualify. Monies from the INF went towards paying one month of rent so Michelle and her children continue to have a place to live.

Thank YOU to our 2013+2014 Donors!

Fourteen years, 175 events, 252 recipients, and over \$1,100,000 shared... none of this would have been possible without people like those listed on the following pages who have invested in our mission. In an effort to be environmentally conscious, those listed here have given \$100 or more in 2013 + 2014, and our entire donor list is highlighted online. THANK YOU to all of our donors, and especially those whose gifts have totaled \$1,000+ (blue names) since our inception in 2000!

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In 2008, we established our Founders' Circle to recognize the individuals in our network who have pledged at least \$1,000 a year for five years. Their outstanding support is critical to the success of Betterment and we are forever GRATEFUL.

*Indicates those that have committed to continue their support for the next 5 years as Founders' Circle Members.

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In 2011, we began our 'Friends of Betterment' which is made up of those who have committed to \$200 a year for five years. We thank these tremendous people for leading the charge and hope you will join them by going to the "Donate" tab on our website.

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 R.G. Smith Co.
 Red Carpet Car Wash
 Rembryant Studios
 Riverwatch Yacht Basin, Inc.
 Russell Classic Cancer Fund
 Rutkowski's Auto Repair
 S'Well Palm Beach
 Semper Cross Fit
 Sequoia Golf / Canongate Golf Clubs
 Shank Bros Auto Transport.com

Solo Salon
 Sonny Day Fund
 Spilt Milk Foundation
 St. Ignatius High School
 St. Lawrence Business Consultants LTD
 St. Lawrence Gallery
 Stafkins of Binghamton, Inc.
 Starkrete Stamped Coatings
 Summit Dental Arts
 Super Formula Products
 Susan Hornyak Photography
 Table 26
 Taggart's Ice Cream, Inc
 The Barrel Room
 The Beaver Excavating Co.
 The Blackwell Hotel & Conference Center
 The Columbus Foundation
 The Curry Mansion Corporation
 The Deuble Foundation
 The Galley Sports Tavern & Grill
 The Glass Guys
 The Kennedy Group
 Thousand Island Bait Store
 Thousand Island Painting & Carpet
 Tri-County Auger & Pole Service
 Trio Homes
 Try-It Distributing
 Tullius Art and Design
 Turnkey Control Solutions, Inc.
 United Grinding & Machine Co.
 United Methodist Women of Alex Bay
 USilluminations
 Vertical Technologies
 Village Chiropractic
 Virginia Philip Wine Shop & Academy
 W Hotel
 Watertown Savings Bank
 We Joy Sing
 Wellesley Island Building Supply
 Wendake Construction
 WESCO
 West Palm 100, Inc.
 William H. Gardiner Family Foundation
 Wine Styles
 Woodland Tree Services
 Yoga Path

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There is no better way to say “thank you” to a loved one than to make a difference in the lives of those in need. Betterment enables you to recognize a friend or family member by giving a tax-deductible gift in their name. In sharing the gift of Betterment, we notify your loved one of how you changed a life in their honor. To give the gift of Betterment to your family or friends, log on to www.communitybetterment.org.

Welcome to our National Board!



Cara Lanza Washington DC

Cara Lanza is the Director of Marketing for the National Press Club for 20 years and is now the Director of Social Events. Cara enjoys Golf and Tennis but most people who know her would say her biggest hobby is food, restaurants and travel. Cara has been participating in the DC golf tournament for 14 years and had a major role in planning the event for the last 3 years.

David Berndt Washington DC

David works for Washingtonian Media and oversees sales and distribution for their visitors magazine called the WELCOME GUIDE. He's been involved with Washington DC's tourism and hospitality industry for over 30 years. He enjoys the outdoors, watching professional sports and traveling anywhere anytime! Like Cara, David has been participating in the DC golf tournament for 10 years, with a major role in planning the last 3 years. Both Cara and David are looking forward to the 15th Anniversary of the DC golf tournament next fall.

Brant Kolb Annapolis, MD

Brant joined the Betterment Board after he and his wife were recipients in 2012. At that time his wife was struggling with stage four breast cancer that had metastasized to the brain. It became very difficult keeping up with medical bills and daily expenses. On top of that they were informed that their roof was in need of being replaced before it caused water damage to house. That is when a member of the Community Betterment reached out to provide help getting the roof replaced. He was so impressed that he started attending yearly events and the more he learned about the organization the more he wanted to get involved.

www.communitybetterment.org

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