



Natalie, Anthony, Sharyn, and Rianna DeLaurentis

Solly's Way Foundation

"A DAY AT THE RACES" NETS SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FOR STUDENTS FACING A LOSS

SOLLY'S WAY FOUNDATION, a Barrington area nonprofit, hosted its first "A Day at the Races" fundraising event at Arlington International Racecourse on July 20, 2019. Held in the Governor's Room, A Day at the Races was Solly's Way Foundation's third and most successful fundraising event. With 160 guests in attendance, the foundation raised over \$70,000. The charity's namesake, Solly DeLaurentis Jr., was a Barrington resident and family man who lost his life during a charity motorcycle run a few years ago. The DeLaurentis family honors his memory by helping students in need with scholarships through the efforts of Solly's Way Foundation.

During the fundraising event, there were no shortage of fun spectacles. While guests enjoyed the races and checked out the silent auction items, artist Gino Savarino was busy in the main room completing an original piece of artwork that was later a part of the live auction which also included a luxury villa in Costa Rica, Lady Gaga concert tickets, and a weekend in Park City, Utah.

Bob "the DJ" Roig served as the emcee for the afternoon and introduced Solly's Way executive board members and Anthony, Rianna, and Natalie DeLaurentis. The three DeLaurentis children took center stage and introduced four past recipients of Solly's Way Foundation scholarships.





Bob the DJ was emcee for "A Day at the Races".



The Barbera family (from left) Tom, Carlie, Gary, Jane, Jodie, William, and Gary.

Jake Zyzda, a senior at Indiana University and 2016 graduate of Barrington High School, was one of the recipients in attendance. "Solly's Way Foundation helped my family during a devastating time," said Zyzda. "I wouldn't be able to pursue my goals without the help of everyone here."

Since 2013, Solly's Way Foundation has granted 28 scholarships to students in the Barrington area. At the event, following the introduction of past recipients, Natalie and Rianna DeLaurentis made an unexpected announcement. It was revealed that guest, Kaylie Madden, would be the recipient of the 29th scholarship. Overcome with surprise and gratitude, Kaylie Madden, made her way to the front of the room to receive her scholarship. "I was speechless," said Madden. "This scholarship turned something so tragic into something so great. I am incredibly grateful."

Madden is attending the University of Iowa.

"This is what it's all about, it's our sponsors like the Barbera family and Ehlert Family Foundation, and the support of everyone in attendance that make our events and fundraising efforts successful," Anthony DeLaurentis said.

Guests are already anticipating next year's event, scheduled for August 1, 2020, and the Solly's Way Foundation team is already hard at work.

ABOUT SOLLY'S WAY FOUNDATION

In 2012, Sharyn DeLaurentis and her husband, Solly, were participating in a charity motorcycle run benefiting the Salvation Army when Solly lost his life. Following the tragic loss of their husband and father, the DeLaurentis family received an outpouring of emotional and financial support from their friends, neighbors, and community members. Inspired by the support they received, the DeLaurentis family created Solly's Way Foundation. After the loss of a parent, higher education for the surviving children can seem out of reach. Since 2013, Solly's Way Foundation has raised over \$220,000 to help relieve the financial burden of college for 29 high school seniors who have lost a parent or guardian. Follow Solly's Way on Facebook. [U](#)



Natalie DeLaurentis with Hunter Shuert



Jodie Barbera and Joy DiDomenico



Guests at the fundraiser are (from left) Rich Mancini, Marco Damico, Sal DeLaurentis, and Jon Amato.



Bunny Ehlert and Stacy Harding with Sharyn DeLaurentis



Artist Gino Savarino creates an abstract painting of the Rat Pack.



Joe, Kate, and Susan Ahern