



The Shannon Daley Memorial Fund is proud to announce its 23rd Annual Golf Tournament. The Fund was established to help local area families who are suffering financial hardship due to a child battling serious illness or has special needs. Our first recipients are 4-year-old Clarissa who has a sensory processing disorder & 2-year-old Veronica Carerra who has Spina Bifida of Hackettstown. The second recipient is 2-year-old Zalo Gilmore of Franklin who has Type I Diabetes. The third recipient is 16-year-old Emily Brunner of Pittstown who has been diagnosed with postural tachycardia syndrome (POTS).

The 23rd Annual Shannon Daley Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Monday September 16th, 2024, at the Copper Hill Country Club in Ringoes, New Jersey. There will be a 10 am start time with sign-ups beginning at 8:30 am. Breakfast will be served at 9 am. For more information on the course, go to www.copperhillcc.com.

The entry fee will be \$300 per person, which will include golf, cart, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and open bar during dinner, awards, and prizes. Individual players and foursomes are invited to play in this charity event. It will be a scramble format.

We have sponsorships ranging from co-sponsoring the event, sponsoring specific contests such as closest to the pin, and individual hole sponsorships starting at \$100. Your name will be prominently displayed with whatever type of messaging you choose, and your business will be mentioned in the program given out at the event.

The breakdown is as follows:

Event Sponsor	\$2,500
Co-Sponsor of the event	\$1,000
Dinner Sponsor	\$500
Closest to the Pin Sponsor	\$250
Hole Sponsorships	\$100
Patron	\$50

We also have a need for auction items, raffle prizes, and door prizes. Any prizes donated will be clearly marked with the name of the donor. All donations will be listed in the program as well.

If you can assist with any of the above, please notify us. We believe that this is an excellent method to advertise your business while also helping a wonderful cause. Please call Paul McGill at 908-528-2231 or email Paul.McGill@shannonfund.org.

For more information on the charity, please go to www.shannonfund.org

Clarrisa & Veronica Carrera's Story

On April 22nd, 2020, in the midst of a very confusing time we were blessed with a beautiful baby girl. Clarissa was born with GERD and her feedings were tough. We started noticing she wasn't meeting her milestones; she never crawled and took her first steps at 3 months shy of her 2nd birthday. With the help of early intervention, we got her the help she needed. She is diagnosed with anxiety, sensory processing disorder and hypotonia and we like to think of it as life's way of preparing us for what was to come.

On June 30th, 2021, I went in for an anatomy scan of my second pregnancy. We were excited to find out the gender of our baby. We never expected to leave that parking lot in tears and fear of what our future would look like.

Veronica was diagnosed with Spina Bifida through that ultrasound, she has lipomyelomeningocele, which is a fatty mass that affects a child's spine. It usually is a large lump under the skin that attaches to the spinal cord and pulls on it. Instead of floating freely in the spinal canal, the spinal cord becomes tethered or attached to the fatty mass. If not treated it can cause nerve damage or loss of function like the ability to walk or control bladder and bowel.



Veronica had her first spinal surgery at 3 months old where her neurosurgeon was able to de-tether her spinal cord 95%. We went home and a month later she had to go back in for a second surgery because of a spinal fluid leak. She contracted bacterial meningitis through the wound on her back and was hospitalized for 2 months where they placed a central line to provide her with antibiotics. For 2 months we lived in a hospital room where we had plenty of snuggles and cry sessions. Meanwhile Clarissa was home with Dad. A memory I will never forget is asking a nurse to watch my baby

Veronica in the ICU while I walked out into the parking lot to watch my other baby blow out her birthday candles for her 2nd birthday. We would alternate every few days, but it was never an ideal situation.

Because of the location of her lipoma on her spine she has no function of her left leg below the knee. With that being said Veronica was able to learn how to crawl around the appropriate age range and can out crawl anyone I know. She was later diagnosed with hip dysplasia from not having enough hip muscles to hold her femur in place, but she did not let that stop her from walking, at 18 months old she used a walker to get around and quickly mastered it. With the help of her orthotics braces and her determination she now uses forearm crutches and even takes steps independently. We spend 3 days a week doing physical therapy to get her as strong as she can be.

Our future still holds many uncertainties, but we have learned to take life a task at a time. Although Veronica will need more surgeries in the future for her spine and hips, we are certain that her willpower will get her wherever she needs to go. Nothing could have fully prepared us to do what we are doing now but it sure helps that we were used to strangers asking why Clarissa wasn't walking yet and we were familiar with early intervention and therapy services.



We feel honored to be selected by the Shannon Daley Memorial Fund, it is such a beautiful feeling to be recognized along with other families for doing the best we can with what we go through.

Zalo Gilmore's Story

Hi, Meet Zalo Gilmore. He's a remarkable two-year-old with a story that resonates deeply with our family. I have an older sister named Zoe, age 8, and an older brother named Zaiden, age 6. Zalo was born on October 9, 2021, and his arrival brought so much joy. But just a few months later, our lives took an unexpected and harrowing turn.

On April 6, 2022, Zalo was just five months old and would turn six months old in a few days. He had been battling a cold, and that night, he developed a high fever and began vomiting uncontrollably. After nursing him and giving him medicine, he seemed to settle down for the night. But by morning, his breathing was noticeably labored. I initially thought it was just congestion from his cold.

I left for a short while to take Zoe and Zaiden to school, and when I returned, my mom, Zalo's grandma, told me he was breathing deeply and struggling. She had tried to help him by running a steamy shower, hoping it would ease his breathing. I took a video of his breathing and sent it to his pediatrician, who urgently advised us to head to the hospital immediately.



I felt an eerie calmness amidst the chaos.

The medical team struggled to draw his blood, and as they prepared him for the ICU, they checked his blood sugar. The reading skyrocketed from 600 to 983 in minutes. That's when they realized the severity of his situation. The room was filled with medical professionals, and I was asked to sign a consent form, a document that held the hospital harmless if the worst were to happen. My heart ached as I prayed fervently, "God, please help them save my son."

It was a bright, sunny day, and as I drove, I prayed for guidance. I felt a clear direction to go to Newark Beth Israel rather than Barnabas. When we arrived, the emergency room team quickly assessed Zalo. He was still struggling to breathe, and his condition was deteriorating rapidly. I

I trusted the doctor, a strong and determined woman, and watched as she began critical procedures, including drilling into his bone marrow. I wasn't allowed to stay in the room due to the need for sterility, but I stayed close, hidden, and quietly assured Zalo of my presence, whispering, "Zalo, mommy is here, and I love you." I heard the doctors mention that his skull was softening, adding to my growing fear.

After what felt like an eternity, the nurse came to the waiting room with the news that Zalo was stable. Relief washed over me as I felt the cold floor beneath my feet, grounding me. I thanked God and the nurses profusely for their incredible efforts. Zalo's survival was a miracle, and the following 15 days in the hospital were a testament to his strength and the unwavering support of the medical team.

Now, at two years old, Zalo continues to display remarkable resilience. He wears two essential devices: the Dexcom, which monitors his blood sugar through a sensor implanted under his skin, and the Omnipod 5, an insulin pump that delivers small doses of insulin throughout the day. Although these devices are crucial for managing his diabetes, they can be bulky. We hope that in the future, he will be able to use more advanced, less cumbersome technology.



Despite the daily challenges of managing Type 1 Diabetes, Zalo is a bright and joyful child. He communicates well, knows his ABCs and colors, and has a passion for cars—especially sports cars and monster trucks. He loves playing outside with his friends, who are often older than him. Zalo's intelligence and energy make it hard to believe he's only two years old. His strength and joyful spirit are truly inspiring.

Every day, Zalo's loving and friendly nature helps him navigate his condition. We are hopeful that one day he will outgrow his diabetes or that advancements in medical technology will make his management easier. For now, we continue to support him with all the love and care he deserves.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Zalo's journey. Your support and kindness are deeply appreciated as we continue to strive for a better future for our brave little boy.

Emily Brunner's Story

On March 21, 2008, our little princess Emily was born, making us a family of 5. Joining her older brothers who love her so much and would protect her forever. Emily is such a smart, beautiful and compassionate human being! Through the years has always been known as the girl that always helped someone or any animal in need. Her love for animals is her utmost special trait, Emily always had a special bond with the animals that she meets, kind of like Dr. Dolittle.

Emily's medical journey started at the age of 14, just starting high school, experiencing making new friends and learning about how high school operates. During Emily's Freshman year she was in and out of the hospital with stomach issues, swelling of her legs and very fatigued. Multiple doctors could not understand why her body was in so much turmoil daily. Emily, towards the end of school had to be homeschooled as symptoms worsened.

Of course, rumors started surfacing from people that Emily had an eating disorder and was causing the stomach issues as she was very thin and not able to keep food down. This of course was due to lack of understanding what Emily was really going through. Well, that year was the worst year ever, not knowing what was happening to her body. Anxiety started kicking in about all the rumors, the uneasy feeling everyday not knowing when or where her symptoms would appear. Emily started to shut down emotionally, didn't want to go anywhere, play any sports, hang out with friends etc.

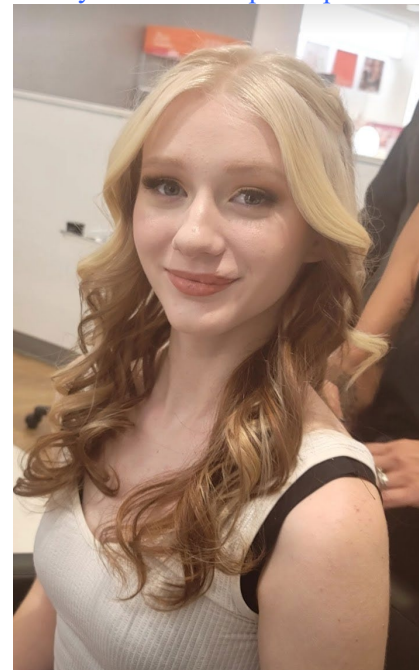


Then one day during Emily's sophomore year she was in class not feeling well and stood up from her desk and passed out. The nurse came rushing in to assist, when Emily became conscious, she was assisted back to the nurse's office. After this experience Emily had a lot of other symptoms produced, blurred vision, migraines and dizziness. Back to the hospital she went, as she arrived her heart was beating well over 130 beats resting, Drs were concerned she was having a cardiac episode. After all testing was

done a pediatric cardiologist was called in to evaluate. After the evaluation the Dr needed to do some research and speak to other colleges. The end diagnosis was POTS syndrome, we never heard of this before. But this syndrome has been around for a long time and can be easily misdiagnosed as anxiety. POTS is a systemic disorder with only control of symptoms and no cure. POTS affects everyone differently, Emily's is gastro, cardiac and neurological having headaches and dizziness daily.

So, on our way to multiple specialists between Morristown Pediatric to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. For the whole rest of Sophomore year Emily was in and out of school to be seen by multiple Drs and then accepted to CHOPS Aqua Nautic Clinic that specializes in POTS. Long days, long travels which Emily finally received the answer to her medical condition and was finalized as having POTS.

Through guidance of multiple Drs and some trials of holistic medicine, Emily was put on a sodium and iron rich diet and 60 oz of water daily. Sodium helps keep the blood pumping smoother to the heart. One of



Emily's favorite go to foods is McDonalds fries and a frozen coke. Who can resist McDonalds fries!

Emily is still finding her ways to control her symptoms and make it through the days with a beautiful smile. Being strong and pushing herself to get back to her old self, which might or might not happen but being positive. Every day is a new challenge and Emily takes each day slowly as the mornings are the worst dealing with symptoms.

As a parent seeing your child struggling is heartbreaking that we cannot make all challenges go away. We have a strong family and will keep pushing through the everyday challenges.

We are genuinely honored to have been selected by The Shannon Daley Memorial Fund and thank you to all those supporters of this wonderful organization. So excited to be part of the Shannon Daley Memorial Fund family.