



MEG'S GIFT

MEG's Gift is a 501(c)3 nonprofit public charity started in 2015 by the family of Megan Elizabeth Garbach (MEG), to honor her life and carry on her legacy. The mission of MEG's Gift is to positively impact mental health care in the Rochester community through financial support, education, and advocacy. This mission is guided by a vision of a more loving community that better understands, accepts, and helps individuals suffering with mental illness. As a group of family and friends loyal to this mission, MEG's Gift volunteers are committed to pursuing it with creativity, high energy, and enthusiasm as we model Megan's compassionate and loving ways.

Since 2015, MEG's Gift has donated over \$460,000 to various local organizations that promote mental health awareness. Each of these organizations advocate for the care of persons with mental illness, educating those whose loved one's struggle with mental illness, and provide treatment services to those in need. One major source of fundraising is our annual golf tournament including dinner and raffle. Other income sources come from sponsors, family foundations, corporate sponsorships, and memorial giving as well as proceeds from special events held in conjunction with retail and service sector establishments.

Each year, our Board of Directors identifies organizations with complementary missions to MEG's Gift. The chosen organization becomes the primary beneficiary of our fundraising efforts for that year. In the first two years the principal beneficiaries included St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, and the Veterans Outreach Center.

More recently, program awards included the local chapters of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), the Monroe County Consortium on Trauma, Illness and Grief (TIG), the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the Children's Institute, and East House. These organizations have developed programs that impact the emotional health of both our children and adults who are in need of support. Many other organizations have benefitted from MEG's Gift.

Bivona Children's Advocacy Center, our chosen primary beneficiary for 2024, envisions a world where all children are safe and free from abuse. By partnering with Bivona, MEG's Gift hopes to increase awareness of the impact child abuse has on our community. We believe in Bivona's mission as they strive to provide healing and prevention to survivors and their families through collaborative service, awareness, education and leadership. We know that providing hope to someone in their darkest time is the cornerstone of healing. Bivona gives hope to those affected by child abuse in a way that resonates with MEG's Gift and it's board of directors.

Learn more at www.bivonacac.org

