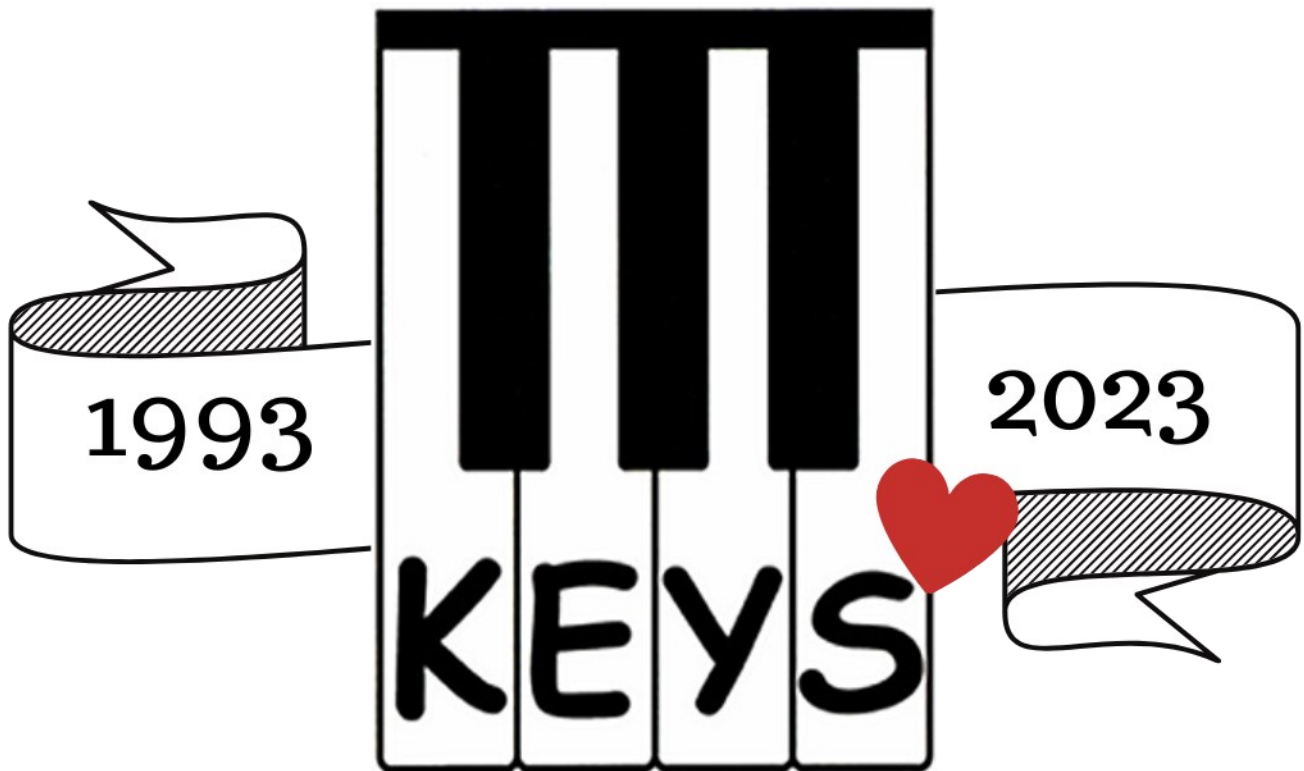
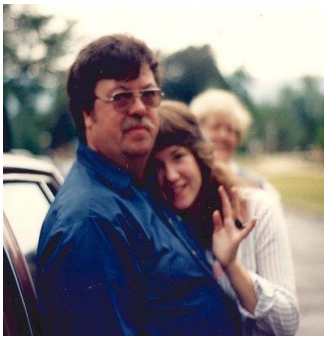


# The KEYS Program's 2023 Annual Smile Report



Creating smiles for  
30 years!



## 30 Years of Smiles!

On November 20, 1993, my father, Charles Blair, passed away from cancer at the age of 54. Music was the one thing that helped bring peace, comfort and even smiles to my Dad during those incredibly difficult days. It was on that day, 30 years ago, that we decided to create KEYS in his memory, in order to bring comfort, joy, hope and smiles to children battling cancer through the power of music. And boy, have a lot of smiles been created since then thanks to all of YOU! I know my Dad is smiling down on us and guiding us every step of the way!

In this year’s annual report, we share some of the programs, celebrations and memorable moments of our 30th year creating smiles. Here are some highlights...

♥ We provided 3,291 music therapy sessions for 814 kids impacted by cancer, breast cancer patients and special needs kids in 16 states!

♥ KEYS hosted 30 virtual Smile Concerts and 5 Backyard concerts that celebrated a KEYS kid at each concert. A record 124,444 people from across the US and the world tuned-in to our *Smile Concerts* to share messages of love, joy and hope with KEYS kids and their families.

♥ Our incredible team of music therapists recorded and produced 84 new music videos for the KEYS Kids Network sharing music and smiles with 266 children’s hospitals and sites across the US!

♥ We hosted 6 *Smile Experience* family respite days for 1,475 KEYS kids, their families and children in the community giving them a break from cancer treatment to create precious memories together!

♥ Our smile crew delivered holiday care packages to 198 kids battling cancer and their siblings at the holidays!

♥ We opened a new space new Oneida, NY! The new KEYS Studios have 4 music studio spaces for music therapy and a space for recitals and concerts for our KEYS kids! One of the studios, Kian’s Place, is dedicated to providing music therapy for medically fragile children in memory of KEYS kid Kian Finnegan.

♥ We welcomed 2 new KEYS ambassadors , Alayah and June, who were selected to represent KEYS kids and their siblings for the coming year!



Thank you for support our mission of smiles for the past 30 years! We can’t wait to see what we can do together in our next 30 years!



After all...it’s all about the smiles!

With our heartfelt thanks and gratitude;

Colleen & Dave Bennett

KEYS Founders



## Our Mission of Smiles!

The KEYS Program is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that delivers music, hope and smiles to children impacted by cancer, and those in need of healing, through music outreach, education and advocacy.

KEYS provides award-winning patient and family support programs of music therapy outreach, family respite days and sibling support programs that enhance and improve the quality of life of the children and families we serve.

In addition, KEYS raises awareness of the benefits of music and provides information and resources to healthcare professionals and parents so they may implement music in the care of the children they love and serve every day.

For 30 years, the KEYS Program has been sharing the joy and healing power of music to support children facing incredible health challenges, while creating memorable moments for their family.

And all at *no cost* to the families we serve.



## Our Wish♥

There are over 15,600 children who are diagnosed with cancer each year in the US. That is equal to 2 full classrooms of children each day.

While survival rates have improved significantly, cancer remains the leading cause of death by disease in children.

Sadly, 1 in 5 of the children we serve will not survive more than 5 years.

Current treatments for cancer are harsh and extensive, significantly impacting a child's quality of life. At a time when kids shouldn't have a worry or care in the world, these kids are fighting just to survive.

Our wish is for a cure, but until then, we are on a mission of smiles to support these brave superheroes throughout this difficult time, with music, hope, joy and of course, smiles!

## The Power of Music

A 2004 study released by the Journal of Music Therapy reports that music therapy aides in reducing nausea associated with chemotherapy treatments; helps to reduce anxiety; aids in pain management; and studies show that patients who receive music therapy during their recovery heal faster than those who do not have music therapy.

A cancer diagnosis is a traumatic event that impacts patients and their families both physically and emotionally. Music therapy provides patients a creative outlet where they can express their emotions, share their story and feel more empowered in a situation that is very much out of their control.

Most important of all, music is universal and helps to bring comfort, joy and hope to children and adults of all ages, abilities, cultures, languages and backgrounds.



## KEYS New Music Studios!

We are SO excited to share that in September 2023, we moved into a new space in the Kenwood Community Properties Building (Old Oneida Ltd. Sales Office) at 181 Kenwood Ave. in Oneida, New York—just one mile from KEYS administrative office.

For the past 30 years, we have provided music therapy in the homes of our KEYS kids, at schools or virtually via zoom. We now have 4 beautiful music studios where we provide music therapy sessions, early childhood music classes, group classes and lessons. We also have a large open space to use for recitals and special respite day events for our KEYS families time to time.

We have been blessed to have some amazing people donate pianos for the studios. Big thanks to Smith's Funeral Home in Sauquoit and the Oneida Library for donating upright pianos for studios #2 & #3, and to our upstairs neighbor Mr. Rosbrook for donating his baby grand piano to us for studio #4. Our Yamaha baby grand piano in studio #1 was acquired back in 2004 from a grant from the CNY Community Foundation and matching donation from retired music teacher Ann Taylor. It has been squeezed into the small KEYS admin office for the past 20 years, using it time to time for recording and rehearsals. It is happy to be at home in it's new spot in studio #1, Kian's Place!



### Kian's Place

*"There is really just not enough we can say about our music therapy with The KEYS Program...soul lifting and nothing short of miraculous in terms of what it gave to Kian (and our entire family). Kian went months unresponsive at first and music therapy was the first time he started tapping his foot in the hospital. When he came home and we found out about KEYS, it was the highlight of the week and the way he began to communicate. On his last day, I held him as he strummed a guitar with our music therapist and I looked down and knew he was happy in that moment."* Adrienne Finnegan

From the moment Kian was born he loved music! During his journey with cancer, KEYS had the honor of providing music therapy for Kian and his family throughout his journey and end of life. Today, Kian's family is honoring his memory by donating funds to help us create a sensory friendly space for medically fragile kids and all of our KEYS kids, at our new studios. Studio #1 has been renamed Kian's Place in his memory. So far, the Finnegan family has donated instruments and a ginormous acoustic chair that vibrates to the sound of the music, providing extra sensory support to kiddos that need it.

The Finnegan family is raising money to decorate the space with trees, soft light and all that Kian loved in the coming months.

We are so grateful to the Finnegan family for sharing their love of Kian with all of us!



# KEYS 30th Anniversary Celebration!

The KEYS Program celebrated its 30th year of creating smiles with an Open House in November! What better way than to bring our KEYS families together to celebrate at our new KEYS Studios in Oneida! We had face painting, caricatures, heart cookies and balloon animals for the kids along with live music by Emalee Herrington, Two Friends and the Mohawk Valley Bluegrass Community Band. Members of the Oneida Area Chamber of Commerce joined us for an official ribbon cutting for our new space. We announced and inducted our 2024 KEYS Kids Ambassador Alayah Green and KEYS Sibling Ambassador June Finnegan! KEYS music therapist Amanda Maestro-Scherer and KEYS sibling June Finnegan ended the night with the beautiful song “Kian Strong”— a special song June and her family had written in memory of June’s brother Kian through our Legacy Project. We have dedicated studio #1 to Kian and have named it “Kian’s Place” in his memory.

We are so grateful to everyone who joined us in this special celebration. We can’t wait to see the smiles we can create together in our next 30 years!



## KEYS Music Therapy Outreach

Our music therapy outreach program continued to grow in 2023 thanks to our amazing supporters! We were able to provide **3,291 music therapy sessions** for 814 KEYS kids and those in need of healing.

We have 10 board certified music therapists, counselors and child life specialists/play therapists who provide sessions to children throughout New York State, along with 15 other states in the US!



We continue to provide both in-person music therapy sessions at our studio or at a child's home or school. We also still provide telehealth sessions via zoom for KEYS kids who we serve who have compromised immunities or live outside our travel range.

Our goal is always to make music therapy accessible for families, so with the hybrid format, whether they are at home, in the hospital or traveling hours by car to their next surgery or treatment...we can be there at their side making music with them and supporting them throughout their journey.

## KEYS Recitals

Each year we host two recitals for our KEYS kids— one in the Spring and one at the Holidays! Our KEYS kids just love the opportunity to showcase their talents to bring smiles to their friends and families.

The Spring recital was a virtual recital with kiddos performing via zoom. There were 21 performances ...and smiles...in all!



Our KEYS kids performed at our Holiday Recital that we hosted at our new KEYS studios in Oneida. Parents, grandparents, siblings and friends attended the Christmas event to share in the holiday spirit and to root on their favorite performer.

A special surprise visit from Santa at the end of the recital was the finale to an amazing night of holiday smiles!

These moments were truly magical for our KEYS families thanks to YOUR support!



## KEYS Music Therapy Programs for Those in Need of Healing

Along with our KEYS kids, the KEYS Program's mission is to deliver music, hope and smiles to those in need of healing too! We have been expanding and growing so we can truly serve all of those in need of healing, including some of the groups below...



### **Valerie's Smile Music Therapy for Alzheimer/Dementia Patients**

Our *Valerie's Smile* Music Therapy program continues to serve nursing home sites, with a focus on the Alzheimer/dementia patients, in order to improve the quality of life of their patients and to bring weekly joy to their hearts!

Thanks to the support of our foundation partners, we were able to provide music therapy for Rome Memorial Hospital, Masonic Home and MVHS

Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

This program has been re-named *Valerie's Smile* memory of KEYS Founder David Bennett's mother and former KEYS Board Member Valerie Cresswell, who passed away from dementia on March 24, 2022. ♡

### **Laverne's Smile Music Therapy for Breast Cancer Patients**

Our music therapy program for breast cancer patients continues to grow and evolve thanks to the support of the Saint Agatha Foundation!

The project is named in memory of the grandmother of KEYS Founder Colleen Bennett, Laverne Blair, who was a breast cancer survivor and inspiration to us all!

In addition to our team of music therapists providing one-on-one music therapy sessions, monthly workshops on relaxation via facebook live for breast cancer patients and group sessions in partnership with other organizations in the community, such as The YMCA's Kaye Center in Baldwinsville.

We are honored to support these amazing pink warriors in memory of Laverne.

*"Thank you so much for connecting me to music therapy! I didn't realize how much I needed the time for myself to unwind, breathe and recharge. I am so thankful for programs like this to remind me to take care of my soul, as well as my body." Breast Cancer Patient*



### **KEYS Fulfilling a Need for Community Music Therapy Services & Adaptive Lessons**

Did you know that the KEYS Program provides adaptive music lessons and music therapy for kids and adults in the communities in the areas which we serve?

We have found there are some great music therapy practices in cities like Rochester and Syracuse, but few, if any, in the smaller cities and rural areas. KEYS is the only nonprofit music therapy organization that we know of in Upstate New York, so the need for our services for the community is great.

We serve Oneida-Madison BOCES, Rome BOCES, Windsor Schools, various schools, special needs sites and individual families seeking services.

We still provide our services for free for our KEYS kids, but we charge an affordable fee for service for these "non-KEYS kids" so they too can receive the benefits of the power of music! The funds we generate from this fee for service program helps us to generate income for sustainability, while serving the community at the same time- a Win-Win for both our KEYS families and these amazing kids and adults!

# Smile Experience Creates Smiles Once Again PLUS Slingshot Race Car Added to Serve Teens & Young Adults Battling Cancer!

It was another GREAT year of creating smiles at our Smile Experience events in 2023!!!

In the past, our KEYS kids ages 6 to 12 suited up in drivers suits and buckled in to our .25 NASCAR Youth Series midgets to take laps on the track! However, the .25 midgets are geared for kids up to 12 years old. Because of this, kids who were diagnosed after the age of 12 never got a chance to experience our Smile Experience. Thanks to Friendly Ford and Dodge, and our friends from Quinn's



Superbowl Party, they helped us to raise \$10,000 in order to purchase a new Slingshot race car that is geared for teens and young adults, ages 13 and up! Now no one will miss the joy and thrill of being a real race car driver for the day!

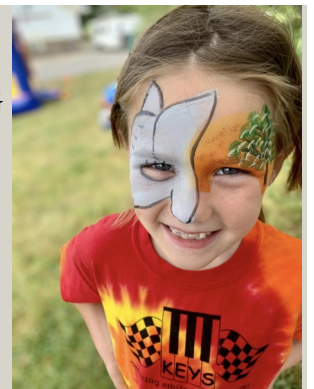


BIG thanks to our Smile Crew, foundation partners, sponsors, donors and our special guest Otto the Orange for making the Smile Experience extra special each year for our KEYS kiddos! We are so thankful to be able to give families a break from cancer treatment and worries to create amazing memories together!

It's all about the smiles!!

## Friendly Summer Smiles for KEYS Kids!

Friendly Ford and Dodge Chrysler Ram Jeep of Hamilton continue to bring BIG smiles to our KEYS families! In June, they donated \$100 to KEYS for every vehicle they sold for a total of \$16,300 raised for KEYS! How awesome is that!? In addition they hosted two free events at their dealerships in Hamilton for the KEYS kids and the community again this year!



In June, we hosted the *Friendly Summer Fun Fest* at Friendly Ford in Hamilton with lots of fun and activities for the families, including, bounce house, pony rides, face painting, balloon animals, food trucks, ice cream trucks, karaoke, corn hole, raffles and more! Over 350 people attend the event.



Next up was the *Car Show for Kids* at the Friendly Dodge Chrysler Ram Jeep location in Hamilton with cool cars, food trucks, bounce house, raffles and trophies for the best in show, including the coveted KEYS Kids Choice award! A record 75 cars attended the event in 2023!

Big thanks to the amazing Friendly staff for putting together these amazing events and raising so much money for our programs at KEYS! You rock!!



## Over 120,00 Tune-In for Monday Night Virtual Smile Concerts!

We hosted 30 virtual **Smile Concerts** that celebrated and honored a KEYS kid and their family on Monday nights this past year! The concerts featured local and national musicians who sang their hearts out to bring BIG smiles to our KEYS kiddos. The musicians made each and every concert special by playing some of the child's favorite songs and sharing messages of love, joy and hope!

A record 124,444 people from across the US (and even the world) tuned-in to share messages of love, joy and hope with our KEYS kids and their families. Now that's a LOT of smiles!

### "Backstage" Meet 'n Greet

Before the concert goes live, we host a private zoom "Backstage" Meet 'n Greet where the KEYS kids, their family and the musicians get to meet, chat and share smiles. The kids LOVE to meet the artists who are performing for them...and the artists LOVE meeting the kids too!

At 7pm the concert goes LIVE on Facebook, with friends, family, volunteers and fans tuning-in sharing inspiring messages, love and smiles with our KEYS kids in the comments area, while the musicians play their hearts out!

The concerts are streamed on Facebook live and shared on our KEYS Kids Network page on our website for the kids to watch over and over again, and for thousands of pediatric cancer patients in our partner children's hospitals and sites across the country to enjoy!

BIG thanks to our Smile Concert donors and sponsors, especially, the **Tony Stewart Foundation**, the **Triad Foundation**, the **New York State Council on the Arts**, and our Smile Sponsors who made these concerts and these BIG smiles possible throughout the year! You are amazing!



### Smiles for Arlo!

By far, the most special virtual Smile Concert in 2023 was our Smiles for Arlo concert featuring our favorite dynamic folk duo Two Friends! 4 year old cancer warrior Arlo and his sis Rory were our guests of honor for this special concert to bring extra big smiles and joy to this cancer warrior who was at home in comfort care.

The meet 'n greet was full of fun, clown glasses, red noses and just outright silliness! Once the concert started, Arlo gathered his instruments around him and he and his sister jammed to the music throughout the whole 45 min. concert, singing, dancing and playing their instruments together.

Arlo passed away just a few weeks later with his loving family by his side. We are so thankful for our amazing donors and volunteers who enable us to bring love, joy, music and smiles to kiddos like Arlo each and every day. ♡



## June's Backyard Smile Concert!

To kick off the summer, we were SO excited to celebrate KEYS kiddo June with a Smile Concert at her house—in her beautiful backyard—with her family and friends!

The amazing musical duo (and KEYS board members) Two Friends, along with the Mohawk Valley Bluegrass Community Band performed 2 hours of foot-stomping, freeze dancing fun, and even played some of June's favorite songs! Smile balloons were everywhere and the bubble machine was cranking out bubbles across the yard while June and her friend danced to some of her favorite songs. Family, friends and neighbors all gathered to enjoy the music and to support this beautiful KEYS kiddo and her family. June's brother Kian passed away from cancer in Sept 2022. The concert was one of the ways we help families like June's to get through the tough days a little easier through the power of music, which Kian loved so much.



We are so grateful to the **Triad Foundation** and the **Tony Stewart Foundation** for making this concert and these BIG smiles possible for this amazing KEYS kiddo and her family!

## Smiles for Alayah featuring SIRSY Raises \$9,000 for KEYS!

In December 2023, we hosted our annual SIRSY benefit concert!! Each year the band SIRSY hosts a concert to raise funds for the KEYS Program and to celebrate one of our KEYS kiddos! This year's concert celebrated KEYS kiddo Alayah, a 10 year old cancer survivor and amazing superhero!

Thanks to Mel & Rich from SIRSY, the SIRSY fans and an awesome anonymous donor, over \$9,000 was raised for KEYS! WOW!

We are so grateful to Mel and Rich from SIRSY, and all of their fans, for their continued passion and dedication to our mission of smiles! You rock!



## Speaking of June and Alayah...

In 2023, we reinstated our ambassador program at KEYS, after taking a break from it during COVID. We are happy to announce our 2024 KEYS Kid Ambassador is Alayah Green and KEYS Sibling Ambassador is June Finnegan!

Throughout the coming year, they will be the "face" of our KEYS kids, sharing their inspiring stories and beautiful smiles! These best friends are currently working together with our music therapists to write and record songs to bring hope and inspiration to other KEYS kids like them. How awesome is that!?

You rock June and Alayah!

## Smile Concerts at the State Bridge Collective!

In 2023, Liz Simchik owner of the State Bridge Collective, partnered with KEYS to provide Backyard Smile Concerts at their location for KEYS kids! We were so excited to celebrate KEYS kids Sage and Sawyer at the first concert and Rhianna at the second. Liz performed at both concerts playing some of the kid's and parent's favorite songs. Family and friends joined in on the fun and had a great time singing and dancing along.

Big thanks to Liz for all you do to make each and every concert so special and for allowing us to use your beautiful venue to create smiles!



## Smile Concerts at the Rome Art and Community Center!



KEYS partnered with the wonderful folks at the Mohawk Valley Bluegrass Association and Rome Art and Community Center to host 2 concerts and create BIG smiles in 2023!

Our KEYS families were the guests of honor for their summer concert series. At each event, our KEYS kids had the opportunity to sing a song with the band that was performing that night. Each of the bands are renown bluegrass groups and performing with them

was quite an honor. Our KEYS Kiddo Ari sang in front of a full house audience, fulfilling a wish she had to be a performer! Our KEYS kiddo Amelia and her family, Mom Chantelle, Dad Pete, and siblings Blake and Hayden, were thrilled to sing a special song they prepared with the band too!

We are so grateful to the MVBA and RAC for giving our KEYS kids and their families a break from cancer treatment to enjoy a night of music and smiles!



## KEYS Kids Network Rockin'!

This year, our music therapists and musicians add 84 new music videos and live concerts to our KEYS Kids Network, a virtual library of songs, activities and concerts for our KEYS kids and pediatric patients across the country to enjoy 24/7!

As always, all broadcasts and videos on our KEYS Kids Network are made available for free to the public, our KEYS kids and pediatric patients in our 266 partner children's hospitals and sites across the US, where we have music toolkits also available for parents for music therapy resources and information on the power of music!

## Annual Holiday Smiles Party!

Once again, our KEYS kids put on their pajamas, grabbed some hot cocoa and cookies, and enjoyed singing and dancing along with our amazing children's entertainer, Music with Corey at our annual virtual Holiday Smiles Party for our KEYS kids!

Santa and Mrs. Claus made a special stop to ask what each child wanted for Christmas and spreading Christmas cheer. The party ended with Mrs. Claus leading a special "cookie toast" and reading "Twas the Night Before Christmas" with the kids.

We are so grateful to our supporters for making these moments...and BIG smiles...possible for all of our KEYS kiddos each year!



## Santa's Workshop Event!

The amazing folks at Broadway Bakery and Stoney Shire in Boonville, NY hosted the first annual Santa's Workshop event for the community to benefit the KEYS Program!

Live music, yummy treats and lots of Christmas cheer were on tap for this fun community event. Participants made 100 Christmas ornaments for our KEYS kids, snow globes and collected a car load or two of games for our KEYS kids. What amazing people and an amazing event! Big thanks to the organizers and everyone involved.



## Holiday Smiles Care Packages Delivered to 198 KEYS Kiddos!

The community members, clubs and businesses donated a record 780 new board games for us to give away in our Holiday Smiles Care Packages for our KEYS kids this year. Our elves gathered at our Wrap Party to lovingly and carefully wrap board games and assemble the care packages with holiday treats, sweets and love! Our delivery elves gathered the holiday sacks of toys and delivered them to the homes of 198 KEYS kids both here in NY and across the US.

Special thanks to some amazing anonymous donors who adopted two of our families who lost a child to cancer or who were in need of extra love and support. Each donor fulfilled each family's entire Christmas wish list for the whole family. We are so grateful for our donors and amazing Smile Crew volunteers and donors who make these smiles possible!





## Quinn's & Friends Raise \$5,515 in Memory of Greg Jeffris!

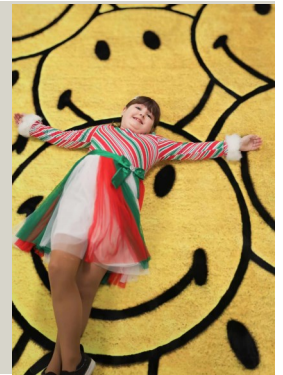
In December 2019, our dear friend, Greg Jeffris, lost his battle with cancer. Always a supporter of the KEYS Program, Greg's friends, Jim & Cathy Quinn host a Super Bowl Party in his memory each year to benefit the KEYS Program. This past year \$5,515 was raised for KEYS in Greg's memory!

Funds from this event went toward purchasing our new Slingshot race car to expand our Smile Experience program so we can serve teens and young adults battling cancer, in memory of Greg! We are so grateful to the Quinn's, their friends and everyone in the community who helped make these smiles possible!

## Holiday Family Portrait Day!

Our awesome volunteer Jennifer Nellis from Beautiful Movements Photography hosted a family portrait session at the KEYS Studios for free for five of our KEYS families over the holidays. What a beautiful gift of smiles for our KEYS families!

Thank you so much Jenn!!



## Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve!

**1,767 hearts** were worn on the sleeves of folks in 17 states in love and support of our KEYS kids, like June and her family pictured here wearing their hearts on their sleeve in memory of Kian. ♡

February is an especially difficult and isolating month for our KEYS kids. Because of their compromised immunity, many are unable to have visitors or go to school. So in February, we "wear our hearts on our sleeve" to let them know they are not alone, that we are thinking about them and sending our "hearts" and love out to them.

To see some the video of the beautiful hearts being worn on their sleeves, go to the KEYS YouTube page [www.youtube.com/KEYSProgram!](http://www.youtube.com/KEYSProgram!)



## Our “Smile Crew” Volunteers

The KEYS Program’s volunteer Smile Crew is truly THE best around! Each year we have more than 200 volunteers who are at the ready to give of their time, talents and hearts to bring smiles to our KEYS kids and their families any way they can, and 2023 was no exception!

Whether wearing their hearts on their sleeves, singing their hearts out performing a Smile Concert, wrapping presents to deliver to our KEYS kids, or helping out at our Smile Experience...our volunteers give with their hearts and create BIG smiles!

We couldn’t do what we do without our amazing Smile Crew!



## KEYS is a Guidestar/Candid Platinum Charity Again for 2023!

The KEYS Program is a proud children’s charity and has continued to achieve Guidestar/Candid's Platinum Seal of Transparency, their highest level of recognition! Only 1% of all charities in the US achieve this designation!

Platinum  
Transparency

2023

Candid.

Go to [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) to view our most recent financials and 990 filing with the IRS. (Search for KEYS Corp in Sherrill, NY)

The KEYS Program is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit children's charity registered and in good standing with the IRS and the New York State Division of Charities.

All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

## Our Awesome Interns

Each year, KEYS has college students who intern with us in order to fulfill their college degree requirements. Music therapy intern, Mary West, a music therapy major from Marywood University in PA, joined us in September 2023 and will intern with us for the school year in order to attain 1200 clinical hours to complete her degree and be able to be board certified as a music therapist. We love having Mary on our crew this year!



We also had interns from Nazareth College, Berklee College of Music, Malloy College and Saint Mary of the Woods College intern with us this year.

In addition, we have interns from Utica University's Nursing Program who do a 6-8 week internship with us throughout the year. We love partnering with these wonderful colleges to share our expertise and help promote future music therapists, nurses and all around amazing people!

## Partnerships

KEYS believes in the power of partnerships! KEYS is a proud member of the National Child Life Council, New England Child Life Association, New York State Assoc. for the Education of Young Children, the American Music Therapy Association and is a foundation partner with the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation.

The KEYS Program is also a member of the CNY Cancer Alliance, a group of cancer related organizations in Central New York who are focused on centralizing available resources for those affected by cancer. In addition, after the Colgate University COVE students volunteer with us. They love volunteering with KEYS so much, they created a special student group called the "Colgate Key Notes" who perform concerts for our KEYS kids and in their community too!

The ripple effect and power of partnerships!



## Meet Our Team!

Our team of music therapists, music teachers, child life specialists and counselors are truly the best! Each come from a variety of backgrounds, experiences and expertise. They serve a variety of the families we serve and are located in various areas around New York State and Colorado, so we can best serve kids in a wide geographic area, including; Lowville, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, Binghamton, Whitesboro, Oneida, Ithaca, Oswego, Long Island and Denver, Colorado areas.

We are so thankful to have such a dedicated, talented staff delivering smiles to our KEYS kids and those we serve in need of healing!



*Adrienne Bornemann, MS, LCAT, MT-BC*



*Amanda Maestro-Scherer, MA, MT-BC*



*Amber Ellis, MS, MT-BC*



*Katie Quick, MA, LPC, Life Coach & Counselor*



*Christina Stewart, MT-BC*



*Hannah Pietra, MS, LCAT, MT-BC*



*Kaylee Gray, MT-BC*



*Jessie Davis, MS, MT-BC*



*Sarah Hasegawa, LMHC, Child Life Specialist & Play Therapist*



*Blake Propst, MA, MT-BC, CRT*



*Emalee Herrington, Music Teacher*





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Amy Boulrice—President

*Owner/Director-Little Bo's Musical Preschool*

Rebecca Simpson—Vice President

*Health Insurances Benefits Manager at Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield*

David Bennett—Secretary

*Retired NASCAR Cup Series Official/KEYS Co-Founder*

Donna Mucks—Treasurer

*Singer, Songwriter, Author and Retired Math Teacher*

### Legal Counsel

Nicholas Fletcher

*Oneida County Assistant District Attorney*



### KEYS Staff

Colleen Bennett—Executive Director/Founder

Michael Bennett—Program Director

Adrienne Bornemann, LCAT, MS, MT-BC—Music Therapy Director

Cherilyn Schmalz—Program Coordinator for Outreach & Events

Christina Stewart—Media Coordinator



## 2023 Foundation Smile Partners

Amazon Smile Foundation

Gabriel, Joseph and Lila Mandour Karam Fund

Cayuga Community Fund

Central New York Community Foundation

CNY Arts

Columbus Foundation

Community Foundation of South Central NY

Howard & Bess Chapman Foundation

DOT Foods Foundation

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Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida  
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The Griffin Charitable Foundation

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The Sears Family Foundation of Rome NY

The Stewart W. & Willma C. Hoyt Fdn

The Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation

The Tony Stewart Foundation

Triad Foundation

Utica Music League

Utica National Group Foundation

Walmart Foundation

William G. Pomeroy Foundation

Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

Zyn CARES Foundation



## Corporate & Community Sponsor Smile Partners

Adirondack Dry Rubs	Patricia Oleksi
American Legion	Oneida Area Civic Chorale
Andrea Maranville, Sweet Life of a Baker Bakery	Oneida Floral
Barbano's	Otto Shortell Middle School
Barton & Loguidice	Jim & Cathy Quinn / Quinnie's Lawn Service
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CenterPoint Fellowship Church	Rome Paid Firefighters Benevolent Assoc.
Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church	Sherrill Merchants Association
Community Car Wash	SIRSY
Cortland Crush	Nichole & Tim Schnobrich, Stars & Stripes Tool
CONFIDATA	Michael & Connie Schreppel
Ron Drake	Sherrill Silversmiths
DUMAC & The McCarthy Family	Dory Smith
Carrie Earl, Happy 2 Assist	Steven Hynes Associates
The Finnegan Family	Quinn's Superbowl Party & Friends
Friendly Ford of Hamilton	United Healthcare
Friendly Dodge Chrysler Ram Jeep of Hamilton	Venero Family
KD Pritts Photography	Alex Finn, Walmart VAP
Lake Delta Kiwanis	Women's Assoc. of Stone Church
Microsoft	Weitsman Shredding LLC
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BIG thanks to all of our individual donors, volunteers and supporters who make these smiles possible all year long!

We couldn't create so many smiles without you!





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