

# The Christopher Quon Foundation

## Dear Friends and Family,



I have to admit when thinking about writing this newsletter, I had no idea how to start. I have shared with some of you that over the years I have been very happy to work on many non-profit organizations and fundraisers. Never, however, did I ever think that I would be working on a foundation in memory of my son. So it's been a journey...often it saddens me to work on the foundation... other time it gives me comfort and hope to be able to give to others in ways that would make Chris proud.

We are so thankful to all of you who have contributed so generously to the CQF. Please know that we are so grateful to you for allowing us to honor Chris' memory through this foundation. We wanted to share with you how we have spent some of the funds in this past year through this newsletter. If you have any suggestions on how we might be able to help others in the next year, please feel free to email us.

Our family continues to miss Chris every day. It is still very difficult and we would appreciate your continued prayers. We have been so blessed by so many of you who remember us in many ways--whether it be a card, a meal or an email with a memory of Chris that you wanted to share with us. A special shout-out to all of Chris' pals (you know who you are!) who continue to write us and do things to honor him--you all are unbelievable--Chris was so lucky to have friends like you.

With love,

*Diane and The Quon Family*



## About the Foundation

Through the loving donations of friends and family, the Christopher Quon Foundation (CQF) was established to honor Chris who unexpectedly lost his life at the age of 22 in 2009. A graduate of Lake Forest High School in 2005 and Colorado College in 2009, Chris had just begun his career as a financial analyst at Duff & Phelps in Chicago. It is our hope to honor Chris by using the funds to support all that he loved and cared about so deeply.

A varsity athlete in high school and college in both soccer and lacrosse, Chris used his sports whenever he could to help or show his support for others less fortunate than him.



Fighting cancer was a particular passion for him as both of his grandfathers had lived with cancer. Whether it was organizing an annual soccer fundraiser at CC to help raise funds for young patients living with cancer, wearing bright green shoelaces in his cleats to show support for his teammate fighting leukemia, or shaving his head in support of a child going through cancer treatments, Chris felt this was a way he could give back, so we continue his fight against cancer for him.

Chris also enjoyed working with youth in sports. We have found ways, therefore, to help youth who have a love for soccer and lacrosse. Finally, we know that Chris also wanted to help disadvantaged youth whenever possible. Through local service organizations in Illinois we have been able to fund grants for young people in the area of sports, music and travel--three of Chris' passions. Chris made a difference in the world and through his foundation, his spirit of giving will continue.

## Thank you!

...to Laura Cox and Bob Hofmeier who completed all the legal and accounting work to make the Foundation possible.

...to David Blowers and Terry Drennan who helped us set up the CQF account at Northern Trust.

...to Donna La Vitola and Sharon Popiel who has supported the foundation in so many ways.

...to the wonderful people at LFHS, especially the athletic department and soccer staff - Rob Parry, Ty Stuckslager and Steve Douglass.

...to the generous people at Colorado College: Debbie Fowler, the 2009 and 2010 senior classes, the great friends who put together "The Quony Cup" and senior gift as a tribute to Chris. Thanks to the 2011 Quony Cup planners!

....to Jeanne Ley at Christ Church for her patience and prayers.

...to Sarah, Rachel and Kasey for staying so strong and living a life that Chris would be so proud of.

...to Chris for being our son for 23 special years and being with us in our hearts everyday. We know you are in Heaven and we will see you again.

## *The Quony Cup at Colorado College*



Quony Cup 2010



In 2008 and 2009, Chris organized a Colorado College community soccer tournament called the "Answer to Cancer." Proceeds from this tournament went to the American Cancer Society and to a local hospital to aid young patients living with cancer.

To continue Quon's legacy, Chris' friends continued this tournament in April 2010, renaming it "The Quony Cup" (we found out that this was what Chris originally wanted to name the tourney - no ego there!). This year, the proceeds

were split between **the American Cancer Society** (with an added donation from Chris' foundation) and the Class of 2010 senior gift which was dedicated to Chris. Although Chris was a member of the Class of 2009, it was an honor to know that the Class of 2010 had decided to give their senior class gift in Chris' memory (see last page).

A huge success, The Quony Cup included multiple teams from the CC community, a live band and a roast pig meal for the hun-

gry! David was able to attend, along with many of Chris' 2009 teammates and some Lake Forest pals who made the trek. Many thanks to all the staff, students and teammates at CC who worked so hard to put on Chris' fundraiser. The tournament had meant a lot to Chris – so to continue the tradition was so appreciated. We know that Chris was there in spirit and so proud of his friends and teammates.

***The 2011 Quony Cup is in the planning stages now - Save the Date- April 16!***

## *LFHS Christopher Quon Memorial Scholarship*



Chris' LFHS soccer teammates at the 2010 alumni game

In honor of Chris' time as both a varsity soccer and varsity lacrosse in high school and in college, the first annual scholarship

was awarded to one LFHS senior lacrosse athlete and one LFHS senior soccer athlete (either male or female) who will be playing their sport in college. Recipients

were chosen based on the following qualities: demonstrates character and integrity on and off the field; shows a true passion and spirit for the sport- a "won't give up" attitude; and displays the qualities of a team player- someone who truly cares for his teammates.

This year the soccer scholarship was

awarded to Noah Wagemann (College of Wooster) and the lacrosse scholarship to Tucker Johansen (Union College). Congratulations to Noah and Tucker!



Chris and the 2005 LFHS Varsity LAX team



Chris at CC



Chris with CC LAX teammates Toby and Charley

The CQF made a donation towards the University of Vermont's lacrosse team fundraiser- the "Catamount Classic- Lacrosse for a Cure." Proceeds from this event were donated to testicular cancer research at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. The University of

Vermont (UVM) lacrosse team chose this as their fundraiser because three years ago one of the UVM lacrosse players had been diagnosed with testicular cancer. After going through surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, the player is thankfully now in remis-

sion. The UVM now wanted to help others. One of UVM's team members is a Lake Forest alumni - and Rachel's LFHS classmate - Zack Telandier. Zack also happens to be wearing the same number that Chris did in college --

**Go #21!**

## *Catamount Classic - Lacrosse for a Cure at University of Vermont*



## Mothers Trust Foundation

Since 1998, the Mothers Trust Foundation, has been offering assistance to children in need in Lake County, Illinois. Requests for help come from social workers, court officers and school counselors in Lake County who work with children in difficulty or crisis- or have needs that have fallen through the cracks. Although not usually life threatening, each of these

issues are an emergency to the child. MTF is able to provide emergency assistance when no one else is able to help and other charities can't provide for their needs as they fall outside their specific goals and mandates. As a result, MTF is often their only hope.

**Through Chris' foundation we have partnered with MTF to provide funds to help youth in the**

**areas of sports, travel and music-Chris' passions.**

Whether it was funding a pair of basketball shoes for a young player---or paying for the fees and uniforms for two high school sisters so they could participate in basketball and poms (their father having recently been incarcerated)., these were ways the CQF could make an immediate impact to help youths in need.

Through Chris' foundation we have partnered with MTF to provide funds to help disadvantaged youth in the areas of sports, travel and music-- Chris' passions.

## Illinois Youth Soccer - Olympic Development Program Christopher Quon ODP Scholarship

Through Illinois Youth Soccer, the Christopher Quon ODP Scholarship will be awarded to a deserving female Illinois ODP player. Provided by the CQF, the recipient of the scholarship will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Outstanding ability on the field
- Commitment to the ODP process
- Excellent work ethic and attitude
- Leadership qualities

### • Financial need

Chris participated in ODP for many years and through ODP he was able to meet many new friends from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds and to learn from many different coaches. Chris loved every minute of ODP and it helped him grow not just as a soccer player, but more importantly, as a person.

Chris encouraged his younger sister, Rachel, to participate in ODP as well.

ODP eventually helped Rachel reach the national levels including playing on the US U17 and U20 World Cup Teams. Chris was one of Rachel's biggest fans and a mentor for her and Rachel often says she's playing for her brother. **We know Chris would want to help other young players who want to participate in ODP, but can't afford the fees.** Since there was already an ODP scholarship for boys, a scholarship was established for a talented and deserving female player.



Chris at CC

## Colorado College Soccer and Lacrosse

Unlike the Division 1 athletic budgets, Division 3 budgets are very limited and athletic scholarships are not allowed. A goal of the CQF was to also give back to the CC Men's lacrosse and soccer teams. After working closely with the CC athletic department to determine how we could best help the teams and where the great-

est needs were, the head coaches thought support for each team's assistant coaches would have the greatest impact on the students and the team. Through CQF, therefore, the **Chris Quon Men's Soccer and Lacrosse Assistant Coaches Fund** was established. These coaches (who are often young alumni or community members) do

so much for the team with minimal compensation. This gift would be split between men's lacrosse and soccer to support an assistant coach in each sport. All of Chris' coaches had a huge impact on him respected and he would be thrilled to give back to CC in this way.



Chris with Coach Horst, Chris' grandpa and Horst's wife, Helen

# Other CQF news....

## LFHS Christopher Quon Alumni Game

Every September, the LFHS boys soccer team has an intra-squad pre-season play-day called the "Blue/Gold" games, followed by an alumni game. This year (2010), the team decided that the proceeds from the raffle and auction items sold during the games would be donated to the Christopher Quon Foundation. In 2009, Chris was home for the first time and was able to play what turned out to be his only alumni game. As expected, Chris never left the field and played the entire game with a smile on his face (especially when his team won in PKs!). Thank you to the LFHS soccer staff, parents, team and alumni for supporting the CQF, and to all the donors and bidders of the raffle and auction items. We are so grateful!



Chris at the 2009 Alumni Game

## LFHS Boys Soccer: Renames Unsung Hero Award

The Lake Forest High School Varsity Boy's Soccer team has annually awarded the "Unsung Hero" award to one player selected by the coaches. This player's contribution to the team's season is not measured by goals and assists, but is recognizable through his achievements on the inside. The award reads: **Awarded in recognition of outstanding performance as an athlete who personifies the virtues of integrity, spirit, compassion and sportsmanship. His contribution to the team's season is not measured by goals and assists, but by "Being All that You Can Be"** Christopher Quon, Class of 2005, "LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST"

## Colorado College 2010 Senior Class Dedicates Senior Gift to Chris



Chris at his graduation with his "Deuce" housemates

The Quon family was so honored to learn that the 2010 CC senior class voted to have their senior gift in honor of Chris (class of 2009). In Chris' memory, an Ivory Silk Japanese Lilac tree was planted at the top of Tiger Trail in a beautiful, open space overlooking the athletic fields/Washburn field, with a view of Pikes Peak. Along with this single stem tree that has spectacular fragrant blossoms. A space on the second floor in Tutt Library has also been refurbished to create a comfortable, quiet study space in honor of Chris' time in the CC library (when not on the field, believe it or not, he did study!). Our thanks to all the senior class members who worked so hard to make this happen for Chris!



CC tree dedication for Chris

## More Trees for Chris...

As a result of the Jewish National Fund reforestation projects in Israel, the land once desert, now supports successful farming endeavors, and millions of trees cover the hills. Planting a tree—a concrete, practical act—has represented hope since ancient times. Planting was also considered a way to create eternity. As the Talmud relates, the righteous man Horn once encountered a man planting a carob tree. "How long will it take to bear fruit?" he inquired. "About seventy years," the man replied. "So you think you will live long enough to taste its fruits?" The man explained, "I have found ready-grown carob trees in the world. As my forefathers planted them for me, so I plant for my children." Our friends, the Yarkony family, purchased a tree certificate which represents **one tree planted in Israel in memory of Chris.** *Thank you Yarkonys!*



Tree at West Campus

Through the planning of Matt LaVitola and a great group of Sarah's "guys", **a beautiful honey locust tree was planted on Lake Forest High School's West Campus. Named the "Tree of No Worries"**—one of Chris' favorite sayings—the tree is in a place where one can view every soccer and lacrosse field that Chris played on over the years, with Christ Church in the background. Many thanks to Matt and the "guys" for purchasing the tree, to Kathy and Tom Scopellitti (Scopellitti Landscaping) for ordering and donating their services to plant the tree, to Donna and Sharon for helping to coordinate the planting, and to the LFHS athletic department for maintaining the tree. We are told that the tree is known for its strength and quick growth. Our hope is that many families will one day be able to sit under the shade of the tree while watching and enjoying soccer and lacrosse games.

## IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE CHRISTOPHER QUON FOUNDATION THIS YEAR... please send your donations to:

Christopher Quon Foundation, c/o Terry Drennan, Northern Trust Bank, 959 S. Waukegan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045. The CQF is a non-profit 501c organization. *Thank you!*

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