

Chrissy's Story Lives On



A golf outing that was born following the passing of a special young woman, Mario and Linda Rossi have held their annual "Chrissy's Wish" outing each year since 2007. The Rossi's daughter, Christina, suffered from mental illness (diagnosed with bipolar disorder), taking her own life in July of 2006. "Christina's illness blessed her with an insight into humanity and the ability to help others with compassion and love," said the Rossi's. "We decided within weeks of Chrissy's death that something had to be done to help the people who continue to suffer, and to try to prevent the pain we have had to endure."

"From the very start, we decided to have a golf outing as a way to raise funds. The process begins in January with the designing of the brochures as we enlist the help of a few good friends and family members, and work with Ad Design in College Point. Two other dear friends work with us in setting up gifts, putting

all donations and participants into the computer, organizing the itinerary for the outing and compiling the volunteer schedules. Usually, we have about 15 volunteers in all.

"About four weeks before the outing, we contact a number of media outlets to air PSA's for the event. As for the outing itself, we believe what sets this one apart is the overwhelming love and support from those who participate. It's also important to point out that the cost for an individual golfer is just \$160, which includes golf, lunch, refreshments, dinner and 2 hours of open bar. We have over \$20,000 worth of Chinese and silent auction items, as well as a 50/50 raffle.

"The overall purpose of the outing is two-fold: We're raising funds, and raising awareness. Since the inception of the Chrissy's Wish Memorial Fund, more than \$310,000 has been raised to benefit Brain & Behavior Research Foundation (BBRF) formerly NARSAD.



Blind Golf Championship on Long Island



Long Island is no stranger to championship golf. Multiple U.S. Opens at Bethpage Black and Shinnecock. The U.S. Women's Open to be held at Sebonack in 2013. You can add another national championship to the list: The U.S. Blind Golf Association is holding their 67th annual championship tournament at Middle Bay Country Club in Oceanside on August 6th & 7th.

In this 2-day, 36-hole competition, blind and visually-impaired golfers are pre-classified by sight acuity testing into a number of categories, from totally blind, to little usable vision, to better usable vision. All golfers are allowed a coach to assist with shot description and alignment.

Ted Fass of Rockville Centre (2nd from left in accompanying photo, standing next to Eli Manning of the Giants) is the tournament chairman and will be participating. "I began playing golf only 8 years ago," says Ted. "I took some lessons in Florida, and learned to drive the ball. I followed

up with more lessons at Lawrence Country Club with Craig Thomas, and I was hooked!" Ted began competing in U.S. Blind Golf Association tournaments across the country. "I enjoy the fun and competitive atmosphere. It also gives me a sense of freedom of not having to hold on to something (other than the club)." There is visualization involved, says Ted, as he actually 'sees' the ball and runs through a checklist that includes making sure his 'hands are soft, shifting weight, bringing the club up and then swinging.' He also gives credit to his coach who he calls 'an intricate part of this collaboration.'

As with all other passionate golfers, Ted says he's constantly trying to get better. "I have met so many wonderful people through the U.S. Blind Golf Association, and that's why I took on the task of hosting the 67th annual championship in August." No doubt we can all learn a lot about golf, as well as determination and courage from this inspiring event.

