



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM AUNTIE PEI

*Auntie Pei! Auntie Pei! Auntie Pei!* Ryan's voice is the first I would hear bounding up my front door every holiday. This was followed by a parade of cousins, aunts, uncles and friends holding holiday traditions. Dee's spanakopita, Grandma Helen's pies, Uncle David's singing tradition and piles and piles of presents. There was an anticipation of a house filled with holiday magic and love. Everyone came through the door dressed in their holiday best, and Ryan loved to show off his sharp style. He barely took off his coat, ran straight to the feast and tasted everything before I could shoo him away while his cousins changed my seating charts and planned a night of holiday mischief.

I have the privilege of being "Auntie Pei" to Griffin, Casey and Ryan Doyle. This endearing nickname was given to me by Griffin as a toddler in his efforts to say Auntie Pammy. I am Dee Doyle's sister Pamela Burke, Aunt and Fairy Godmother to all three of Tim and Dee's beautiful children. I have never taken this privilege lightly, especially during the holidays. I love tradition: new traditions

brought in by blending families, funny traditions and old ones passed down by loved ones no longer with us. Ryan loved our holiday traditions from epic gingerbread bread house parties to New Year's Eve Iron Chef competitions, which Ryan dubbed *Beat Auntie Pei*, stolen from *Beat Bobby Flay*. Ryan being the youngest cousin couldn't wait for some of these coming-of-age moments. One of my favorites; Dee and I ran the Bright Nights road race in Forest Park, Springfield, MA for as long as I can remember. The 5K is held the first Monday night in December where you run through a magical route of holiday lights. Our twist on this tradition was to run in holiday costume (deepest apology to Griffin for making you run as a gingerbread man). In December 2016, Ryan, Dee, Casey (reluctantly) and I dressed as *The Night Before Christmas*, complete with plaid nightgowns and stocking caps. Ryan owned that race, stocking hat flying behind him, clocking 7-minute miles, leaving us all in his holiday dust. He was thrilled at his race time, especially that a fellow Minnechaug coed was cheering him on at the finish.



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM AUNTIE PEI CONTINUED...

On Christmas Eve 2016, Ryan and I were chatting in my kitchen. He told me he just had his annual physical, and his doctor told him he should top out at 5'11" as an adult. He said that he thought he was growing since he was experiencing growing pains, but odd that it was only in one leg. Those words haunted me when Ryan was diagnosed with osteosarcoma that summer. Ryan fought every aspect of cancer with the strength of a gladiator, even after losing his leg that year. He busted into my house that Thanksgiving on crutches with the same spirit and love I've always known. When we lost Ryan in June of 2019, I couldn't imagine life without him and still feel this way today. His legacy, humor, fighting spirit and love of traditions live on with our new traditions

made possible by family and friends who created and support the RD26 Foundation. The RD26 annual golf tournament, road race, corn hole tournament and holiday shop support families who are fighting this horrible disease. The year after Ryan passed, I was looking through my holiday recipes on Thanksgiving and opened a recipe book that contained a white elephant gift that continues to resurface at all family parties. I knew Ryan stashed it there the previous year and laughed so hard through my tears knowing his mischievous spirit and love of tradition will live on.

Happy Holidays,  
Auntie Pei! Auntie Pei! Auntie Pei!

## RYAN'S PROSTHESIS LEGS DONATED



Nellie Zarif and leg donor recipient Gambika in Sri Lanka.

"It's a beautiful thing to see when someone is able to take something so terrible, and so awful and to give a small piece of them to change someone else's life," said Nellie Zarif Certified Prosthetist at Hanger Clinic in Worcester.

"It's a beautiful thing that Ryan's family was willing and able to do that, and I think it's a beautiful way that Ryan lives on in some ways."

very sweet relationship that we developed."

Throughout the years, Nellie and the Doyles maintained their relationship. Nellie reached out to see if they were open to donating Ryan's legs. In addition to being a Prosthetist, Nellie works with two non-profits: Limb Kind and Polus Center For Social and Economic Development. While the organizations' missions vary, Nellie provides her limb difference expertise in the communities they serve. Prosthetic components are easily donated and can be utilized internationally. However, the socket, the part that the residual limb goes into, is required for a custom fit. Nellie travels to design and make the custom sockets.

"A lot of people don't know what to do with old prosthetic devices. You know, it's like it's a part of that individual. Yet they tend to just collect dust," she said. "I asked Dee, do you still have Ryan's legs, and do you want to donate them? Because we're always looking for donations."

Nellie was first introduced to Ryan and the Doyle Family after his amputation. She designed and fit Ryan for his first prosthesis and his subsequent device. Nellie worked closely with Ryan to understand what his goals were and design a device that would allow him to achieve those goals. The two bonded over many conversations throughout both processes. Initially, Ryan was designed for a high activity and waterproof prosthesis. He then was refit for a microprocessor controlled knee.

Nellie saw Ryan and his family at the hospital often. She recalls how Dee was a strong advocate for Ryan; she'd know exactly what he needed. "It was a

Ryan's microprocessor controlled knee was first donated through the Polus Center For Social and Economic Development and went to a patient in Colombia. Most recently, Nellie traveled Sri Lanka with Limb Kind to fit Ryan's initial prosthesis. "The spirit of Ryan lives on through the donations. The kid I fit his knee with in Sri Lanka was a super active boy who was running around like crazy; he was just a little bit younger than Ryan. And, it was beautiful to see that device get put to good use again."

## RD26 BASEBALL NIGHT



The annual RD26 Baseball Night returned for its third year this past May. Rivalry prevailed as the Southwick Rams played against the South Hadley Tigers on the baseball diamond. Organized each year by Southwick baseball coach Jake Goodreau, the event raises money for the RD26 Foundation.

Congratulations to **Zach Olsen** for being awarded the Southwick Baseball Senior Scholarship. Selected by the coaches, the Foundation gives a scholarship to a senior player who displays Ryan's kindness, strength of character and concern for others.

## 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



The RD26 Foundation was proud to announce five Class of 2024 Minnechaug Regional High School seniors as the new cohort of Ryan Doyle Memorial Scholarship recipients; **Micheal Roy, Amy Dunklee, Sean Murphy, Kylie Ray and Christian Erskine**. The annual award was created to recognize students who reflect Ryan's spirit of kindness, strength of character and concern for others.

Congratulations to our 2024 Ryan Doyle Memorial Scholarship winners!

## 2024 COURAGE AWARD RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

The **Miracle League of Western Massachusetts** was recognized as the 2024 recipient of the Ryan Doyle Courage Award by the Western Mass Baseball Hall of Fame. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to providing inclusive baseball opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

This award, in honor of Ryan, recognizes individuals or organizations that demonstrate exceptional courage, strength and a passion for baseball. The Miracle League, founded in 2015, was chosen for its mission of creating an inclusive environment for all to enjoy America's favorite pastime. The nonprofit supplies adaptive facilities and volunteer support to ensure children and adults with disabilities have the opportunity to play.

In addition to providing accessible baseball programs, the Miracle League of Western

Massachusetts also fosters camaraderie and a sense of belonging within the community.

The nonprofit was presented the award at the Western Mass Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony. This annual event brings together Western Mass baseball legends, enthusiasts, community leaders and former MLB players to celebrate the inductees' accomplishments.



**Miracle League of Western MA**  
2024 Ryan J. Doyle Courage Award Recipient

## **FOURTH ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMNET**



Twenty cornhole teams battled for first place at the Fourth RD26 Annual Cornhole Tournament on a rainy day in August at Avon Old Farms School in Connecticut. The weather caused the tournament to be moved inside, but the rain-soaked cornhole players persevered as Ryan would have.

Brian and Lara Doyle organized the event, which proved competitive. **Will Lancaster and Owen**

**Callaghan** battled for and retained their companion title, as the group won for the second year in a row. Everyone enjoyed a fun afternoon, and despite the rainy weather, the event raised an unparalleled amount for the Foundation. "To all who fancy themselves good players, we hope you will come next August 2025," said Brian Doyle. "Will and Owen are super players and will be hard to beat."

## **FIFTH ANNUAL RYAN DOYLE GOLF TOURNAMNET**



For the first time in the tournament's history, it rained and thundered during the Fifth Annual Ryan Jude Doyle Memorial Golf Tournament. Despite ending early due to inclement weather, all golfers and event-goers enjoyed a fun day.

Taking place in August at the Country Club of Wilbraham, 176 golfers across two shot gun starts competed for the highly coveted golf tournament trophy. Foursome **Michelle Garvey, William Lee, Jeff Placzek and**

**Michael Langone** claimed victory this year. The champions look forward to next year's event.

"The annual tournament is a great opportunity for giving; all monies raised go directly to the Foundation to help kids with cancer, scholarships and much more. This event has been sold out year after year, and it's a privilege to play. I'm proud to support the RD26 Foundation," said tournament winner Michelle Garvey.

## **FOURTH ANNUAL RUN FOR RYAN 5K**



The Carroll Family at the road race.

The Run for Ryan 5K & 1 Mile Walk returned for its fourth year at a new location at Fountain Park in Wilbraham, MA. The November event boasted over 250 race participants, family, friends and of course, lots of dogs! This event brings together the community in memory of Ryan, and all proceeds directly benefit the RD26 Foundation to assist families affected by cancer. This race couldn't have happened without the help of Jim at Fast Track Timing for ensuring the race went smoothly, Zach Gosciminski for providing the much-needed snacks and Mercedes-Benz of Springfield for keeping everyone

hydrated with water throughout the day. For the fourth year in a row, **Michael Dorunda** took first place in the men's division. **Christine Dunn** placed first in the women's division.

*Thank you to the Ray Family and the IMI team for their continued support, as well as all the volunteers, Kristin Hicklen, Marisa Fenn and the Minnechaug students.*



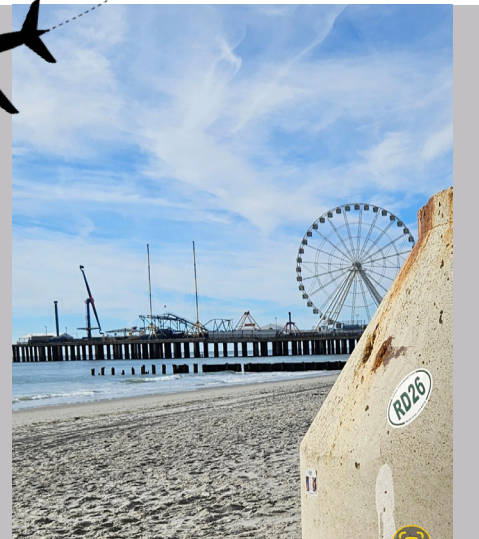
# RD26 AROUND THE WORLD



Spain



Mount Washington, NH



Atlantic City, NJ



Skinner Skate Park, MA



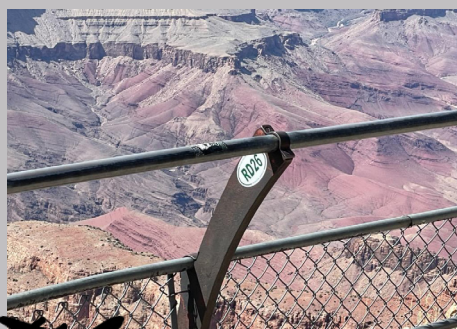
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Arizona



Arizona



Arizona

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4. Enter donation amount
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*With your donations, the RD26 Foundation supports families of those undergoing cancer treatments. Those below received \$1,000 and a backpack.*

**A young adult: brain cancer**

**A 16-year-old: osteosarcoma**

**A three-year-old: acute lymphocytic leukemia**

**A 13-year-old: ovarian cancer**

**A four-year-old: acute lymphocytic leukemia**

**A four-year-old: leukemia**

**A 17-year-old: Burkitt's leukemia**

**A 16-year-old: lymphoma**

**A four-year-old: Wilms' tumor**

*A big thank you to Bryanne Auguste & Kelly O'Brien for helping with these donations for children at UMass Medical in Worcester!*

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IN MEMORY OF RYAN JUDE DOYLE

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