

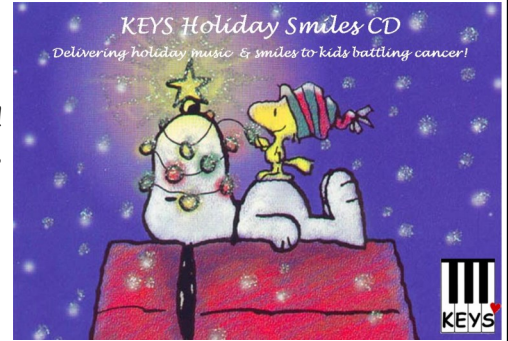


November-December Newsletter ~ 2016

## Holiday Smiles, Wishes Coming True & A Special Tribute to Owen!

Things are bustling here at the KEYS Program in preparation for our busiest and most wonderful time of year...*the holiday season*. Thanks to our wonderful donors, we are able to deliver presents, music and BIG smiles to children battling cancer and their siblings throughout the holidays. Nothing warms our hearts more than experiencing the magic of the season through the eyes, heart and smile of a child. Thank you for making so many smiles possible this holiday season...and all year long!

Our annual **Holiday Smiles CD** fundraiser has officially kicked off! For every \$25 donation we receive between now & December 31st, 2016, we will send each donor a free music CD of holiday classics to thank you for your kind donation. (See back for details!)



Our wish is for a cure for childhood cancer, but until then, we are on a mission to improve the quality of life of children battling cancer through the healing power and joy of music. Since we first started KEYS in 1993, our vision has been to reach EVERY child when they are diagnosed with cancer. Read in this issue of our newsletter how that vision is now becoming a reality!

Last, in this issue, we pay special tribute to our wonderful and sweet 2015-16 KEYS Kids Ambassador, Owen Lee. What a joy it has been to get to know Owen and his family!

All of us at the KEYS Program send along our best wishes for health, happiness, peace and smiles this holiday season and throughout the year! After all...*it's all about the smiles!*

*Colleen + Dave*


Colleen & Dave Bennett ~KEYS Founders

## KEYS New Music Toolkits - Delivering Smiles to Every Child Diagnosed with Cancer in 2017!

We are very excited to announce the KEYS Program has been awarded a national grant from the *American Legion Child Welfare Fund* to help to expand our music outreach from 44 to 250 children's hospitals and sites this coming year reaching every child diagnosed with cancer in the US! *Now that's a LOT of smiles!*

With the grant, we will publish an amazing new "Music Toolkit" that will provide great music, fun musical activities and cool stuff for kids battling cancer along with the latest music therapy research, information, resources and tools for parents and medical staff. We will visit children's hospitals and sites making music with the kids and providing each site with toolkits for their Child Life staff and oncology unit to share with parents.



Adopt-a-Site & Create Big Smiles! 

We would love for your business or group to Adopt-a-Site and create smiles with us! It is just \$500 to adopt a site of your choice for the whole year...that's just \$1.37 a day to bring joy, healing and music to hundreds of kids each year.

For more information on how to get on board, give us a call at 315-363-6446 or email us at [keysprogram@msn.com](mailto:keysprogram@msn.com). ♥

## Thanks for the Memories & Smiles, Owen!

For the past 2 years, we have had the pleasure to get to know one of the greatest, funniest, silliest and sweetest superheroes, Owen Lee, who has been our 2015-16 KEYS Kids Ambassador! Owen has been the "face" of KEYS kids, representing KEYS as the amazing superhero he is at many special events throughout the past two years. Owen has truly captured everyone's hearts here at the KEYS Program! Thank you for sharing your love and SMILE with all of us Owen! ♥

*Stay tuned for the announcement of our 2017 Ambassador in January!*



Visit us at [www.theKEYSprogram.org](http://www.theKEYSprogram.org)!

## Utica College Child Life Class



The KEYS Program's amazing music outreach Smile Crew (*Donna Mucks, Amy Boulrice and Cheri Schmalz*) made a stop at Professor Melissa Racioppa's Child Life class at Utica College this Fall! An annual stop for the KEYS Program, the college students sang along, danced along and learned about the many benefits of music in the hospital, early childhood and special needs setting. Students even got to try out our new "Music Hub"! The students now have the education, resources and tools they need to incorporate music in the care of the children they will work with in their internships and their career. We can't wait to hear about all the smiles they create!♥ #childliferocks

## Volunteer Wrap Party

Our next volunteer meeting will be our annual **Volunteer Wrap Party** on Sunday, December 11th from 1pm till 3pm at the KEYS Office in Sherrill. We will be wrapping presents to deliver to our KEYS families over the holidays and enjoying some delicious cookies, cocoa and smiles too! Contact us by email at [keysprogram@msn.com](mailto:keysprogram@msn.com) or give us call at 315-363-6446 to let us know if you will be joining us!

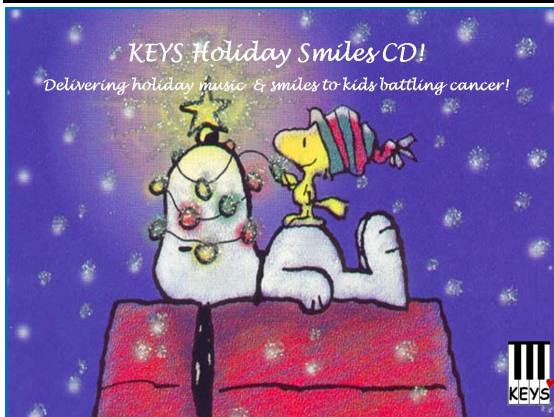
## Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Nov 8th** - KEYS workshop @ Utica College Child Life
- ◆ **Nov 20th** - The KEYS Program's 23rd Anniversary
- ◆ **Dec 11th** - Stuff the Bus Toy Pick-Up @ Birnie Bus
- ◆ **Dec 11th** - Volunteer Wrap Party 1pm-3pm @ the KEYS Office in Sherrill
- ◆ **Dec 19th through 23rd** - *Holiday Smile Tour* week delivering music & presents to our KEYS kids!

### Save the Date!

- ◆ **Feb 28th** - Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve Day!  
*Hearts available for purchase starting Jan 1st, 2017! ♥*

## Donate \$25 and Receive a Free *Holiday Smiles CD!*



From now through December 31, 2016 for every donation of \$25 you make to the KEYS Program you will receive a free **Holiday Smiles CD** as a special "thank you" for your kind donation. Songs on the CD are holiday classics that the whole family will love, performed by Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald and more! For every \$25 you donate you receive a CD...so if you donate \$100 you receive 4 CDs and so on. They make great stocking stuffers or gifts for family, friends and colleagues...and all for a good cause!♥

To get your free **Holiday Smiles CD** simply mail in the form below with your payment or order by phone by calling our office at 315-363-6446. Credit or debit card donations are available also by clicking the "DONATE" button on our website at [www.theKEYSprogram.org](http://www.theKEYSprogram.org)! Thank you!!

## *Holiday Smiles CD Donation Form*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Foundation Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of CDs you would like to receive:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total donation enclosed**

Please make check payable to: **KEYS** and mail to: **308 Sherrill Road, Suite 100, Sherrill, NY 13461**

Phone: 315-363-6446 • Email: [keysprogram@msn.com](mailto:keysprogram@msn.com) • Website: [www.theKEYSprogram.org](http://www.theKEYSprogram.org)

*The KEYS Program is a 501c3 nonprofit children's music charity federal ID # 16-1609790 registered with the IRS and NYS Division of Charities. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please consult your tax preparer.*