



Above: Scholarship recipient Mary Kaelin Puccio (center) with (from left) Julie Puccio, Anthony DeLaurentis, Natalie DeLaurentis, and Sharyn DeLaurentis. Photos courtesy of Solly's Way Foundation. Right: First Responder Meal delivery to Barrington Police with Solly's Way Board members.

## Solly's Way Foundation Distributes \$20,000 in Scholarships to 2021 Graduates

SOLLY'S WAY FOUNDATION, a nonprofit organization, distributed two \$10,000 scholarships to Katherine Shein and Mary Kaelin Puccio. Shein and Puccio are both graduates of Barrington High School. In the fall, Shein will be attending Creighton University on a pre-occupational therapy track. Puccio will be attending University of Tennessee to study kinesiology on a pre-physician's assistant track.

Recipients of Solly's Way Foundation scholarships are local students who have experienced the tragic loss of a parent or guardian. Through their loss, these individuals have remained excellent students and members of their community.

"Nobody truly understands what comes with losing a parent at such a young age," said Puccio. "You have to learn immediate independence, continue to face the obstacles of life, and do your best at school and everything else that comes with being a teenager all while grieving at the same time."

On May 3 and May 10, Solly's Way Foundation board members delivered scholarships to the recipient's homes. While these scholarships help

to alleviate the burden of paying for higher education, they are also representative of the hard work and perseverance of these students.

"This extraordinary scholarship from the Solly's Way Foundation will allow me to run cross-country and ultimately pursue a doctorate in occupational therapy," said Shein. "Thank-you, Solly's Way for believing in me and helping me honor my Dad."

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Solly's Way Foundation has continued to support students and the community. In May 2020, the organization teamed up with local restaurants to put together meals to be delivered to local police and fire stations.


"Last year, we had to postpone our annual fundraising event due to the pandemic," said Rianna DeLaurentis. "While this was unexpected, it gave us the opportunity to include local first responders in the Solly's Way community." Last year, in addition to the meals, the organization awarded five scholarships to 2020 graduates of local high schools.

Solly's Way Foundation looks forward to its next annual event to help raise awareness and build the foundation.



Katherine Shein was awarded a scholarship from Solly's Way Foundation.

### ABOUT SOLLY'S WAY FOUNDATION

In 2012, Sharyn DeLaurentis and her husband, Solly, were participating in a charity motorcycle run benefiting the Salvation Army when Solly lost his life. Following the tragic loss of her husband and their father, the DeLaurentis family received an outpouring of emotional and financial support from their friends, neighbors, and community members. Inspired by the support they received, the DeLaurentis family started Solly's Way Foundation to help others. 

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