

Leavey Foundation Helps Give Back To Pelham in Honor of Husband, Father

By Alex Wolff

Nearly a year after the attacks of September 11, 2001 changed the United States of America, two members of the Pelham Fire Department, Peter Reynolds and Joey Gioia, called fellow Pelhamite Carole Leavey with an idea.

The idea was to run a one-pitch softball tournament to help support Carole, who had lost husband NYC Fire Lt. Joseph G. Leavey in the attack at the World Trade Center, and her children, Caitlin, Kerri and Brian.

"They wanted to help us," said Mrs. Leavey. "But we wanted the money to go back into the community. This is our way of honoring Joe's memory."

And with that, the Lt. Joseph G. Leavey Foundation was born.

In 2008, the softball tournament became a golf outing and this year's event will be held on Monday, Oct. 3 at Leewood Golf Club in Eastchester.

Throughout the years, the Leavey Foundation has given back to the community in various ways. It provides a scholarship to a high school student as well as to a Bridge Academy student each year; has donated \$10,000 for the Middle School's Library; donated \$6,000 to the Hutchinson School PTA to assist with buying books; donated to the Booster Club for the purchase of a new scoreboard at Glover Field; and donations of \$5,000 each to the seventh and eighth grade to support outdoor educational programs at Sharpe Reservation and Frost Valley.

"We're a small foundation, but we like to do a lot of different little things.

It's really important for us to keep it going," said Mrs. Leavey.

Her husband, who was a lieutenant in FDNY Company 15, was very active in the Pelham community, and for the Foundation to be able to give back to the community is fulfilling for her. Her children are involved; Brian, who works at Black Rock, Inc. in Manhattan, serves on the Foundation's board. Kerri lives in San Francisco with her husband and works for a not-for-profit company called Off The Mat and Into the World. Caitlin is a junior at New York University and majors in Peace and Conflict Studies. She has done work with Tuesday's Children and America's Camp.

In an interview early last week, Mrs. Leavey acknowledged that "This time of the year is very hard." Yet in talking about the Foundation, she said, "This is something good. I can't thank the people enough. There are a lot of good people in Town. This is our way of saying thank you for the support."

The golf outing begins at 10:00am on Oct. 3 with a putting challenge at 11:30am and a 12:00pm shotgun start. The fee is \$180 per golfer, which includes on-course refreshments, locker room facilities, dinner and open bar. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for \$200 or \$400. Checks should be made payable to "Lt. Joseph G. Leavey Foundation" and can be sent to P.O. Box 8136, Pelham, NY 10803. For more information, please contact Peter Reynolds at 914-760-2627 or Brian Leavey at 914-400-4003.