



# Making a Positive Impact on Young Peoples' Lives

BY LELAND PATON  
APAWAMIS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTOR

You might remember that the most recent issue of *Apawamis Now* included an article outlining some of the latest good deeds of The Apawamis Foundation. To follow that article, we'd like to share the story of how the Foundation was started and what benefits it provides for the Club to this day.

Philanthropy has been a part of Apawamis since the Club's founding in 1890. In the early days, club members fulfilled their philanthropic aims through personal contributions, both of time and money, to local and national charities.

More organized sharing began in the 1950s. In 1956, the Westchester Golf Association, specifically the WGA's Caddie Scholarship Fund (WGA CSF), became the focus of giving. Willie Turnesa, one of the country's best amateur golfers at the time, and his friend Udo Reinach, a member of Quaker Ridge, formed the WGA CSF, with help from Tom Burke of Apawamis, who acted as treasurer during the Fund's early years. As you might already be aware from reading the Apawamis Foundation Annual Report, the connection between the CSF and Apawamis has been a close one from the very start of the Fund. For instance, Sally Francis, an Apawamis Club member, made a very generous offer in the very first year the Fund made awards (1957). Since then, Sally's gift has made it possible for the Fund to make awards to every qualified awardee.

For years, Apawamis made an annual solicitation of members to join the Bag Tag Program of the CSF by making contributions through the Club's billing system. In the '80s, in an effort to recruit, retain and reward Apawamis caddies, members were asked to increase their contributions, with a "bonus" pool established to benefit our caddies directly, as well as funding our annual contribution to the WGA CSF. While this style of contributing was beneficial in some ways, the contributions were not afforded tax deductible treatment due to the mixed-use of those funds.

So during the Apawamis Annual Meeting in 1998, Apawamis member Bernard Magdelain rose to make a suggestion that the Club establish its own Foundation, which would qualify as an IRS 501(c)(3) organization, thereby making contributions tax deductible. It was also suggested that the Club expand the potential beneficiaries of the Foundation to include Club staff and children of Club staff and caddies as well. The proposal met with support from other members, and it was clear that we would soon be on our way to making it happen.

Working with a local law firm and the accounting firm of Condon, O'Meara (the Club's long-time accounting firm), we began the process of seeking the coveted 501(c)(3) qualification. Finally, after filings with NY State and the IRS, The Foundation was awarded its tax-exempt status on November 3, 2000.

Many of the features of the WGA CSF organization, including applications, qualifications and mission, served as models for the establishment of the Apawamis Foundation.

The Foundation's primary mission, as stated in the Annual Report, is to serve the educational needs of our caddies, staff and their children. The Foundation can also contribute to other charitable organizations serving similar missions.

The original Board of the Foundation was made up of four Club members: Bob Dunn, John Jay, Lee Paton, Mason Rees and our head golf professional at the time, Mike Summa. On the advice of counsel, the Board of the Foundation is separate from the Board

of the Club, and it operates as an independent entity. In the years since its establishment, the Foundation has added several directors, including past presidents of the Club and key staff members, as well as other members who have shown interest in the Foundation's activities, especially those with past experience in charitable organizations and educational institutions. The current Board is noted in the Annual Report.

Since the first awards were made in 2000, the Apawamis Foundation has provided scholarships to 79 awardees, as well as continuing to make contributions to the WGA CSF. The WGA CSF, in turn, has supported many Apawamis caddies and others in service to golf at the Club. Individual Foundation scholarship awards have ranged from \$1,000 to more than \$5,000 annually, according to each awardee's need. WGA CSF awards range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 annually, again, according to need.

As noted in the previous edition of the *Apawamis Now*, the Foundation exercised its ability to provide funding for the educational needs of staff and the children of staff by purchasing laptops for the children of several employees and caddies to facilitate their at-home learning experiences during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Foundation's main fundraising activity is a once-a-year solicitation of the members that takes place in July, facilitated through the Club's billing system. We also receive contributions from others, including a generous annual donation from the United States Senior Golf Association Memorial

Fund. Recent fundraising has exceeded \$100,000 annually due to the generosity of our members. All donations are tax deductible.

All members of the Club's staff and caddie corps are annually reminded and encouraged to make an application for Foundation awards. The response from awardees is always appreciative and the Foundation's presence is a wonderful affirmation of the Club's dedication to its employees and caddies.

From time to time, Apawamis members' generosity has also been successful in addressing the urgent needs of both staff and caddies. For example, recently, the Club lost two revered individuals, Jorge Torres, the Club's bar manager, and Peter Phillips, a senior caddie. Both men had close relationships with members and each had young families. In both cases, separate member solicitations succeeded in providing important immediate financial support for their families. And, on a continuing basis, the Foundation will be providing scholarship support for Jorge's and Peter's children.

We thank you for your continued support of the Foundation and other worthy causes, especially through these uncertain times. For more information about the Foundation and its workings, feel free to contact any of the current or former Foundation Board members.

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