

The Victor Zando Foundation Newsletter 2013

Our Mission: The Victor Zando Foundation has been established as a not-for-profit corporation to preserve the memory and spirit of Victor by engaging in the types of activities that marked his quiet, extraordinary life. Victor gave his time, energy and resources and touched the lives of so many people. Our goal as an organization is to continue to do good works in his memory.

2003 THE VZF 10th ANNIVERSARY 2013

In January of 2003, Tom Ramhold got a few family members and friends together and explained the “plan” that he had in mind. It was a simple one: “Let’s do some good things in Vic’s name.” That simple thought was the catalyst and inspiration for the Victor Zando Foundation. Tom, being Victor’s best friend since kindergarten and his brother-in-law, knew Vic better than anyone. He knew Vic would have been thrilled at the thought of his name being associated with helping people and doing “some good things.” Here we are now, ten years later, and we have definitely done some good things!

The VZF has awarded scholarships and/or tuition assistance to over 40 fine young students. We have expanded our Tuition Assistance Program to now include four schools. We have worked on various community outreach projects over the last 10 years, including Lunch Break of Red Bank, the St. Vincent DePaul Society, several youth sports organizations, Blankets Warming Hearts Project—to name a few.

After the devastation from Hurricane Sandy, we went directly to those in need. Volunteers from VZF dropped off food and supplies to the people in New Dorp Beach. We also worked with the administration from P.S. 41 in their effort to help the many families affected from their school. The VZF donated gift cards for Lowe’s and Kmart to 151 families from P.S. 41.

Going forward, we will continue our commitment to community outreach. In addition, we are focused on expanding our Tuition Assistance Program. This program was started with the idea that we could help a family meet tuition demands if they were struggling to do so due to an illness, loss of employment, death

in the family, etc. The idea was to “keep kids where they want to be”—at the school where they are happy and thriving. We are currently working with five Catholic schools and are planning to expand in 2014.

Everything that we have been able to accomplish over the last ten years has only been possible because of the support from the members and sponsors of the VZF. We thank you for your consistent generosity and for allowing us the privilege of keeping Victor’s memory and spirit alive.

thank you

Special thanks
to

Tom Gioia (Msgr. Farrell High School '84)
for his generous support and
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[memories] of Victor

I have lots of memories about Vic, always having a great time when I was young and visiting Staten Island. He was my big cousin. But one of the most lasting memories I have of Vic is seeing him in my hospital room after giving birth to the triplets. I was a little woozy, but I knew he was there. He found the time after working all day to come and see me and he brought me one red rose. What a thoughtful thing to do. Vic, you are truly missed. —Cathy

There are so many memories of Vic!! From grammar school when I thought he was sooo much older than us (and cooler), going to the Farrell games, sneaking in his room in the summer (it had A.C. and was a shrine to the Packers). New Year's eve at my first house, the first time Vic was there, and I gave him a tour and he was so sweet and complimentary. I will never forget that as well as many other occasions! —Erin

My favorite memory of Victor happened at Dorothea's. We were at her house for a get together and my stepson Alex who was young at the time, started playing the piano. Everyone was in the kitchen and we were in the living room. Victor came in to watch him play. He got so excited by how young and good he was that he got me excited and Alex felt great. Victor was one of the nicest, warmest people I have ever known. —Elizabeth

It is hard to believe that it was 39 years ago when Vic Zando impacted my life. I was going into my sophomore year at Monsignor Farrell HS and desperate to make the football team, that a year earlier failed to make. I was fortunate enough to be placed in summer captain's workouts with Vic as the leader. Little did I know what I was in for—Vic's workouts were borderline insane! Between hit-its in the median of Hylan Boulevard to sprints on Great Kills Beach, Vic was busy working me into the best shape of my life. I began to believe in myself and my ability to play ball at an incredibly intense level. Fortunately I survived the summer workouts and better yet made the Farrell football team that went on to be undefeated for the next 3 years. Little did I realize then, how important a lesson Vic would teach me and other teammates. Never think you are too small, over-matched or inferior and always maintain that attitude (that edge). —Frank Fabiano (#67)

My fondest memory of Vic...hard to choose, like all of us so many to reflect on. I refer back to my earliest memories. The first one filled with lots of laughter and running from getting pelted with "itchy balls" (spiky seed pods) falling from the tall trees in the front yard of Hillcrest Street. Victor and his cronies (to remain nameless) would gather as many as possible and chase each other around throwing them with fiery speed. If my memory serves me well, I was always on the receiving end...or so it felt like it.

On the flip side I can recall sharing a quiet moment sitting on Vic's lap watching Dorothea perform at St. Clare's Christmas Show, an annual event. These two are just the tip of the iceberg of my Victor and everlasting Zando memories growing up. It seems to be this type of big brother relationship continued through adulthood. I remember waiting for the express bus one late winter evening downtown on Broadway and bumping into Vic. After a big hug, the first thing he said to me was, "What are you doing out here? It's late, it's not safe." I responded, "I went out with friends after work." He looked at me with that tilt of his head...as if to say "Seriously, are you old enough to do that?" I was. Needless to say, he waited with me until my bus arrived. —Gabriella

Victor Zando...just saying his name conjures up so many emotions and memories. A few sentences could never paint an adequate picture of this wonderful man.

Vic was an original. On the softball field he often told us that, "I am willing to sacrifice my body and yours for the sake of the team"...and that "pain hurts you— injury hurts the team." This, from a man who had one working leg—and who appeared to be held together mostly by duct tape and ace bandages. Ever the helpful coach, he reminded his outfielders that "if you're gonna run that far you may as well catch it!"

At the track he counseled us in handicapping—telling us that you "never bet chalk." At the poker table he would foretell your hand as he dealt: "possible crap" if the cards looked bad and a "busted ass" if you got lucky.

As a guide to the sights and scenes in New York City, Vic said there was "no need to ever go north of Wall Street." When it came to the movies, if it didn't have Donna Reed there was no reason to see it. As for the theatre he would ask, "Why would I go sit in the dark with a bunch of people I don't know and probably don't like?"

Whenever there was work to be done, he was the first one to arrive—and the last to leave. When there was a person in need, Vic was a friend indeed. Yet Victor was not one for the spotlight. He did his job quietly and he gave everything he had to give. Nothing was ever held back...especially his love and his laughter.

Victor Zando was a champion as an athlete and as a friend, as a brother, an uncle, a son, a husband and a father. He was a true "servant leader" before the term was coined. He inspired us then—he inspires us still. —Brian



On October 29, 2013, the VZF lost one of its most loyal and special members, Victor's aunt, Norma Ortore. Norma never missed a foundation event. She loved seeing everyone—family, old friends and new friends. At the outing she could always be found under "Norma's Tent," surrounded by family and friends and having a great time. She brought joy and laughter wherever she went. She will be missed...

Norma at the 2012 outing with baby Adrianna

Day at the Races – Monmouth Park 2013



The VZF would like to thank all of our loyal friends and supporters who donated baskets for the raffle table. A special thank you to Susan & Brendon McKibbin for donating the grand prize—a Marriott Vacation—and to Kelly & John Ward for the Beacon Hill County Club prize.



Stay tuned for more information about our 1st Annual Winter Event

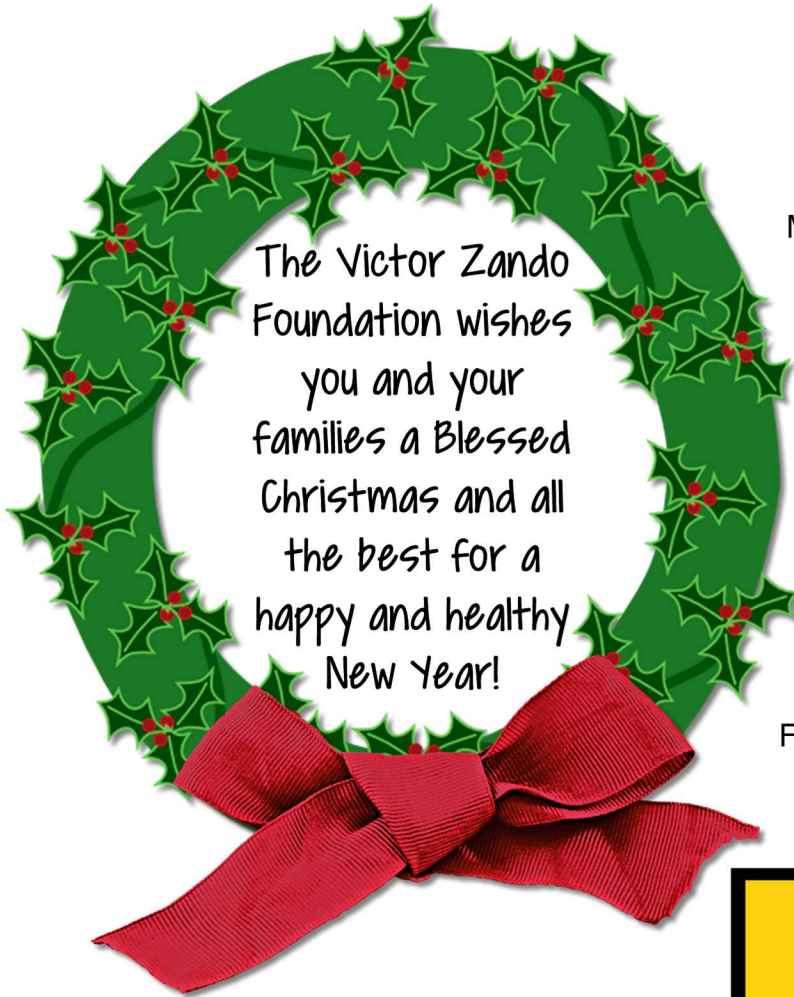
CONGRATS!

Four outstanding graduates received the VZF Memorial Award and Scholarship in 2013 to use toward higher education

Msgr. Farrell High School
Robert Yohrling, *St. Francis College*

St. Leo the Great School
Riley Kehoe, *St. John Vianney High School*
Jack Croken, *Christian Brothers Academy*

St. Clare School
Matthew DiBenetto, *Msgr. Farrell High School*



The Victor Zando Foundation wishes you and your families a Blessed Christmas and all the best for a happy and healthy New Year!



To make a contribution to the Victor Zando Foundation or for more information, please contact us

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