



WISH News

Winter 2021

Member Spotlight:

Lynn Duffy

“The Queen of Corona”

By: Genevieve Shaw

The Queen of Corona, was the name her friends gave, Lynn Duffy, and it was the perfect fit. She drove around Rockaway spreading joy and cheer during a time all of us were living with fear.



Lynn getting the crowd excited as “Buddy The Elf” during WISH’s Santa Car Parade.
Photo from the Rockaway Times

She began as The Easter Bunny, in the back of her truck, waving to the kids to come outside so they didn’t feel stuck. Then drive-bys became all the craze, and dressing up in costumes is how Lynn spent most of her days. A dinosaur, a leprechaun, a swim coach, a lifeguard, a school girl, Uncle Sam, and a shark, sometimes her car parades went on until after dark.

Next up the SFDS Class of 2020 needed some love. Eleven years in their school and they needed to say goodbye with some help from their town; so Lynn led a bike parade in a cap and gown. The graduates followed her truck, and Rockaway came out to wish The SFDS Class of 2020 the best of luck!

I guess the most fitting of all was how it would wrap up. Lynn knew just like the Grinch that Christmas isn’t bought in a store. She knew that Christmas meant a little bit more. She talked with the Rockaway WISH crew and they all knew just what to do. Dressed in their Christmas best from the Grinch, to the Elf, to the big man himself. Up 129, to the boulevard, ending on Shore Front Parkway; people couldn’t stop talking about how it made all the kids’ day! They waved to the kids, as they drove out of sight – Wishing Merry Christmas to All and 2020 a Goodnight!!



Lynn with her kids, Summer, Ty, & Dakota, spreading cheer throughout Rockaway in some of their best costumes!

NEW YEAR NEW LEADERSHIP

The Wish board would like to introduce our new officers. We are so excited to see what these amazing women will bring to their new roles.

President - Elizabeth Duffy

Vice President - Beth Hanning

Treasurer - LouAnn Mannino

We would also like to thank Kelli Donohue Tirado (President), Loretta Courtney (Vice President), and Jean Condon (Treasurer) for their many years as officers. WISH would not be the organization it is today without your leadership over the years.

OUR MISSION

- To recognize the needs of the community and volunteer our time and talents to assist our neighbors during difficult times.
- To promote participation in charitable events, particularly those that bring attention to and support causes that affect the lives of women and children.
- To encourage a sense of civil obligation and community service in the Rockaways.
- To foster new friendships and support networks amongst women in the Rockaways.
- To raise funds and provide financial assistance to members of the Rockaway community in need and to causes which promote positive development in the Rockaways.
- To inspire the young women of the Rockaways to be compassionate, understanding and active members of the community.

WISH COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

In 2015 the WISH board members decided that we wanted to offer a one time scholarship to graduating 8th graders who performed community service and whose mothers were members of WISH. Our first winner was Connor Bradwisch, son of longtime member Sarah Bradwisch. Since then we have given out 6 scholarships to 6 scholars. In 2019 we had two winners because our judges could not decide on one winner. We usually announce this award at our annual Memorial Day fundraiser, but even with the pandemic we still found a way to award Maggie Kelly (pictured smiling with Jean Condon as she received her award) the 2020 WISH Community Service Scholarship. Maggie is the daughter of member Danielle Kelly. Our application information is sent to active WISH members in March so be on the lookout if you know of a deserving 8th grader.



To join WISH of Rockaway or pay your dues (\$50 annually), you can send your information and a check to us at: 533 Beach 126th Street, Belle Harbor, NY 11694 or you can send money via Paypal through our email: info@rockawaywish.org