

Gift Card Fundraiser

by Pamela Miller

As we all know, the pandemic has been difficult for everyone. SDSF is no different. Donations are down and while we have not actively been asking for donations, trying to be understanding of everyone's difficult situations, that will have to change.

For my part, I have started a *Gift Card Campaign*. I am asking for people to send gift cards to SDSF that can be used for meals, online shopping, or anything else that could be useful for our families who are facing transplant. This can help alleviate one specific need that the foundation funds.

As many like to have a specific thing to see their donations going towards, rather than just going to a "General Fund," I thought this would be a perfect way to ask for help for SDSF. Many grocery stores offer points for purchases, I know mine can sometimes offer 4x fuel points for gift card purchases. So, the purchase of a gift card will help you and help the Foundation!

Specifically, we can use these gift cards for meals for out of town families who are facing long hospital stays or transplants. Store gift cards or Amazon gift cards can be used either as gifts to older patients, or to help purchase gifts to send directly to the younger patients so they have a gift to open while they are inpatient - just a small gift to help them know that they are not alone. Everyone loves to get a treat from Starbucks, ice cream shops, restaurants, etc. Our families facing their most difficult crisis are no different, and many just can't think about treating themselves during these times.

Your gift of a gift card to SDSF can directly help these patients and parents. We have all been in a position where we are overwhelmed, scared, and just beyond our limits. Please help us help our families during these difficult times.

Another thing I did a few years ago for a fundraiser for SDSF (and am working on doing this again as the weather starts to change) is an Afghan Raffle. I hand crocheted an afghan, then I sold raffle tickets for it. After a few weeks of selling tickets, I held a drawing and Joni Bodron, one of our families, won my cream colored crocheted afghan. I am currently working on a new afghan and will be selling tickets in the next month or so. I'll be posting it on Facebook and hope to have a good return for the Foundation. Last time, this didn't bring in as much money for the Foundation as I was hoping for, but even small fundraisers can really help out and they do add up.

Don't be afraid to try something, anything, to help fundraise for SDSF! The Foundation does SO MUCH to directly help our families with education, support, family conferences, and so much more, not to mention the medical conferences we attend to educate and raise awareness, and the research studies we fund. We can't do this without support from our families too.

Mail Your Gift Card to:
Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome Foundation
P.O. Box 6723
Florence, KY 41022