

2008-2009 Annual Report

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Mission

The purpose of The Sean Costello Memorial Fund for Bipolar Research is to apply Sean's celebrity and the love of Sean's fans and fellow musicians to increase research for treatment of Bipolar Disorder, develop and support education for early diagnosis and intervention, and translate the human side of bipolar disorder and its severity to improve outcomes and resources, especially for those without insurance, targeting the musical community.

Executive Summary

This report reflects a calendar year, not our fiscal year activity, which would have concluded on December 31, 2008 for several reasons, not the least of which was my emotional state. There is no way to prepare for the loss of a loved one, never mind one's child. The concept of this organization emanated from a frustration with health professionals and interventions that left Sean struggling to find a way to get better. I immediately felt that if we had more information and better treatment, Sean's passing could be a rare rather than common tragedy. I also knew that people are not always sympathetic to overdose victims, as if they deserve their fate. But as Sean's friend, Levon Helm, was quoted as saying: "Sean didn't die from sex, drugs and rock and roll." That wasn't who Sean was. No one grows up wishing to be addicted to a substance. Certainly, Sean's aspirations were far greater than that, and he worked hard to achieve them.

In spite of unspeakable grief, much was accomplished in our first year, so much of it due to the effect Sean had on so many people. We were granted our not for profit status, something that is essential to successful fundraising; we recruited an incredible Board of Directors and attracted a phenomenal Advisory Board who has already begun new, relevant research. In Atlanta, we pulled off in 6 weeks a beautiful and passionate tribute to Sean, while several others dedicated amazing benefits in his honor. The incredible generosity of all of those who knew Sean or who are moved by his story has given me the energy to continue this work even in the face of understandable challenges.

As described in our first newsletter, we are in our infancy and are just in the process of articulating how we can best realize our mission. To that end, we are supporting conference calls with members of our Advisory Board; we have initiated an unbelievable web site; we have invested in materials that spread the cause; and, we are sponsoring our first Strategic Planning meeting. Our cause was even featured in an article in Blues Revue! By this time next year, we should be on our way to accomplishing clear and achievable goals.

The most important message that I would like to share is that the Fund wouldn't exist without each and every one of you. Every time I get a notice that someone has donated their hard earned money, I am once again hopeful that what we have started is worth finishing. There is no doubt that Sean left an indelible impression as a musician and a person, and my spirits are lifted each time someone does something in his memory. Nonetheless, the success of this cause rests squarely on us: those who know Sean would still be with us if the choice had been his.

Board of Directors

President - Debbie Costello Smith

Vice President - Glenn H. Smith

Secretary - Allison Dellamaggiora

Treasurer - Patti Beaman

Melissa Bauer

Bridget Costello

Aileen Kenneson, Ph.D.

Jon Liebman

Amy Pollick, Ph.D.

Manda Pullen Turetsky

Richard Rosenblatt

Michael Rothschild

Scientific Advisory Committee

Sheri Johnson, Chair

Richard Bolton, Esq.

Debbie Costello Smith

Thilo Deckersbach, Ph.D.

Julie Malbrancq

Greg Murray, Ph.D.

Andrew Nierenberg, MD

Ihsan Salloum, Ph.D.

Jonathan Schooler, Ph.D.

Jonathan Smallwood, Ph.D.

Eric Youngstrom, Ph.D.

Activity

It has been a year since Sean passed and the consequent inception of the Sean Costello Memorial Fund for Bipolar Research. The form that the Fund would take was vague for many reasons: the primary being the unexpected passing of Sean and the recognition of what we did not know to be able to save him. What I did know was that Sean suffered and died as a consequence of a disease that was treated ineffectively. Sean owned his problems and sought help from many people, but effective help eluded him. When I founded his memorial fund, I knew that he must not have been alone in his struggle. I had no idea how prevalent his issues were and the ground swell of support that would come our way.

During this year, despite the shock and grief of Sean's passing, much has been accomplished. Most of this progress is attributable to his unbelievable network of friends and fans. In less than a year, there were no fewer than 5 memorial concerts. We were designated a 501(c)(3) corporation by the IRS, making us eligible for matching funds as a not-for-profit organization, and, we have raised over \$20,000 much of it from individual contributions from people who were touched by Sean or our cause. We even had an article written about us in the June/July issue of Blues Revue!

Intrinsic to our success is a clear mission with goals and objectives. While our core mission remains stable: funding ways to help musicians with bipolar disorder get effective treatment while supporting early diagnosis, education and research, our goals are organic, evolving as we garner information. Though our fundraising efforts have been overwhelmingly successful for such a young organization, our reserves are clearly not sufficient to support an ongoing program. We will have to mobilize our resources to obtain grants and partnerships to effect our goals. This, of course, takes time and talent. As a totally volunteer organization, it is amazing how much has been accomplished; however, to move forward, we will need to intensify our efforts.

Our Mission

We have, as an organization, established a three prong mission: education, intervention and research. To date, two of those are in play.

Education

In the education realm, we have a beautiful website (www.seancostellofund.org) which includes links to many resources on Bipolar Disorder.

Additionally, we have held our first annual benefit concert where brochures and literature were distributed. This was augmented just recently at the Blues Music Awards in Memphis (Sean received the 2nd and 3rd nominations of his career!) where brochures, bumper stickers and pins were distributed to attendees of the Delta Groove party by an amazing friend of Sean's, Dar Lopez. Hailing from South Florida and host of a well known Blues radio program, she has vowed to continue to spread the word about Sean and the Fund. There is much more to be done in education for sure, but just taking away the stigma of mental illness and placing the discussion in an open forum is the first step.

Research

As for research, we are unbelievably blessed with talent in every aspect of the issue, led by Dr. Sheri Johnson of the University of California, Berkeley. She has recruited scientists who are renown for their expertise in such related areas as: creativity, sleep disorders, etc., including some as far away as Australia! (For a complete roster of our scientific advisory committee, please see our website.) To me, research is the brain of the organization. The more I know about bipolar disorder, the more I see what is unknown. Diagnosis takes 8 years, on the average, during which time people self-medicate. This compounds the problem of diagnosis and requires expert treatment. Medication that may work for the average person, often results in diminished creativity - an obvious issue for a musician. One tenet of treatment is a scheduled life, again, difficult at best for someone who tours for a living and has a mandatory irregular schedule. Both creativity and social anxiety have been linked to the disorder, as they are frequently indigenous to the musical community. Sean was frustrated by the inadequate treatment he received and each failed mode furthered his frustration. I am committed to working with this dedicated team to try to find the best, most comprehensive ways to help this population.

Intervention

Intervention is much more complicated for many reasons. First, if we don't know what works for this group, how do we know what to offer? Secondly, musicians frequently have no insurance thus, needing help to pay for services. Finally, bricks and mortar are expensive to erect and require ongoing seed money. We are currently investigating possible partnerships to make something available to our community. This is, to me, the heart of our mission and its end goal: effective intervention. We must offer hope and help to this underserved and hard working population. Not one other person should be lost while trying to get help. Not one other mother's son or daughter. Not one sister or brother. Not one friend or colleague. Not one. In future issues, I hope to update you on the progress of the Fund or provide information related to Bipolar Disorder. In the interim, listen to Sean's music: it's unbelievably uplifting. Support local musicians. Pay for their art in whatever form; it is their intellectual property and their livelihood. Learn about Bipolar Disorder and talk about it and Sean. His is a beautiful, sad, compassionate story. We need to eliminate the stigma of mental health problems by bringing them into the light.

Bipolar Resources

www.dbsalliance.org
www.nami.org
www.mayoclinic.com
www.moodtracker.com

Events

- 2009 -

THE FIRST ANNUAL SEAN COSTELLO MEMORIAL
FUND FOR BIPOLAR RESEARCH BENEFIT CONCERT
Sun. Mar. 1, 2009
North Atlanta High Center for the Arts

CHICKEN RAID 09
Sat., Mar. 21 and Sun., Mar. 22, 2009
Northside Tavern
Atlanta, GA

SAIL ON - A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE
OF SEAN COSTELLO

Northside Tavern
Atlanta, GA
Fri. Apr. 17 2009

- 2008 -

SONIA LEIGH CD RELEASE & BENEFIT CONCERT
Fri. Nov. 14, 2008
Smith's Olde Bar
Atlanta, GA

23rd ANNUAL WRFG LABOR DAY BLUES BARBEQUE
HONORING SEAN COSTELLO (1979-2008)
Mon. Sept. 1, 2008
Park Tavern
Atlanta, GA

SEAN COSTELLO MEMORIAL CONCERT
Sun. Jul. 6, 2008
Sportsmen's Tavern
Buffalo, NY

Fundraising Tools

GoodSearch and GoodShop - Support our Cause while you Search and Shop

What if The Sean Costello Memorial Fund for Bipolar Research earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause?

[GoodSearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results, and watch the donations add up!

[GoodShop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

Just go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and be sure to enter Sean Costello Memorial Fund as the charity you want to support. We also suggest adding the GoodSearch toolbar to your browser by following the instructions here: <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx>

Recognition

30th Annual Blues Music Awards - Sean Costello Nominated in Two Categories

Sean Costello was nominated for two Blues Music Awards in the categories of Best Contemporary Blues Male Artist and Best Contemporary Blues Album for We Can Get Together.

Sean's parents, Debbie & Glenn Smith, were in the audience in Memphis as winners were announced on May 7, 2009. Although Sean was favored to win in the Best Contemporary Blues Album category, Buddy Guy swept all

categories. If you don't already own Sean's acclaimed album, We Can Get Together, you can purchase it and other items through our [online store](#).

[Read full list of Nominees, Projected Winners, and Winners here.](#)

The Fund's 1st Benefit Concert a Success - Event Review Courtesy of Metromix Atlanta

Family, friends and fans of the late blues recording artist Sean Costello, braved the snow Sunday to attend the [First Annual Sean Costello Memorial Fund for Bipolar Research Benefit Concert](#). The event, held at Costello's alma mater, the North Atlanta High Center for the Arts, featured an incredible lineup of blues musicians including Lurrie Bell, The Wood Brothers, King Johnson, Soul Shakers and Felix and the Cats with Jon Liebman. In addition to great music, there was also a live auction.

Costello, a blues recording artist praised as one of the main torch-bearers of the blues flame for the next generation, passed away in Atlanta, on Tuesday, April 15th, one day before his 29th birthday.

The man who wrote "I've got a light that keeps on shining" is doing just that thanks to his music and the work of the fund started by his mother, Debbie Costello Smith. Smith said the fund's mission is to apply Sean's celebrity and the love of Sean's fans and fellow musicians to increase research for treatment of Bipolar Disorder.

A PR Connection for the Fund - www.markwhitacre.com

Mark Whitacre, Ph.D. has an interesting story that will be told this Fall in The Informant! starring Matt Damon. Please check out his website for more information. Mark has graciously adopted The Sean Costello Memorial Fund for Bipolar Research and agreed to promote our cause to educate others about bipolar disorder. Mark's website has recently been updated to include a link to and an entire page about the Fund.

SAIL ON: A Musical Celebration of the Life of Sean Costello - Organized by Jon Liebman

The SAIL ON Celebration, held a day after what would have been Sean's 30th birthday (Friday, April 17th, 2009), at Northside Tavern was filled with friends, fans and fellow musicians. Performers included:

- UNCLE SUGAR with Eddie Tigner, Nathan Nelson, Josh McCormick
- BURNT BACON with Oliver Wood, Jon Liebman, Chris Uhler, Dave Roth
- BILL SHEFFIELD
- JOE McGUINNESS
- MUDCAT

For a listing of all Benefit Concerts, please visit: <http://www.seancostellofund.org/benefit-concerts.html>

The Sean Costello Memorial Fund Web Presence

Facebook Cause Page - <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/129541>

Facebook Fan Page - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sean-Costello-Memorial-Fund-for-Bipolar-Research/97347234910?ref=ts>

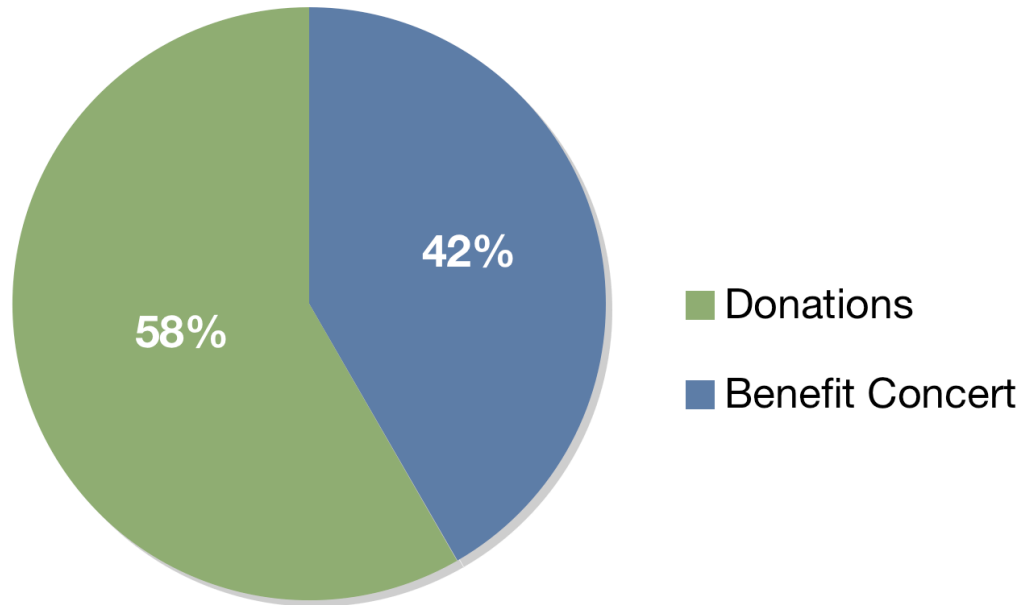
Linked In - <http://www.linkedin.com/profile?viewProfile=&key=47492075>

MySpace Music - <http://www.myspace.com/seancostellofund>

YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/user/seancostellofund>

Finances

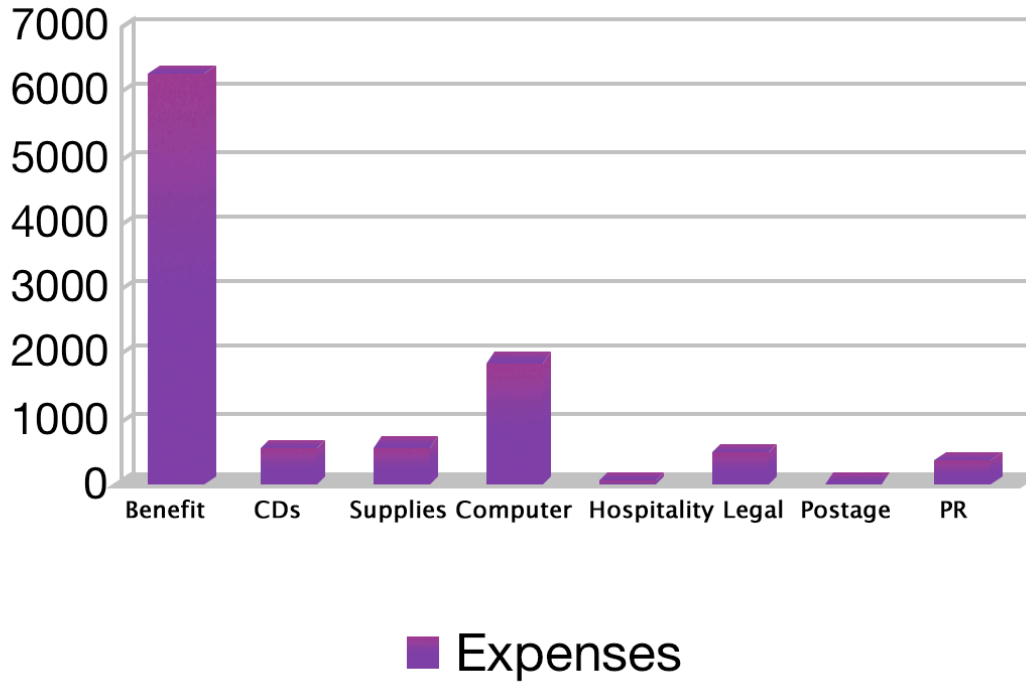
Income Sources



Benefit Concert \$ 14124.00

Donations \$ 19704.71

Annual Expense Summary



Benefit Concert \$ 6288.28

CDs \$ 540.24

Supplies \$ 583.20

Computer \$ 1862.77

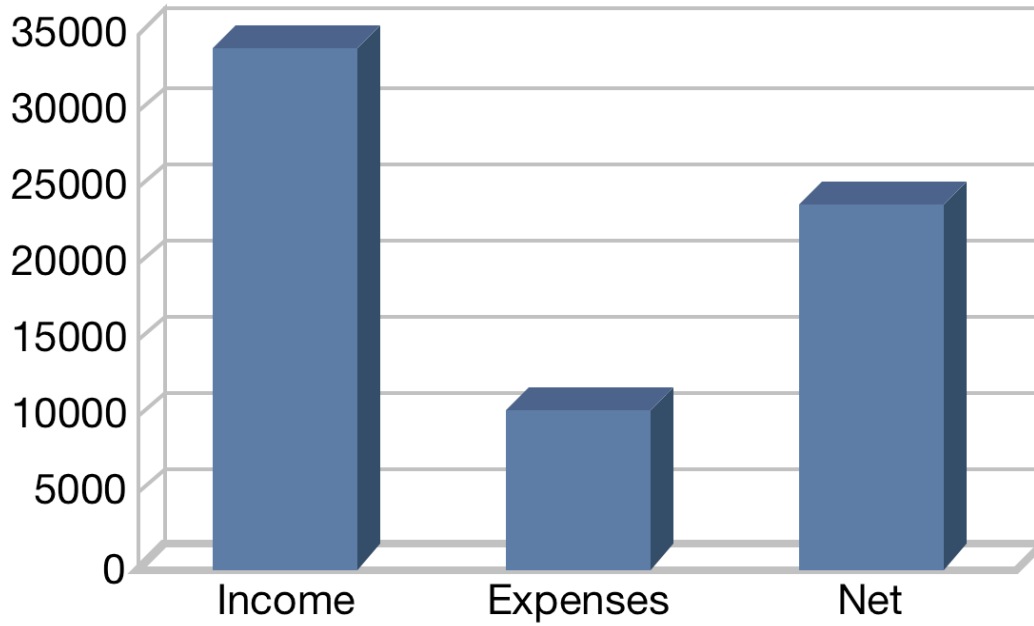
Hospitality \$ 70.00

Legal \$ 470.00

Postage \$ 27.48

PR \$ 345.05

Annual Net



Income \$ 33828.71

Expenses \$ 10187.02

Net \$ 23641.49

Donors (Paypal, Check or Cash)

Cynthia Adler	Sharon Eileen Edwards	Robyn Liebman
Rachel Alley	Tracy & Brad Ellis	Paul Linden
Drew Alston	Susan Engisch	Lawrence Lindstrom
Lauren Arno	Dorlein Family	Little Brother Lessons
Michelle Arthington	Zelma Fink	Sonia Livingston
Zach Baker	Mary Flynn	Stacey Locke
The Baxter International Foundation Matching Gift Program	Phoebe Freund	Darlene Lopez
Patricia Beaman	Lynn & Jeff Glenn	Bryan McClenning
Tommy Bowers	Kris Gloer	Brian McCombs
Rick Callahan	Debra Gomes	Jenni McCoy
Karen Canete	Virginia Guthrie	Susy Meier
John Carey	Margaret Hairston	The Mendoza Family
Ree Case	Laura Hassett	Louise Milanese-DiBacco
Jason Chapman	Robin Hradsky	Pamela Miles
Linda Coarsey	Clarice Hughes and Family	James Monteith
Denny Cook	Tamara Hunnicutt-Wolfe	T. Mark Moore (Petrosouth)
Kendra Cook	Tom Hyslop	Josh Needle
Helene Cullen	Kit & Amy Kiefer	George Neeman
Marion Daigler	George and Betty Klein	Helen Nelling
Rebecca Dallidis	Knochel	Robert O'Hara
Bob Damato	Joe Knowlson	Stasia Ogden
Michael Delaney	Mrs. Antoinette Kurz	Anna Pflieger
John Della Maggiora	Nicole Kurz-McDowell	Jan Pierce
Dr. Donald H. Ross, DMD	Paul Lamb	Misty Pinkston
Erin Dover	Gerald I. Lawhorn	JB Pinkston
Eric Ducoff	Jeff Lawhorn	Julie Pittman
Donald E. Miller	Dr. Leslie Lawhorn Neely	Amy Pollick
Cathy Edge	Dr. & Mrs. Paul Liebman	Denise Marie Pouliot

Donors (Paypal, Check or Cash) - continued

Lisa Przepasniak	Marta Slosarska	Kelli Stripling
Lois Rigwood	Charlene Smiley Crafton	Leslie Thrasher
Gregg Sansone	Katherine Smith	Libby Titus-Fagen
Laura Schuster	Julie Smith	Meghan Toups
Jan Shearin & Alan Lazzara	Jennifer Smith	Mary Trauner
Julie Simmons	T. Smith & J. Smith	Sharon Uittenhout
Julie Simon	Curtis A. Souza	Ellyn Webb
Betty & Pat Singleton	John Straw	Douglas Wilson

Facebook Cause Donors

Kelly Averill	Mike Dutton	Susy Meier
Sarah Baker	Cat Edge	Hope Miller
Zach Baker	Lady Feathergreen	Amanda Minchew Hall
Melissa Bauer	Maureen Fermoyle	George Minchew
Daniel Blumenthal	Alison Fine	Harry Oman
Elaine Blumenthal	Marci Floersheim Silverman	Henry Parrilla
Lisa Bryan	Michele Gouveia	Eric Pullen
Jim Carty	Karen Greene	Anne Sauer
Randy Chapman	Traci Gross Gingold	Scott
Cate Chused	Tom Hyslop	Deborah Sherman
Tom Coggin	Jim Keisel	Debbie Costello Smith
Bridget Costello	Aileen Kenneson-Adams	Kelli Stripling
Matthew Cudrin	Michael Knapp	Janet Tackett
Rebecca Dallidis	Erik Larson	Susan Gayle Todd
Allison Smith Dellamaggiora	Robyn Liebman	Claudia Tuttleman
Kerry Dockery	Chad Mason	Andrew Wiesenberg
Reid Doughten	Holly Marie Mazoch	Rebecca Wood

Benefit Concert Committee

Lauren Arno	Allison Dellamaggiora	Megan Tackett
Melissa Bauer	Jon Liebman	Manda Pullen Turetsky
Patti Beaman	Donald Schellhaas	Lindsey Warren
Bridget Costello	Debbie and Glenn Smith	
Bartley Cross	Kelli Stripling	

Benefit Concert Volunteers

Laurie Antour	Kim Frazier Shaughnessy	Susy Meier
Don Auensen	Magic Fred	Ellen Preston
Jeanne Auensen	John Gibson	Paula Propst
Garrett Bailey	Barbara Hilke	Deb Pruett
Kevin Berry	Martin Houston	Judy Rowe
Nancie Branch	Julia Lloyd	Larry Stotts
Jen Burch	Mike Lynch	Bill Swing
Jill Conrey	Cindy Mauthe	Larry Tackett
Bob Fay	Coyote McGrane	Debbie Varco
Joanne Fay	Jerico McGrane	