

The Greatest Generation Leaves a Legacy of Hope for Future Generations

For Frank and Rosemary Liegner, learning that their baby grandson, Kitts, would have permanent vision loss was just as painful and challenging as it was for his parents. Fearing that Kitts might be unable to support himself as an adult, they



The Liegner's remembered Junior Blind in their estate, so that more children who are visually impaired could find their independence.

began setting money aside for him as a "safety net." Little did they know that with the help of a non-profit organization called Junior Blind, Kitts would find his independence and thrive.

Frank and Rosemary met and fell in love while he was serving as a physician and she a nurse in the U.S. Army. They went on to have four children who also pursued careers in the medical field, including their son Jeffrey who elected to

become an ophthalmologist.

Unbeknownst to Jeffrey, he and his wife Jana would soon face their son Kitts' frightening diagnosis of near total blindness. When he was only three months old, Kitts contracted encephalitis. Though he survived this life-threatening virus, he lost all vision in one eye and suffered greatly diminished vision in the other eye.

Even though Jeffrey was a practicing ophthalmologist, he and his wife were overwhelmed by the news of Kitts' vision loss. "My wife Jana and I were not prepared for the challenges of raising a child who is blind," he says. "We knew Kitts needed support, but we needed guidance and support, too."

Soon, Jeffrey and Jana learned of Junior Blind and our comprehensive services. They were immediately relieved and comforted by the information and assistance they received from the organization. Best of all for Kitts, he found Junior Blind's Camp Bloomfield, a place where there were kids just like him, riding horses, hiking and swimming, confidently enjoying the same activities that other kids do. Kitts' experience at Camp Bloomfield was not only fun, it gave him additional tools that helped him on his journey toward greater confidence and self-sufficiency.

Today, Kitts is a teacher of the visually impaired with a master's degree in Special Education from San Francisco State University. The entire Liegner family is so

proud of Kitts and all that he has accomplished.



Kitts (center), with his two brothers, credits Camp Bloomfield with helping to provide him the tools he needed to succeed.

As Jeffrey states, "Kitts' grandparents, Frank and Rosemary, lived long enough to see the difference that Junior Blind made in their grandson's life...and they never forgot it. They sought a way to express their gratitude."

Recognizing that Kitts would be able to support himself, Frank and Rosemary decided to take his "safety net" funds and gift them to

Junior Blind through their estate. The Liegner's gave so that Junior Blind could help even more children and families in need, families just like theirs.

Junior Blind is deeply grateful for the Liegner family's wonderful bequest. Thoughtful estate gifts enable us to continue to offer our support and services to all families in need.

<http://www.juniorblind.org/site/the-greatest-generation-leaves-a-legacy-of-hope-for-future-generations>