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**MEDIA ADVISORY:**

**Scott J. Beigel Memorial Fund Sends 60 Disadvantaged At Risk Long Island Children to Upstate New York Summer Sleep-Away Camp**

*Scott J. Beigel Memorial Fund, a formidable leader nationwide in gun safety advocacy, is giving disadvantaged at-risk children a chance to escape the gangs, gun-violence, and shootings by attending summer sleep-away camp.*

**WHAT:** The pickup for the Scott J. Beigel Memorial Fund campers headed to Camp Herrlich in Patterson NY will be on Sunday the 18th of July. The location for the pickup is the Long Island Expressway Exit 49 Park and Ride.

**WHO:**

- Scott Riches, Camp Director at Camp Herrlich
- Elected Officials: Congressman Tom Suozzi, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, NY State Senator Jim Gaughran, NY State Senator Anna Kaplan, Assemblyman Steve Stern, Assemblyman Chuck Lavine, Town Councilwoman Joan Cergol, Suffolk County Legislator Sammy Gonzalez, Huntington Town Councilwoman Susan Berland, Superintendent of the Half Hollow Hills School District Patrick Harrigan
- Family Service League, Doreen Boehme
- LCSW President & CEO of Family Service League, Karen Boorshtein
- Linda Beigel-Schulman
- Michael Schulman

**WHEN:** 12 noon, Sunday July 18th, 2021

**WHERE:** Long Island Expressway Exit 49 Park and Ride

Camp Herrlich is one of this year's camp recipients of grants from the Scott J. Beigel Memorial Fund. **"We all have the right to be safe and we all have the right to live without fear"**. This is the mantra of Linda Beigel-Schulman. Scott Beigel was a teacher, a cross-country coach, and a friend. He died a hero for his actions at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida where he taught geography and coached cross-country. For 28 summers camp was Scott's home away from home. Linda Beigel-Schulman and Michael Schulman lead this foundation to carry on his legacy by giving disadvantaged at-risk children touched by gun violence the chance to go to summer sleep-away camp. It removes children from an environment of killing and gun-violence associated with at-risk communities in NYC and Long Island. Giving children the opportunity to attend summer sleep-away camp allows them to get off the streets, be care-free and away from gang activity.

In response to the meteoric rise in gun violence, Governor Andrew Cuomo declared on June 6, 2021 the very first-in-the-nation gun violence disaster emergency as part of a new, comprehensive strategy to end gun violence and build a safer New York. Part of that strategy is to "have a positive engagement with at-risk youth as well as targeting the hot spots from where gun violence emanates. Having the ability to be a child at summer sleep-away camp is so important to the child's physical, mental, and emotional growth and health.

Family Service League, who received the grants from Camp Herrlich to provide for their at-risk children, is a grass roots social service agency that provides support and security to our Long Island neighbors who need it most. These children are among the most underserved at-risk families in the community where family incomes are at the federal poverty level. The children come from broken homes. Many of these children are latchkey kids from single parent homes. Some are homeless and some are from homes where a parent has been deported. These impressionable at-risk children live in dangerous communities where gun violence, drugs and gangs are very real.

- As part of the \$217,600.00 in grants given out in 2021 by the Scott J. Beigel Memorial Fund, a grant of \$41,600 was given to Camp Herrlich to provide a summer sleep-away camp experience as a positive escape for at-risk children touched by gun violence.
- Camp Herrlich will use this grant money to give out camperships to 60 children through the Family Service League to attend Camp Herrlich
- The Family Service League has 40 children coming from Long Island and an additional 20 children attending from our Brentwood homeless shelter.
- The children range in age from 9-16. They all reside in Suffolk County from Huntington to East Hampton
- Family Service League is an organization that empowers at-risk citizens in the Long Island community; from children and families to individuals and seniors, they empower more than 50,000 of our community's most vulnerable to mobilize their strengths and improve their quality of life.