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Umbrella Club raffle raises more than \$100K

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Photo: Contributed Photo

The Umbrella Club presented a check for \$10,000 to the family of Kayla Mendoza. From left to right: Donna Kennedy, St. Vincent's Medical Services; Scott Kelly, Umbrella Club Committee Chair; O'Dallas Mendoza (Kayla's mother); Ken Wosczyzna, Umbrella Club Committee Chair; Kayla Mendoza; Howard Tooter, Umbrella Club President; Cesar Mendoza (Kayla's father); and John Dunn, Umbrella Club Committee Chair. [less](#)

STAMFORD — More than 350 supporters and sponsors gathered to complete the 32nd annual **Umbrella Club's** Car Raffle last month at the **Italian Center** on Newfield Avenue.

The raffle raised more than \$120,000 by selling all 999 tickets, with the grand prize being a 2016 Ford Mustang and a \$1,000 **ShopRite** gift card as the second-place prize.

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Brian Morrell, of Norwalk, who received a heart transplant in 2008, addressed the attendees. Several years ago, the proceeds of the raffle helped Morrell's family cover his medical expenses.

This year, the club presented a \$10,000 check to aid **Kayla Mendoza** and her family to pay medical expenses associated with a Macular Degeneration diagnosis.

The Umbrella Club was founded by a group of residents 32 years ago who wanted to help a friend in need. This simple thought led to a \$2,500 gift and grew into the club providing more than \$100,000 a year to organizations, families and especially children who are in need.

To submit an applicant for potential financial assistance from the club, visit <http://umbrellaclub.org/applicant/>