

The Michael H. Flanagan Foundation

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Michael H. Flanagan Foundation is to comfort leukemia and bone marrow transplant patients and their families. Through the foundation, it is our goal to enhance the patients' quality of life.

"Life changes in the instant" as Joan Didion states in *The Year of Magical Thinking*. Everyday we wake up and do not know how that will apply to us. This past year the Foundation has worked to create positive change in the lives of many patients and families as they face the life they now lead with cancer as a part of it. Their change in the instant to a life as they once knew it.

In 2005, the Foundation has continued its steady growth by serving more and more patients and families. **The Michael H. Flanagan Foundation Family Room** at Tufts-NEMC had its Dedication Ceremony on February 22, 2006. It is located on North 8, the bone marrow transplant floor and is truly welcoming, comfortable and accommodating to the needs of patients and their families on that floor. Our supporters should be most proud of this room that will embrace so many and offer them the comfort and peace at a time when it is so needed. Seventy three **Comfort Bags** were delivered to patients and we have added additional products; soft squeeze balls for strength and exercise and turbans for women. **Grants** continue to be a resourceful aid to patients and this past year we distributed sixteen. Our social work team calls these needs to our attention and a direct link is established to ensure timely assistance, be it a request for reinstating a turned off utility due to a lack of paycheck from the patient/breadwinner or creating a Christmas for a mom who wanted to feel like she could "shop" for her four children even though she was in her BMT room for more than 6 weeks. For this patient, the Foundation followed her simple requests for gifts, wrapped and delivered them to her room so that she would be able to give Christmas to her children under such a difficult time. These important events and situations happen because of your support and belief in what the Foundation has become.



Thank you to all who attended the Fall Benefit this past October...with a turnout of over 300 people. We are proud to announce that we raised over \$30,000. Thank you to my silent auction committee who created such fabulous items to raise our auction proceeds to a 40% jump from last year. A sample of the bidding excitement included items such as a week at The Owners Club at The Homestead, donated by Steve and Robyn Malone, unique jewelry and Red Sox goods donated by Diane and Sandy Ballou, a week-end at Loon Mountain from the Nadeau family, original artwork by Jill Lamere and tons of golf! Thank you to our caterers, Taste of Curiosity of Barrington RI, our band, Power of Love, and the visit from the Providence College A Capella group Special Guest. The night was an overwhelming success once again and we are looking forward to this year's benefit as it will have some new things to offer, including a new location!

Together we are delivering hope and comfort to those whose lives have suddenly changed. Thank you for supporting such a special cause that is directly affecting the lives of so many.

Take Care,

Christine E. Griffin
Director, Michael H. Flanagan Foundation

Courage ★ **Integrity** ★ **Strength**

Silent Auction Contributors

Thank You to all who contributed...a success thanks to your generosity.

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Tufts-NEMC News Headlines

Weeks of February 27 - March 5, 2006

Michael H. Flanagan Room Opens for BMT Patients

The Michael H. Flanagan Foundation Patient and Family Room opened last week with a special ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony. Located on North 8, the room creates a welcoming and comfortable environment for Tufts-NEMC Bone Marrow Transplant patients and their families.

"I have seen first-hand how this Foundation has benefited Tufts-NEMC and Floating patients," said Hans Klingemann, MD, PhD, Director of Bone Marrow and Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation Program.

"It is a wonderful legacy for Michael and his family."

The Foundation also supplies "Comfort Bags" to new BMT and leukemia patients. The bags include a CD walkman, phone card, journal and other items to help patients during their treatments.

"Michael's family has created a wonderful tribute to his memory by offering comfort and warmth to patients and their loved ones," said Frank Haluska, MD, Clinical Director of Tufts-NEMC's Cancer Center.

The Michael H. Flanagan Foundation was established in 2002 and its mission is to provide comfort and enhance patients' quality of life.



RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL NEWS

Diane Passantino, LICSW

Susan Garland, LICSW



Letters

As we continue our joint efforts with the Michael Flanagan Foundation, we're pleased to welcome Steve Aston, Assistant Clinical Manager of the inpatient oncology unit and Fran Kearns, RN, Case Manager on Oncology Unit. Together we have developed several exciting projects at Rhode Island Hospital.

Starting with the New Year, we will pilot the Comfort cart. This cart contains items which will be available to families as they experience the end of a loved one's life. The cart will provide added relief, spiritual and nutritional, to families and convey the care experienced by staff for the patient and family.

The comfort bags continue to lighten the hardship of the newly diagnosed patient spending prolonged stay in the hospital.

The grants are blessing to patients in need. One patient, in particular, received a grant to assist with buying Christmas presents for her infant while receiving bone transplant. Upon receiving the gift, she commented that it was an answer to her prayers.

We look forward to continued collaboration with The Michael Flanagan Foundation in the New Year as we appreciate the difference that their assistance makes in the lives of our patients and their families at Rhode Island Hospital.

I would like to offer my deepest thanks for your foundation's magnanimous gifts to my patient, Ms Nurys Diaz. She's in the midst of battling a very aggressive cancer while taking care of her young daughter. Nevertheless, she never fails to make it into Boston from over an hour away, each week, for treatment or follow-up, with nothing less than a smile and kind words. Never have I seen her happier than the day she came to my clinic LOADED with gifts for her and her family from your generous benefactors. Your generosity reinvigorates our efforts to cure her of her disease in every way we can.

Best wishes this holiday season,

Geoffrey Chan, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of Hematology / Oncology
Tufts-New England Medical Center



What would we and our patients do without The Flanagan Foundation. I really appreciate The Foundation's generosity, responsiveness and caring. Michael's memory is alive in such a wonderful way. All of us here appreciate the hard work all of you do so that the lives of people going through the day-to-day battle with cancer can be less stressful. It's been my pleasure to get to know all of you and to be involved, from this side, over the last year and a half. I certainly look forward to the years to come.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!

Tim Cummings, LICSW
Director of Social Services
Tufts - New England Medical Center

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 7, 2006

Our 5th Annual Fall Benefit

"Blue Jeans and Boots Under the Stars"

A casual twist to our evening

New location... overlooking the water at
Mount Hope Farm in Bristol, Rhode Island

Music by The Return
Fine Catering by Russ Morin

Cocktails, Dinner & Silent Auction



CELEBRATIONS

This was a year of beautiful wedding celebrations for many of Michael's dear friends. On behalf of Michael's foundation we would like to express our gratitude to Tyler and Jessica Borges, Barry and Doreen Mello and Nathan and Gina Duarte. Each couple made a generous donation to the foundation in lieu of favors. You never cease to amaze us with your generosity, love and commitment to the work of Michael's foundation. Thank you.

COMFORT CART

At the time of this newsletter, the oncology floor at Rhode Island Hospital is piloting a "Comfort Cart." In keeping with the mission of the foundation, the Lifespan team asked if the foundation would consider funding this project. The purpose of this initiative is to provide comfort to family members when their loved one's condition is worsening. Once the staff determines that the time is appropriate, the Comfort Cart will be taken to the patient's room. It will be stocked with beverages, light snacks, fruit, hard candy, tissues, peaceful music and a non-denominational prayer book. Each cart will be personalized and covered with a cloth designed and made by Michael's grandmother, Katherine Healy. The table covering will be given to the family when they leave the hospital. The staff feels that this "gesture" will provide families and loved ones with some comfort during a most difficult time. In the next newsletter, we will have feedback on this very special initiative.



Comfort Bags include: CD walkman with relaxation CDs; 800 minute phone card; Turtle-fur fleece hat; Soothing eye pack; Journal and pen; Light read; Playing cards; Little sand creature friend; Moisturizer; Lip balm; Soft toothbrush; Baby wipes; Soft tissue; Soft nail file; Moisture rich soap; Soft squeeze balls; and Turban.

FAMILY ROOM

We are pleased to announce that the Family Room on North 8 at Tufts- New England Medical Center is finished. It is now known as The Michael H. Flanagan Family Room. A renovation project of this type takes time, but the end result is beautiful. The goal of this capital project was to design an area that would provide comfort and relaxation for families of patients while reflecting Michael's love of music and the sea. The room has been transformed into a warm and comforting retreat from the sterile environment of the bone marrow transplant unit.

As you enter the color reflects a sense of calm as you view the Boston skyline. One wall contains built in cabinets for the television, DVD and VCR. This area also includes a glass front cabinet for the video and DVD library. The kid's corner has a toy box, table and chairs and an assortment of toys and games that are safe and washable. The new furniture is simple and comfortable including a coffee table with an assortment of books and magazines. Extra warmth is provided from the oriental area rug. There is access for a computer station to be added in the future.

The walls are covered with colorful and local ceramic fish designed and created by Geoffrey and Carolyn Grainger from Grainger Pottery in Mattapoisett, Ma.

The finishing touch is the glass etching created by Steve Swift Glass Designs in Nantucket, MA. Smoked Glass has replaced the clear glass. Steve designed three light transom glass panels on which he inscribed Courage, Integrity and Faith. On other panels he etched the mission of the foundation and our grateful acknowledgement of the staff.

This beautiful renovation could not have been accomplished without the generous support of our donors. Each of you has contributed to the successful completion of this project and we are so grateful for your generosity. We would also like to acknowledge the team at Tufts -New England Medical Center. Your co-operation, hard work, patience, flexibility, generosity of time and sensitivity were invaluable. Thank you so much. We are also thankful to the families and staff for their understanding and patience during the weeks of construction.

During our 6 months at Tuft's New England Medical Center, Michael's family and friends spent countless hours in the family room. We hope that the Michael H. Flanagan Family Room will continue to offer families and staff a place of peace, comfort and rest.

-Kathleen Flanagan

THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous support. This list includes gifts received and processed between April 1, 2005 and February 1, 2006. Gifts received after will be included in next years' listing. Great care has been taken to ensure accuracy of all names. If an error has been made, please let us know by calling 401.247.7763 or email ChristineGriffin@cox.net and accept our sincere apologies.

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