

From a patient's sister "...she just could not believe that someone who did not even know her would take the time to be so thoughtful. I am keeping my promise to her to make sure that the MHF Foundation knows how much your gift meant and how grateful my sister was to your foundation. On behalf of my sister, I wish to thank you for bringing a little extra happiness into her life."

M.E.

"Our sincere thanks to the MHF Foundation for their recent assistance with a financial issue. Our journey through the Bone Marrow Transplant process has been a long one, literally and figuratively, as we commute to Tufts from New Hampshire. It has been emotionally, physically and financially draining. The care we have received at Tufts can only be described as phenomenal. We are most grateful to the foundation for the comfort items, parking passes and financial hand during this difficult time. God Bless!"

D.L.



The Michael H. Flanagan
Foundation

146 County Road
Barrington RI 02806

We would like to extend a thank you to Susan Garland and Diane Passantino for their past service as MHF Foundation Board members. We will miss your guidance and support! As Clinical Social Workers at RI Hospital, their outstanding commitment to patients and families will continue to be a valuable resource to our Foundation. We would also like to welcome Elizabeth Vetromile. She brings much experience and we look forward to having her involved in several new projects.

MHF FOUNDATION
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For Further Information Please Contact:

www.mikesfoundation.org
The Michael H. Flanagan Foundation
146 County Road
Barrington RI 02806

“2009 News Flash”

2009 is kicking off to be a year when the Flanagan Foundation is needed more than ever. To date, we have seen a tripling of requests by patients who are struggling to make ends meet while fighting Leukemia. Thanks to your generous contributions last year, we have been able to honor each of these requests to help patients and their families within the scope of our mission.

HONORARY BOARD:

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The Michael H. Flanagan
Foundation

“Do not worry about why problems exist in the world -- just respond to people's needs ... We feel what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but that ocean would be less without that drop.”

—Mother Teresa

OUR STORY



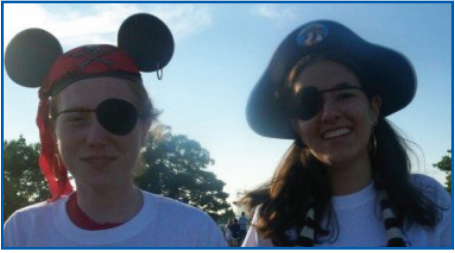
The Michael H. Flanagan Foundation was established by his family in 2002 in memory of this young man who at the age of 19 was diagnosed with leukemia.

Many others continue to fight this terrible disease on a daily basis. Michael strived to live his life with courage, integrity and faith during his three and a half year struggle with leukemia and two bone marrow transplants. He received the very best in medical and nursing care at both the Miriam Hospital in Rhode Island and the Tufts Medical Center in Boston. Bone marrow transplant patients spend weeks and sometimes months in isolation while they struggle with complications and wait for their new immune system to develop. After witnessing Michael’s time in the hospital, his family decided to establish this foundation as a way to keep his memory alive and to support other patients facing the same difficult journey. It is the mission of the Foundation to provide comfort to these patients and their families during this very challenging time.

The Michael H. Flanagan Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

- To become a donor please visit our website at www.mikesfoundation.org or contact us at 146 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806.
- To inquire about financial assistance available through our grant program, please contact your social worker.

★ RELAY FOR LIFE



Olivia Whitton (left) and Amanda Lundy (right) at the Relay for Life in June 2007.

In June of 2007 I walked in Maine's First Annual Relay for Life put on by the American Cancer Society. I walked as part of my friend's team of about 15 people and had a wonderful time. Not only was it great to know that I was helping raise money for a great cause, but I also got a glimpse of what it was really like to live with cancer, or to care for someone who has it.

One year later, in June of 2008, I again walked in the Relay for Life. Only this time, it was profoundly different from the previous year. This time I had a grandfather, fighting for his life. Philly, as I called him, was diagnosed with Leukemia in October of 2007, four short months after the first Relay.

On July 3rd, 2008, Philly had his bone marrow transplant at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. As standard procedure, bone marrow transplant patients are kept in isolation in the weeks following. A great thing that the Michael H. Flanagan Foundation at Tufts does to make this alone time a little more comfortable is to give each transplant recipient a 'Comfort Bag'. The bags include comfort items that are intended to help the time pass faster. The Foundation also provides a wonderful Family Room for BMT patients and their families. My family and I spent quite a bit of time in there when Philly was at Tufts. There was also a time or two that Philly, himself, was able to enjoy the family room. The great view of the city made him feel as though he wasn't locked in a building. It was a nice change of scenery.

It is because of the amazing care and compassion of the staff and volunteers at Tufts that we want to give something back. One of Philly's favorite things to do in the hospital was puzzles. He would work on them here and there, but what he loved was for us to do

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them while we were there visiting him. As a family, we have decided to donate puzzles to the Comfort Bags so that they may bring a bit of joy to another transplant recipient and his/her family. Philly also had a great love for the game of cribbage, and played all of the time while he was in the hospital. Playing cribbage brought him the same happiness that the puzzles did, so in honor of his love of the game, we have also decided to donate cribbage boards to the family room at Tufts in memory of Phillip Broad.

Lastly, on behalf of my family, I would like to thank the entire staff of the Eighth Floor and the ICU at Tufts for the care & compassion they gave to Philly that allowed him to be with us for as long as he was. We are also extremely grateful to the Michael H. Flanagan Foundation, not only for helping us through our difficult time, but for letting us remember Philly in such a wonderful and giving way.

Olivia Whitton, age 17

★ “IN MEMORY OF” DONATIONS

Thank you to the following individuals for their thoughtful donations.

Donations In Memory Of Mary E. Coveney
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★ 2008 HIGHLIGHTS



2008 proved to be a year of increasing needs. Leukemia is democratic in its impact and we are proud that we are prepared to once again step in when we are needed and ease the financial burden that often accompanies those facing this disease. Fortunately, we had a record breaking fundraising success thanks to our Sixth Evening Under the Stars this past September. Over \$50,000 of profit will be used to fund financial grants and produce Comfort Bags over the next few years.

These are our accomplishments of 2008 that would not have happened without your support. Thank you!

- 50 financial grants were distributed to patients and families, funding needs such as Neely House accommodations, rent payments, groceries, parking and transportation costs.
- Over 80 Comfort Bags were distributed to Tufts Medical Center, Boston, Rhode Island Hospital and the Miriam Hospital.
- 5 Junior Comfort Bags distributed for children of patients at Rhode Island Hospital.
- Replenished toys, games and added movies to library for MHF Foundation Family Room at Tufts Medical Center.
- Two Wii game systems were purchased for the Bone Marrow Transplant units. The physical therapists use one with adult patients at Tufts Medical Center and the other with children at the Pediatric BMT Unit at Floating Children's Hospital. (They can use the Wii with visitors or with the therapy staff as part of their exercise program. Besides helping our patients, it is nice for patients and visitors to play with the Wii so that it becomes a "fun" visit and not a "sick" visit. The Wii helps to make things feel more like home).

★ THANK YOU!

- Thank you to **Hydrolatum** brand eczma cream and Tom Stone for donating a year's supply of this amazing cream to be used in our Comfort Bags. To learn more about this cream and where you can find it go to www.hydrolatum.com.
- Thank you to **Sweet Lorraine's Candy Shoppe** in Barrington RI for donating a table filled with scrumptious chocolates and candies for our Evening Under the stars in October. It was a more than your ordinary sweet treat to sample the delicious offerings donated by Bob and Mufi Sullivan.
- Thank you to **Fat Free Bob**, a.k.a. Bob Tomassone who provided our music on the evening of the benefit. His guitar and voice added to the magic of the night as his song selection was relaxed and a beautiful acoustic backdrop.

★ SPECIAL GUESTS



Left to Right: Georgia Griffin, Kathy Flanagan, Alexandra Healy, Christine Griffin, Madison Healy, Lara Murphy and Olivia Healy.

It was an honor to welcome two very special guests to our 2008 fall benefit. Scott Neely and Patricia Rowe enjoyed the festivities with us after a harrowing drive in the stormy weather, and their presence added warmth to the damp and rainy evening. Scott is the director of the Cam Neely Foundation for Cancer Care and Patricia is the manager of the Neely House at Tuft's Medical Center in Boston. As our guest speaker, Scott spoke of the work of his family foundation and he praised the work of Michael's foundation. He spoke tenderly of Patricia's commitment to the Neely House. Under her management the house has hosted over 4,000 families. Scott's support, encouragement, and commitment to the mission of his foundation has been an inspiration. In addition to the Neely House, the foundation has established the Michael Neely Center for Brain Tumor Care and Research and recently opened the Neely Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Center at Tuft's Medical Center Floating Hospital for Children. Thank you to Scott and Patricia for inspiring us with your words and your presence.

Two of Michael's youngest cousins, Madison Healy(21) and Alexandra Healy (23), took it upon themselves to do some fundraising of their own this past summer. After sending a letter explaining the story of Michael and the Foundation, donations poured in and their goal of \$2000 was surpassed as they collected a remarkable \$7500, seen on the giant check . The effort, enthusiasm and dedication of these two young ladies was received with tremendous awe! Well done and Thank you, Maddie and Alex!

Many Thanks to our Auction Donors

Please acknowledge the generous individuals and patronize the kind businesses whose donations to the event ensure its success.

NESN	Somerset Liquors	Ann and Steve Seery
Boston Red Sox	John and Kathy Lund	Jill Lamere
Kathy and Mike Flanagan	David and Heidi Piccerelli	Felicia Bishop
Katherine Healy	J&J Jewelers, Sharon Viera	Providence College
Doug and Gail Ollerhead	Taglia	Sea Stars
Steve Healy	Diana Gemma	Jim Bush
Carnegie Abbey	Providence College	Diana Gemma
Sakonnet Golf Club	Ani and Tom Odjakjian	J&J Jewelers
Steve and Cynde Flanagan	Pam Freeman	Mike and Carole Siino
	Susan Broomhead	

The Foundation is deeply grateful to our “Evening Under the Stars” sponsors whose generosity helps defray the costs of the evening. The monetary donations received are an integral part of the evening's success and we are truly thankful to those who have been so supportive!

Foley Fish	Avery Smith Insurance
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Thank You

Thank you for your generous support. This list includes gifts received and processed between April 1, 2008 and April 1, 2009. Gifts received after will be included in next year's 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 www.mikesfoundation.org and accept our sincere apologies.

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Sometimes it is best to hear “Thank You” from those who lives have been directly touched by the Foundation. We have received many letters of thanks over the years and this is a selection of some of the kind words from patients and families that the Foundation was able to help in 2008.

“Thank you for your kindness and generosity towards our family this year. We are so grateful for your help in flying R's brother here so that he could be a donor. Most recently, thank you for brightening our boys' Christmas. They were so distraught to learn that their dad needed to be readmitted on Christmas day. The gifts helped to ease their sadness. For that alone, we owe you a debt of gratitude.”
L. W.

“I want to thank you so much for your generous contribution to our son's medical expense fund...As you are aware the expenses and demands can be overwhelming. Your support for our battle with this disease is greatly appreciated. Your foundation is an incredible tribute to Michael. Early on last year he received a bag full of goodies at Miriam and grew particularly fond of the soft hat which he really needed (with no hair in February!). Again my sincerest gratitude for your generous gift and my best wishes for continued success with the Michael H. Flanagan Foundation.”
J.S.

“Thank you for the beautiful Comfort Bag given to me. With each item taken out of the bag, it filled my whole family's hearts with joy! Your kindness will never be forgotten. Your family and Foundation will always be in our hearts. P.S. I have my “lizard” on my TV stand and he goes with m wherever I go! May God shine on you and yours.”
J.G.

“ I am a patient at Tufts awaiting a transplant on Valentine's Day. Today my nurse brought me a very thoughtful and useful bag from the Michael H. Flanagan Foundation. Although I was having a difficult day dealing with nausea, the gift brought me great joy. I felt God's presence in the form of your loved one's legacy. I smiled at the incredible “goodies” you provided with the intent of making this journey just a little bit easier. Mission accomplished!! Thanks so much for your generosity, courage, integrity and faith. I suspect Michael was a special man.”
D.T.

After reading the words of thanks from those we have helped, it is our goal that you feel that you are part of a very special cause. The Foundation continues to offer comfort in various forms, and in doing so, remains true to our mission.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our work. By creating a direct link of help to patients, we have faith that lives are being changed.

Take care,
Christine E. Griffin, Director