



THE Michael H. Flanagan FOUNDATION *newsletter*

COURAGE * INTEGRITY * FAITH

OUR STORY

The Michael H. Flanagan Foundation was established by the Flanagan family in 2002 in memory of this young man, who at the age of 19 was diagnosed with leukemia. Michael strived to live his life with courage, integrity and faith during his three and a half year struggle with leukemia which included 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. Find out more at mikesfoundation.com.

SAVE
THE
DATE

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE
HORIZON FOR AN INVITATION
TO OUR BENEFIT EVENT

09.26
2014

Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for kindness.

-Seneca

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy reading the Foundation's newsletter to learn about all the support WE have provided to those in need. Thanks to your support, we are 12 years strong and so proud!

At times I find it overwhelming that so many patients need so much yet I realize that a small gesture can truly ease their incredibly stressful situation because they know that others care. You can almost feel the deep breath they take when they receive the grant in the mail or see the Comfort Bag on their hospital bed. In our daily lives, we all have the opportunity to

practice the Golden Rule and as supporters of The Michael H. Flanagan Foundation, you should feel confident that we carry out those opportunities as soon as they come our way! We care about the patients and families, we recognize their fears and struggles. We strive to give them comfort as they face the challenging days ahead. Thank you for your tremendous and consistent support.

With much appreciation,

Christine E. Griffin
Director, MHFF

2013 | 2014 | Blessings

Over **75 Comfort Bags** distributed to patients at Tufts Medical Center, Boston, Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, Mass General, Dana Farber and as far away as Florida and Ohio. We also customized several Junior Comfort Bags for pediatric leukemia patients.



45 Financial grants funded over **\$24,000** for assistance to patients and families, including items such as airfare for a bone marrow match, a wig for a patient, rent, childcare and costly but necessary co-pays for medicine.



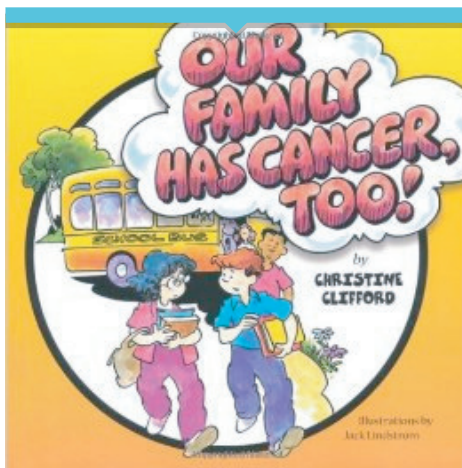
Christmas morning delivery of presents to 20 patients at Tufts Medical Center who were spending Christmas week in the BMT unit. Thank you to the social worker and nurses working that day for distributing the gifts- a cozy scarf and hat to let them know someone cared. Also provided 3 holiday grants to needy families to assist in making holidays a little brighter.



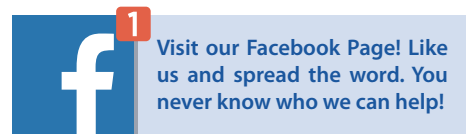
Barrington High School Choral Ensemble visited the Oncology Floor at RI Hospital for caroling on December 23rd. They strolled the hallways and their beautiful voices gently lifted the spirits of all who heard. We thank them for their time and hope they return often!



6 Pedal Exercisers were provided to Tufts Medical Center for patients to use in their rooms as they work with their physical therapists to keep joints active during treatment.



Ongoing delivery of **books as resources for children** of family members with leukemia. A particularly well-received book, **Our Family Has Cancer Too**, by Christine Clifford, is helpful for a wide range of ages.



Just Grace

Director Christine Griffin read **Just Grace** to **first graders** from Nayatt School during Reading Week. The story follows Grace through her recovery and grade school years, showing that she loves all the same things and enjoys all the same activities as before, although she experiences some of them in different ways because of her illness. Throughout it all, Grace is still just Grace. We love the message of the book!

Just Grace by Kathleen Bookbinder is published in partnership with **Yes! Grace Rocks**, a non-profit from Connecticut whose mission is to support families of children with brain tumors, traumatic brain injuries or conditions of the brain. It has been used locally at Henry Barnard School in Providence and Nayatt School in Barrington and is available at local hospitals, including Hasbro as a resource.

"Many faculty members read the books to our classes as an introduction to the Pennies for Patients program. The book really helps children understand what cancer patients can go through - in a simplistic way. It's really great for our preschool-2nd graders."

"Teachers felt it delivers an important message and is a good book to share with students, especially those effected by having a friend or family member sick... it is a special book about a topic you rarely find in children's books."

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These blessings to others were a direct result of your support.

...Thank You!



We hosted a **Flatbread Company Providence Benefit Night** on Tuesday May 6th. A portion of all pizza sales went to the MHFF. The night included a fun raffle and an opportunity to register with **Be the Match**. Thanks to all who attended and those who did take out too! We enjoyed the casual evening with friends while promoting our mission and having some delicious pizza. **Thank you Flatbread!**

Be the Match was so happy to participate and was able to spread the word about becoming a donor. Did you know that you need to be between 18 and 44 to be on the donor registry?

This April, our Friar friends at **Providence College** again hosted a Be The Match drive and gained **41 new potential donors**.

For the past three years MHFF and PC have teamed up for this event.



stupid
cancer.org

MHFF is a designated resource for **Stupid Cancer**, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, serving as the dominant healthcare brand for millions affected by young adult cancer. Their innovative and award-winning services serve as a bullhorn to propel the young adult cancer movement forward. Their charter is to ensure that no one affected by young adult cancer go unaware of the age-appropriate support resources they are entitled to so they **can get busy living**.

Seven times more common than all pediatric cancers combined, young adult cancer (age 15-39) is largely unknown in the war on cancer with 72,000 new diagnoses each year. That's one every eight minutes. **This is not OK!** This neglected group—now millions strong—has limited resources, inadequate support, and more importantly, a lack of awareness and understanding from the community around them.

www.stupidcancer.org/directories/money.shtml

Became a sponsor of statewide **Touch, Caring and Cancer Workshops** offered by Judy Antonelli, who owns her private practice, A Touch of Health in Riverside, RI since 1991. She is a licensed Oncology Massage Practitioner, practicing at the Adele R. Decof Comprehensive Cancer Center at The Miriam Hospital, of RI Hospital.

A TOUCH of Health Massage, LLC
Judy Antonelli, OMP, NCBTMB
74 Riverside Drive / Riverside, RI 02915
www.atouchofhealthri.com



Supplied materials for the quarterly **Kids Group at Miriam Hospital** designed by social worker, Kathy Higginbotham. The goal is to provide a small group session once a month for children ages 5-17 to get a behind the scenes look at what their loved one is doing when they are at the hospital. There is an arts and crafts component along with refreshments. Kathy also uses many books, teddy bears and iTunes cards for transitioning topics with the various age groups. Kids leave the workshop with a better knowledge and some comfort at what happens behind the scenes when their loved one is at the hospital.

Our 4th Bi-annual **Campaign For Comfort** raised over **\$18,000**.



Thank you to our student volunteer, **Lily Broomhead**, for her many hours over the past two years. Her organization of events and never ending support was priceless! Lily will attend Denison College in the Fall and we wish her the best of luck!

WE THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous support. We raised over \$24,000 from our Campaign For Comfort and various donations throughout the year. This list includes gifts received and processed between June 1, 2013 and press time. 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 Christine@mikesfoundation.com and accept our sincere apologies.

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