



THE  
Michael H. Flanagan  
FOUNDATION

The Michael H. Flanagan Foundation  
Newsletter 2020/21 | Volume 17

COMFORT

(V) TO GIVE STRENGTH AND HOPE TO;

THE MISSION OF THE MICHAEL H. FLANAGAN FOUNDATION AS WE CONTINUE OUR WORK  
WITH LEUKEMIA AND BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT PATIENTS AND FAMILIES SINCE 2002

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking time to stop and realize what important work we have done, thanks to YOU! Can you believe that our foundation has been touching lives for almost 20 years? That's right, 20 years!

Thanks to you we have been strong and steady in our efforts to provide comfort, in many shapes and forms, to thousands of patients and their families facing the battle that leukemia and bone marrow transplants bring their way. We have always been able to say "yes" and give what they need to offer relief. Over 150 Comfort bags were delivered to patients since the beginning of the pandemic. Thanks to donors like you the Michael Flanagan Foundation has been able to fulfill an amazing amount of grants and help so many in their struggle with cancer.

OUR MISSION

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](http://mikesfoundation.com).

In 2020 we gave twenty-one grants totaling \$15,000 and so far this year we have filled 28 grants totaling \$22,000! This is money that goes directly into the hands of those who need it most. We are also proud to have provided Reiki training for nurses at Tufts Medical Center as well as our multiple education grants.

You may recall that our fall 2020 benefit was postponed and the entertaining Flanafest concert kicked off our fundraising efforts of 2020. We hope to gather in 2022 to mark 20 years. Stay tuned! As always, we appreciate your ongoing support and the big difference you help us make every day.

*Do what you can  
to show you care  
about other people,  
and you will make  
our world a better  
place.*

*~ Rosalynn Carter*

FROM THE DIRECTOR

With much appreciation,

Christine E. Griffin

## A SPECIAL LEGACY

### Renaming of The Michael H. Flanagan Foundation Educational Advancement Fund

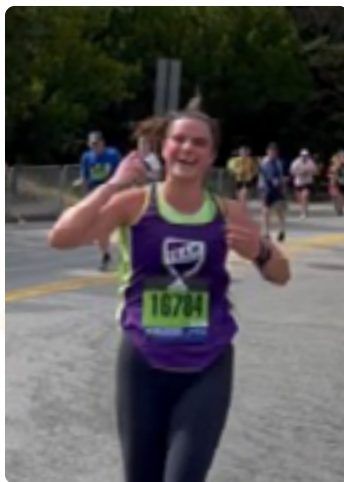
The Flanagan family was so pleased with the care Michael received from the nurses at The Miriam Hospital and Tufts Medical Center that they decided to establish a fund to further nursing education. Since 2014 this fund has been awarded to an RN/BSN who has consistently exceeded expectations in providing patient care in the area of Oncology.

This year the Michael H. Flanagan Foundation has decided to rename our Education Advancement Fund award to honor the memory of **Susan Farley**. Sue passed away in January at the age of 48 after a long battle with leukemia. Sue's loss leaves a hole in the heart of all who knew and loved her. Wife to Kevin and loving mom to five children, Sue leaves a tremendous legacy.

Our connection began when she was diagnosed in 2014. That year, Sue and her family spent Thanksgiving in the Hospital Oncology Family Room which the Flanagan Foundation had recently refurbished. In 2015 her daughter Grace created a senior project "Feet for Defeat", which raised awareness for leukemia and created a fundraiser benefitting the Flanagan Foundation.

In 2018, Kevin and Sue were guest speakers at our bi-annual benefit and just this October Sue's daughter Caroline ran the 2021 Boston Marathon in her mom's memory and raised awareness for the Flanagan Foundation! Sue embodied courage, integrity and faith - Michael's defining characteristics. Based on her wonderful legacy, the Foundation is pleased to name this award in her memory.

As you read on in our newsletter you will see her name frequently and see how she continues to inspire us.



## 2020 & 2021 EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT FUND RECIPIENTS

**Congratulations to Antonia Maloney, our 2021 recipient of the recently renamed Susan Farley Educational Advancement Fund Award!**



Antonia is a nurse at Tufts Medical Center on North 8 and we were touched by her thoughtful application and dedication to her profession. Antonia was one of Mike's nurses during his Bone Marrow Transplant twenty years ago, and her passion is as strong as ever. We wish you the best Antonia and appreciate everything you do to better the lives of patients! It was also wonderful to see part of our team at Tufts in person, Dr. Andreas Klein, Abby Jeffries, Brandon LaRoche, Kelly Hanigan-Chase, Priscilla, Julie Sherman Elizabeth Lisle.

**Congratulations to the 2020 recipient of The Michael H. Flanagan Foundation's Educational Advancement Fund award from Tufts Medical Center, Carrie Healy.**

Carrie has been an oncology nurse for eleven years. After losing her mom to cancer when she was 15, after already losing her dad, she "dedicated her life to cancer". Carrie, who is also a preceptor to many new nurses on her floor, has plans to obtain her MSN and is also a mom to three kids! Congratulations Carrie!



[For the 2022 application and information, visit our website. Applications must be received by April 3, 2022.](#)



## SUE FARLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

As noted above, we are excited to announce the creation of our scholarship that will be presented annually to a Barrington High School student pursuing a career in nursing. Tremendous thanks to Perry Levis whose tireless efforts led to an amazing gift of \$10,000 from Lululemon corporation, Sue Farley's employer.



We are excited to announce the first recipient, 2021 BHS grad Nina Lugo! Nina is off to CCRI this fall to follow her dreams and become a nurse.

## LETTERS FROM PATIENTS

*I'm sorry I did not send this earlier. I cannot thank you enough for the grant that was gifted to me. It has allowed me to pay off many bills and save some for an emergency. Please extend my sincere gratitude to all. The last 4 years have been tough but with people like you life is much better. Thank you.*

*~ Nancy T.*

*Words cannot express how humbled I am by your generosity. I never expected to be here so your kindness and interest in my illness is overwhelming. Working full time my entire adult life- then one day your life "changes in an instant". I am blessed to have wonderful family, friends and people like you to help me through this journey. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.*

*~ Gayle L.*

## 2020-2021 HAPPENINGS

## FLANAFEST 11-19-20

### Tyler Borges

An extremely HUGE thank you to everyone who donated in support of FLANAFEST 2020, our virtual concert. Even though we couldn't get together, when the music started it really felt like we were all connected. Got nothing but love for all the marvelous musicians that offered their time and talents. Mike loved all those songs and each one of you really made that night feel special.



Together, during a pandemic, we raised over \$23,000! Blown away by the overwhelming amount of support and generosity, I had a peaceful easy feeling it would be a night to remember. In case you missed it, the fest still lives online, just search [FLANAFEST 2020 on Vimeo!](#)

*When we found out my son had the sickness leukemia, we first could not believe the doctor's statement. Me and my son just cried. If it wasn't for your organization we would not have been able to survive. The amount of the check was more than enough but we sure did use every cent. We both want you to all know we thank you from our hearts and we will always remember you all.*

*~ Maryann and James C.*

## PATIENT LETTERS



# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS!

## Special Shout Outs

Shoutout to teacher **Allison Burrows** and the Immaculate Conception School in Cranston, Rhode Island! Together they raised an incredible \$1200 during a dress down day all benefitting MFF.

## Donations In Memory of Loved Ones

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Eileen Locazette  
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10 year Anniversary, Susan Macfarland

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Elizabeth Meister  
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Tara Fernandes

### Susan Farley

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Natalie Benson  
Todd Bertoncini  
Lindsay Blond  
Jennifer Boylan  
Susan Brown  
Donna Cerio  
Camilla Clark  
Susan Dewsnap  
Cassie Digiacomio  
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Thank you **Jane Martellino** for organizing a Friday Charity Breakfast at the International School at Dundee in the Greenwich, CT School district!

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