

# OUR MISSION



The mission of the Michael H. Flanagan Foundation is to comfort Bone Marrow Transplant and Leukemia induction patients and their families. It is our goal to enhance the patients' quality of life through this incredible foundation.



COURAGE  
INTEGRITY  
FAITH



THE MICHAEL H. FLANAGAN  
FOUNDATION

*"Life changes in the instant"*

-Joan Didion  
*The Year of Magical Thinking*



THE MICHAEL H. FLANAGAN FOUNDATION

146 County Road  
Barrington, RI 02806  
[www.mikesfoundation.org](http://www.mikesfoundation.org)  
Christine Griffin, Director



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](http://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.*



## The MHFF Gift of Comfort Our signature "comfort bag" includes:

- A CD walkman with relaxation CD's... a way to relax, listen to music, listen to books, block out the continuous sound of the HEPA filter and to close your eyes and meditate during difficult procedures and tests.
- A phone card... stay in touch with family and friends without the worry of outrageous hospital phone bills.
- A Turtle-fur Fleece hat... stay warm, look adorable and let this specially designed hat wick the perspiration away when those high temperatures finally break.
- A colorful eye pack... soothe your dry eyes by warming or cooling your eye pack and escape for a peaceful nap.
- A journal... and maybe a sketch book, just a place to put your thoughts or maybe leave them there. A good way to communicate when you don't feel like talking... or maybe you are a poet or artist
- A funny read... nothing too heavy, just a few silly thoughts to help you cope on those frustrating days laughing can be so therapeutic.

- Personal Hygiene items... and not just any items, each one has been tested and approved just for your comfort, all very soft, no alcohol or scents, and they feel sooooo good...moisturizer, lip balm, extra soft tissue, soft nail file, extra soft toothbrush, moisture rich soap, and lots of baby wipes... be comfortable.
- Playing cards...help to pass the time and a good way to spend hours with friends when you don't feel like talking... on occasion there might be an exchange of money, but you did not hear that from us.
- Your own little creature-friend... last but not least is a small, soft, travel-friendly creature just for you. Might sound silly but silly can be good. It can be comforting to know that this soft little extra is very versatile... it can be held or squeezed, or it can just be there for a distraction... but it is always there with you, a room-mate. And your little companion is small enough to travel when you have to leave your room & venture to unknown places in the hospital.
- Jigsaw Puzzle...everyone likes a little project to work on here and there.
- Therapeutic Squeeze Balls...one for each hand, build your strength by working out your hands, squeeze out the worries, practice juggling with one hand.

This gift of Approximately 20 items is presented to each new admission on the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit and Leukemia induction patients. The gift is in keeping with the mission of the foundation. It is only one piece of our work, and we feel it is an important one.