2023 IMPACT REPORT



CARING FOR CHILDREN

WITH CANCER AND BLOOD DISORDERS

MISSION

THE VALERIE FUND'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE OF CHILDREN WITH CANCER AND BLOOD DISORDERS.

THE VALERIE FUND LEADERSHIP 2023

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Dear Friends:

We are pleased to report that 2023 was another record year for The Valerie Fund, our children and their families. In fact, 2023 was our largest fundraising year ever! For the first time, we raised over \$9 million to support the children and families benefiting from our three core programs: The Valerie Fund Children's Centers, Camp Happy Times and our Scholarship Fund.

More importantly than the record-breaking revenue is the fact that our hospital-based centers received \$3.5 million in support to ensure all of the psychosocial programs needed to provide the highest quality of care for over 6,000 children, treated close to home, at our eight centers. That's a 30% increase in support in just the last two years. Our scholarship program also grew to new heights last year as we awarded over \$540,000 in scholarships to 132 current and former Valerie Fund patients to encourage them to succeed and further their education. Camp Happy Times was again in full swing as children and young adults were treated to another free summer camp experience for the 42nd straight year.



The bottom line for 2023 was yet another record where a total of \$5.5 million went directly to programs benefiting our children and their families!!

We continue to grow the pediatric hematology / oncology programs at the centers. We continue to support all the caregivers in the centers by funding all of the tools and programs they ask of us. And our biggest growth can be seen in our direct support to all the families whose lives have been turned upside by cancer or a blood disorder. In 2023, our family emergency support doubled as we made sure that mothers and fathers could focus on their children and help them get better. This same emergency support will probably grow another 100% this year as we expect to provide close to \$500,000 to support these same families with rent, food and financial support.

We cannot thank you all enough for your own financial support that's allowed our Board to expand our impact to the thousands of children that depend on The Valerie Fund's Children's Centers, Camp Happy Times, Scholarship Program and Emergency Fund. It's that Valerie Fund "special sauce" that makes a huge difference every single day because of YOU!

Enjoy the amazing successes in this 2023 Impact Report.

We are, and will always be "ALL ABOUT THE KIDS".

Sincerely,

Neil Yaris Chair

Barry Kirschner Executive Director

A Year of The Valerie Fund at Stony Brook Children's Hospital

ne year in, the newest Valerie Fund Center at Stony Brook Children's Hospital has had an incredible impact on the lives of their patients and their families. Support from The Valerie Fund has allowed the Oncology & Hematology department at Stony Brook Children's Hospital to staff a full-time psychosocial support team, including a social worker, child life specialist, psychologist, educational liaison, and survivorship coordinator.

Bringing in these positions has improved and enhanced the psychosocial care for the patients treated at Stony Brook Children's Hospital. The new full-time psychosocial support team has made the workflows easier, which results in better outcomes and greater patient satisfaction. The newest Valerie Fund Children's Center has brought our special brand of support to a new community in Long Island, providing individualized care to children close to home.

The full-time, 100% dedicated support in these essential roles enables the Center to better serve the needs of their patients. Funding a dedicated Child Life Specialist provides essential care individualized for the needs of the patients and their families. Child life is in constant communication with the care team and works hard to help meet all needs as they arise. The social worker, rather than being called in when issues arise, is part of the care team from the start, regardless of whether the family has any issues. Having this

"We are really proud to be a Valerie Fund Center. That means a lot to us. We feel very fortunate to be a part of this organization, not just because of the financial piece, but because of the amazing reputation of the other centers. We are all very happy to brag about how we are the eighth Valerie Fund Center."

~Laura Hogan, MD Chief of Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology





earlier touch point enables proactive support, identifying needs that might not have come to light at all, or so quickly. Knowing this support is there gives a greater sense of comfort and familiarity to all the families.

In normal times, school is challenging for a child in treatment for cancer or a blood disorder and COVID-19 has brought an even higher burden. The Educational Liaison role is shared between two people for full-time support. Their everyday presence in the Children's Center allows them to directly interact with the patients and address issues in real-time. The improved interactions between the Liaison and patients has a huge benefit.

Where The Valerie Fund support is having the greatest impact is the level of support that occurs outside of the Hospital. For a 14-year-old patient, this support was life-changing. Her treatment occurred during COVID and had left her with a sense of isolation and loneliness. She was able to attend The Valerie

Fund's Camp Happy Times. Going to camp was the first time since her diagnosis that she could connect with other people who understood what she was going through. One week with other campers just like her made such a beautiful and dramatic difference in her life, giving her a community and life-long friendships.

The support from The Valerie Fund's Emergency Fund program and Scholarship program has also been tremendously helpful for those patients who have found themselves in need. Parents have so much to worry about with the medical and psychosocial needs of their children, that not having to worry about being kicked out of their homes or having their electricity turned off is a huge help, one that the patients and families are very grateful for.

Several Stony Brook patients have benefited from the Scholarship program. The financial burden of cancer or a blood disorder is tremendous. We believe that a kid shouldn't lose their opportunity to attend college just like anyone else. Parents often have to quit work to care for their child during treatment, putting them behind on saving for college. If a patient relapses, the added burden could otherwise put college out of reach.

The success at Stony Brook Children's Hospital demonstrates the value of The Valerie Fund mission. It proves that the most effective way to heal the children in our care is to treat them emotionally, socially and developmentally, as well as medically.





The Valerie Fund expands care

EXPANDING HEMATOLOGY CARE AT ATLANTIC HEALTH SYSTEM'S GORYEB CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Dr. Christopher Lawlor joined The Valerie Fund less than a year ago, but is already making a huge impact on care for our Valerie Fund patients. His goal is to provide world class medical care for the whole child and the whole family from start to finish. We are excited to announce the expansion of hematology support at The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Atlantic Health System's Goryeb Children's Hospital with a new full-time hematology social worker and a full-time hematology nurse navigator.

Care for children with blood disorders can be complex. At The Valerie Fund Children's Center in Goryeb Children's Hospital, they care for pediatric patients with chronic and complex blood disorder diagnoses – hemophilia and other bleeding disorders, clotting issues, sickle cell diseases and more.

Having a full-time hematology social worker and hematology nurse navigator will add to the care for the existing Valerie Fund patients. First and foremost, these two new positions will enable the Center to better serve the children with blood disorders currently

"I am thrilled that we have the support from The Valerie Fund for a hematology social worker and a hematology nurse navigator. They will allow us to further advance the world class care that we are already providing for patients here, as well as increase our ability to reach out to new patients and participate in new innovative care."

~Dr. Christopher Lawlor, The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Goryeb Children's Hospital

being treated at this location. It also enables the Center to engage in community outreach to reach all patients including those in previously underserved areas. Patients and families may not realize the center exists and offers the scope of the psychosocial services that are the hallmark of The Valerie Fund.

The support of a hematology social worker will help patients better manage complex disorders that require chronic care and often medications. Blood disorders such as Sickle Cell Disease and Hemophilia are chronic diagnoses. These patients need lifelong care to help them maintain good health and achieve their goals and potential.



Our new nurse navigator will help facilitate the multiple layers of specialty care that blood disorder patients require from the different specialists, evaluations, and procedures required. This role will facilitate access to transportation to appointments, follow up to make sure patients attend appointments, outreach when they miss appointments, and create educational materials in different languages.

Having these new positions supporting the lifelong diagnosis of a blood disorder will help give the patients the education and tools necessary to help them transition from pediatric to adult care.

The addition of these two new positions continues our efforts to expand the program, enabling us to increase access to new medications, new clinical trials, and innovative therapies and opportunities for our patients.

Dr. Lawlor is passionate about providing the best care possible for his patients. He is exuberant, energetic, and with an exciting vision for the future at The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Goryeb Children's Hospital. With these new positions, Dr. Lawlor is breaking barriers to care and expanding access to treatment and we are excited to support his efforts.



OUR EDUCATION LIAISON IS NOW FULL TIME AT OUR ST. JOSEPH'S CENTER

Educational Liaison **Diana Gomez, M.Ed** now provides full-time support as part of the care team at **The Valerie Fund Children's Center at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital**. The educational liaison is there to support the patient's educational needs while they undergo treatment.

Being at the center full-time enables Diana to better meet the needs of the patients and families, supporting them in meetings with a child study team at a patient's school, and advocating for accommodations such as an IEP (individualized educational plan). Diana is a certified teacher with 13 years of experience in the NYC school system, enabling her to do more than just facilitate educational support. She may be found tutoring patients while they undergo treatment or providing ESL (English as a second language) support for a patient to help her get a GED and go to college.

Being in the clinic full-time opens up Diana's schedule for more school visits where she may speak to a patient's class about their



diagnosis and educate the class about what a classmate is going through. Her experience in the educational system is an asset when it comes to building relationships with the educational entities and is working on building partnerships with schools across the districts in Paterson and beyond.

Working with an underserved community, Diana's support in and out of The Valerie Fund Center is helping children overcome any challenges in their path – from completing school to preparing for college.

A LOOK INTO THE NURSE NAVIGATOR ROLE FUNDED BY THE HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY





Ashley Mariconda, MSN,RN, PED-BC, CPNP-PC is the Nurse Navigator for The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Atlantic Health System's Goryeb Children's Hospital. Ashley's position was funded in its 2023 inaugural year with a generous grant from the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey. The Healthcare Foundation has supported Valerie Fund programs since 1999, with grants totaling more than \$500,000.

The nurse navigator eases access to

care and bridges the gap between the healthcare providers and the patients and their families. As a nurse, Ashley can answer medical questions and serve as a point person for the families in coordinating and scheduling the multiple medical specialist appointments required during treatment while making sure all the authorizations are completed. This vital member of The Valerie Fund Children's Center care team relieves this burden for the parents, enabling them to focus on their child. The nurse navigator supports the child from diagnosis to survivorship, care that never stops. As Ashley said, "This is a vital role that helps to ensure that all aspects of care run smoothly and in a timely manner from diagnosis into survivorship. Even when treatment ends, we are always there for them."

Ashley shared an example of how vital her role is in the clinical care team. A single mother came in with an infant diagnosed with cancer. The mother was overwhelmed on her own with an infant with cancer. The child had psychosocial needs that required assistance, all on top of the required coordination of his medical treatment. The mother did not have reliable transportation and was missing appointments due to the unreliability of the Medicaid-approved transportation service – appointments that had been set up weeks in advance and coordinated between the specialty departments required her care. The lack of reliable transportation impeded this infant's medical care. Ashley was able to get a grant and set up the Uber healthcare fund providing reliable transportation to treatment.

For sickle cell patients, the nurse navigator focuses largely on followup and compliance with care. Based on the effectiveness of having a nurse navigator on the team, The Valerie Fund has approved funding for a second nurse navigator to work solely with hematology patients, while Ashley focuses on oncology patients. In the interim, The Morristown Valerie Fund team has been establishing a standard of care for sickle cell patients to help ensure they understand why attending frequent follow-up appointments, preventative screenings, and taking their medication regularly will help to keep them healthy.

Three newly created scholarships to provide \$100,000 in financial awards to Valerie Fund patients

In 2023, New Jersey state colleges cost approximately \$35,000 for in-state tuition and board. Many private schools were more than double.

The Valerie Fund Scholarship Program was created to acknowledge patients' desires to pursue their dreams and to acknowledge the financial burden many of their families face. For the current academic year, it provided 132 scholarships totaling \$530,000. This includes 27 named scholarships that have created 39 individual awards of \$5,000 to \$25,000.

Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, Valerie Fund patients past and present in pursuit of higher education will be eligible for three new significant scholarships.



JOYCE & BELLA SCHOLARSHIP

Julie Rubinstein can't remember a time when The Valerie Fund was not in her life. From her elementary school read-a-thon fundraiser, to the Valerie Fund kids her orthodontist father treated when she was growing

up, to fundraising for The Valerie Fund's Camp Happy Times as a Morgan Stanley analyst, Julie and her husband Andrew maintain a connection that is stronger than ever.

As young parents, the couple volunteered together as Camp Happy Times counselors. Julie would later become a Valerie Fund board member, heading up the organization's strategic planning process at a critical juncture, and their children would find their own volunteer niches in events and fundraising.

In 2023, the Rubinsteins announced the creation of the Joyce & Bella Scholarship to be awarded annually to a Valerie Fund patient pursuing college or graduate school. The name honors the two recipients of a scholarship Julie and Andrew created together with college friends from the University of Pennsylvania. The GNO Scholarship supported patients Bella Rocco, who attended the Rubinstein's alma mater University of Pennsylvania, and Joyce Tumfour, who attended Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. Joyce is now a first-year resident at Mount Sinai West in New York City and Bella is working as an investment banking analyst at Goldman Sachs. The Rubinsteins will provide \$25,000 in annual funding for the next decade.



HELEN AND BARRY REITER SCHOLARSHIP

In 2015, Helen and Barry Reiter's grandson Aaron, a first-grader, was diagnosed with leukemia. He was treated at Goryeb Children's Hospital's Valerie Fund Children's Center at Morristown Medical

Center, where Dr. Reiter had treated adult oncology patients for decades. Coming from Memorial Sloan Kettering to New Jersey

in 1974, Dr. Reiter set up his practice in Morristown, where he and Helen, a retired nurse and nurse educator, would raise their three children.

In 2023, the Reiters decided to establish a permanent scholarship fund to honor the support Aaron and his family received. They were particularly impressed by the educational technology that allowed Aaron to "attend" school remotely via a VGO robot. Ten years later, Aaron is a healthy 15-year-old high school sophomore in a STEM program who likes robotics. His grandparents will change the lives of Valerie Fund kids pursuing medical or nursing school by offsetting the cost of their education with a \$25,000 annual award.

"We are so grateful for everything The Valerie Fund did for Aaron and our family, so we wanted to help."



THE BIEBER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Jody and Erwin Bieber have been part of The Valerie Fund since 1995, when their daughter Sarah was diagnosed with Burkitt's Lymphoma and treated at The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. As their full-time careers

wind down, Jody and Erwin are spending more time as advocates for The Valerie Fund and have expressed their deep gratitude by establishing the Bieber Family Scholarships to help relieve a tremendous burden for Valerie Fund patients pursuing their dreams through higher education.

Jody and Erwin shared that, "Even though our world was pulled out from under us, we felt supported and well taken care of by Sarah's treatment team. It was a difficult time for all four of us and our extended family in different ways. The treatment team truly cared for our entire family, including Sarah's sister, Amanda. Fast forward to today and we are forever grateful to The Valerie Fund. We take nothing for granted."

Three decades have passed and both Sarah, an eighth grade gifted and talented math teacher, and her sister, Amanda, a human resources and controls specialist, are now married and raising their own children.

Camp Happy Times, the best week of the year





cancer get to be just like everybody is amazing to see. First-time campers may board the bus as strangers, but they go home as members of the Camp Happy Times family.

Camp Happy Times is a beautiful reunion and established tradition for campers and counselors alike. So many counselors started as campers whose time at camp is measured not in years but decades. Our campers are surrounded by a group of counselors and support staff whose caring and compassion are unparalleled.



It was a magical "Under the Sea" adventure at **Camp Happy Times** this year. Counselors and campers went all out decorating and celebrating the aquatic theme – turning the Tyler Hill campus into a world filled with pirates, mermaids, sharks, and other sea creatures. The joy of being at camp where kids with

Highlights from camp include the classic camp activities of gathering by the bonfire, tubing on the lake, arts and crafts, cooking, swimming, the climbing wall and ropes course, the talent show, hanging out in the canteen, Chanel beauty day, and the annual camp dance. With all the summer rain, the water slide was open and the boys won back the fishing trophy this year.

A round of applause goes out to **camp director Matt Ruttler;** Lynn Jones, our staff director; nurse Marty Viegas, who served as medical coordinator; and **Ellen Ruban**, **program director.**

THE EMERGENCY FUND HELPS PATIENT LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Compassionate care for the whole child is one of the hallmarks of The Valerie Fund. Nothing demonstrates that more than the recent Emergency Fund request that came from **Megan Finney** at **Monmouth Medical Center** on behalf of 24-year-old Valerie Fund patient, **Sabrina**.

Sabrina was born with an extremely rare form of anemia affecting her bone marrow called Diamond Blackfan Anemia (DBA). She was diagnosed at 7 weeks and, as she said, The Valerie Fund has been her world and her family her entire life. Life with DBA has been very challenging for Sabrina. Only in her early 20's, she has already had both shoulders and a hip replaced from the damage DBA has inflicted on her joints. Now, Sabrina is at a point where the treatments aren't working and she needs a stem cell transplant.

Fortunate to find a match from an unrelated stem cell donor, Sabrina was devastated to discover that the stem cell transplant therapy would leave her in ovarian failure and infertile. She reached out to a multitude of organizations looking for support. If she had cancer, she would have qualified for fertility support, but with a blood disorder, she was left behind. Sabrina has been putting off treatment, desperate to find help.



"The Valerie Fund is part of my identity in a way. I've spent my whole life [with The Valerie Fund] and I call it my second home. I'm really grateful to you for even giving me the opportunity to be able to bring light to such a dark

time of my life. Knowing that I might not be able to have children after my transplant and being able to have the opportunity is really meaningful."

Fertility support was a first-time use of Valerie Fund emergency funds. When presented with Sabrina's application, the Board not only approved the funding but determined this would set a new precedent for future Valerie Fund patients. Sabrina has shown great courage and strength in facing this rare disorder. The Valerie Fund emergency fund restores a measure of "quality of life" for our families. It typically helps with life's basic necessities, or is used to purchase items that make a huge difference in the lives of our patients and families.

Jersey Mike's helps Jersey kids



JERSEY MIKE'S

The Valerie Fund was honored to be chosen as the charity partner for Jersey Mike's 13th Annual Month of Giving campaign to support local charities, joining forces with over 120 Jersey Mike's restaurants across New Jersey. During March's Month of Giving, customers were able to donate

directly to The Valerie Fund at any participating Jersey Mike's and on the Day of Giving, these restaurants donated their resources and 100% of the day's sales to The Valerie Fund!

This exciting and impactful partnership resulted in an amazing **\$1.27 million** donated to support The Valerie Fund patients and families. We can't thank Jersey Mike's enough, and of course, all our wonderful supporters who came out on the Day of Giving!

We are excited that Jersey Mike's has chosen The Valerie Fund again to partner with the entire state of New Jersey for the 2024 Month of Giving Campaign—that will take place in over 130 stores!





THE VALERIE FUND CELEBRATES THE 31ST ANNUAL MORGAN STANLEY REC DAY



On the Morgan Stanley trading floors and throughout the executive offices, first- and secondyear analysts raised support for The Valerie Fund for the 31st consecutive year.

Co-chairs **Matthew Hirschfeld** and **Alexis Kline** led the group in a successful campaign that

raised approximately \$150,000, including participation from the Morgan Stanley Foundation. In addition to funding psychosocial care and Camp Happy Times, the Morgan Stanley campaign covers the cost of the annual "Rec Day," which brought more than 250 Valerie Fund patients and family members to enjoy a day at Turtleback Zoo, West Orange NJ.

The tradition was started by board member Dave Novak and his brother Ken, along with board member Julie Rubinstein in the early days of their successful careers in finance.

A model of comprehensive healthcare and program breakdown



		REVENUE	2022	2023
		Grants & Donations	\$5,058,051	\$3,764,235
		Special Events (Net)	2,363,410	3,836,181
		Investment Income	-\$771,831	1,434,041
		TOTAL REVENUE	6,649,630	\$9,034,457
		EXPENSES		
		Program Services		
TOTAL PATI	ENT VISITS TO	Hospital Centers	\$3,070,210	\$3,488,560
te valerie fund children's centers:		Camps	382,135	321,035
		Scholarships	482,000	548,348
		Other Programs	510,301	1,067,057
14,676	16,129	Total Program Services	\$4,384,901	\$5,425,000
Oncology	Hematology	Support Services	+ .,	+0,120,000
visits	visits	Management and General	\$171,918	\$376,042
		Fundraising	829,817	692,402
		Total Support Services	1,001,735	\$1,068,444
		TOTAL EXPENSES	5,386,636	\$6,493,444
		CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$1,262,994	\$2,541,013
<u>s.</u> .	\$1,855,495	Child Life Specialists, Oncology Social W Palliative Care Social Worker, Psychosoc		
	\$1,855,495 \$548,348			
			cial Nursing Support, puncturists,	
	\$548,348 \$455,254 \$572,269	Scholarships Integrative Medicine Practitioners, Acu	cial Nursing Support, puncturists,	
	\$ 548,348 \$455,254	Scholarships Integrative Medicine Practitioners, Acu Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner, Nutrit	cial Nursing Support, puncturists,	
	\$548,348 \$455,254 \$572,269	Scholarships Integrative Medicine Practitioners, Acup Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner, Nutrit Educational Liaisons Emergency support, holiday meals,	cial Nursing Support, puncturists,	

\$246,858 Cancer Survivorship Programs

\$122,279 Research Coordinators

People and events that support our work

A TASTE OF GIVING



The 12th Annual **Taste of Giving** was held March 2, 2023 at New York's Mandarin Oriental. Guests got a deeper understanding of The Valerie Fund and raised an amazing **\$1.8 million dollars** to support our programs. Celebrity auctioneer and stand-up comic, Colin Quinn entertained the crowd. Thank you to co-hosts **Daniel Choquette, Matthew DeNichilo and Rachel Cecil, Brendan and Jenifer Garvey, Brad and Jennifer Henis, Daniel and Mary Hoffman, Jeffrey and Katina Mayer, Randy Reiff, Bob Richter, Lou and Blair Rosenfeld, Jonathan and Debbie Sebiri, Marc and Bridget Toscano, Josh and Sharon Weintraub, Scott and Rachel Yedid, and Ben Zhang.**

KIDS ICE CANCER



The **Kids Ice Cancer** exhibition game benefiting The Valerie Fund took place on June 2, 2023. Partnering with The Valerie Fund, **Andrew Low** continues to organize and lead his Kids Ice Cancer to new heights. Andrew and his teammates raised \$65,000, making it a total of \$323,000 in just four years for our kids!

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT



The American Express Charity Golf Tournament

is held annually at Baltusrol Golf Club. Chaired by **Steve Squeri** and cosponsored by **Dell**, this tournament

has been a staple event for The Valerie Fund for 23 years and has raised millions of dollars for the children and families of The Valerie Fund. This year over \$465,000 was raised! Thank you to event sponsors **American Express Global Business Travel**, **Inserra Shopright**, **Tom Held**, **Joel and Ethel Sharenow**, **Technologent**, **Turnbridge**, **GM Advisory**, **Cast Iron Media**, **Dentsu**, **and JDP Mechanical**.



THE VALERIE FUND WALK/5K

The Valerie Fund Walk & 5K presented by Ed & Sue Goldstein and JAG Physical Therapy returned to the spring, as we came together with our Valerie Fund Community on June 10th. This is one of our favorite days of the year, as we see our patients and their families come together with their supporters to celebrate and honor their strength and courage.

Over two thousand people came to Verona Park for the Walk & 5K. Everywhere we turned, we were met with smiling faces, happy families and kids running and playing. The efforts of our Walk & Run captains and their teams helped ensure the day's success, along with the support of our generous sponsors, and amazing volunteers



helped us raise over \$925,000 Thank you to event sponsors **RWJ Barnabas Health, Atlantic Health, and Oritani Foundation.**

We welcomed the **3rd Annual Lawyers Run** participants again. This group of socially engaged lawyers has raised over \$80,000 to support The Valerie Fund since 2021!

Our friends at **The Learning Experience** were back this year for a 150-yard Color Run Kid's Sprint, where The Learning Experience's mascot, Bubbles, waited to congratulate them.

The day's impact truly resonated, hearing from Valerie Fund Patient **Ben**, treated at The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Ben battles sickle cell disease and he shared that it was in a Valerie Fund Center, the place where he receives treatment, that he feels the most normal.

Former Valerie Fund patient and community advocate, **Alberto Torres** received an award from the Ed & Sue Goldstein Foundation, recognizing his support of The Valerie Fund through Alberto's Angels.

The 2024 Walk & 5K Run will be held on June 8, 2024. It's never too early to form a team and start fundraising!

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL NETWORK GALA



The Valerie Fund's Junior Board, relaunched as the Young Professional Network, held their annual gala October 14, 2023. Almost 200 people gathered together in Greenwich Village's Atrium at Ideal Glass Studios to network and raise over \$50,000 to support the patients and families of The Valerie Fund. Valerie Fund kid and former scholarship recipient **Isabella Rocco** energized the crowd, sharing her Valerie Fund journey. Congratulations to Young Professionals Network (YPN) Chairs **Dominick Kaczor, Chuck Kohaut, Manav Sarkaria**, and the rest of the board for pulling off a fabulous event.

CAREOKE FOR THE KIDS



The 18th **CAREoke for the Kids** brought together old friends, as well as some first timers all having fun at this extraordinary event held October 5th. This unique event brings together media industry executives to have a great time and raised over \$320,000 to support The Valerie Fund patients and their families. Thank you to **Adam Mark, Cara Lewis, Dave Tennenbaum, Eric Hawes, Jonathon Ciancetta, Lee O'Connor, Mike Graf, and Pat Brennan.**



THANKSGIVING BALL GALA

The 32nd annual **Thanksgiving Ball Gala** was held November 17th at The Grove in Cedar Grove, NJ. This event introduces our Valerie Fund Ambassadors and showcases the talent and inspiration of our amazing Valerie Fund kids. **River** performed a beautiful musical number and **Carter** shared his Valerie Fund Journey.

The Valerie Fund was proud to honor **John & Dawn Gallucci** (JAG Physical Therapy) and **John Elliott** (CBS2 Meteorologist) for their years of support for the Annual Walk & 5K Run. JAG Physical Therapy has been a presenting sponsor of the Walk & 5K for over 15 years, while **John Elliott** has partnered with us, broadcasting our mission from Verona Park every year. We are grateful for their support and proud to call them Valerie Fund partners.

Our corporate and foundation partnerships make us stronger





2023 Honor Roll

VALERIE'S LEGACY

Members of Valerie's Legacy are donors who have named The Valerie Fund in their estate plan or have made a gift to The Valerie Fund endowment. We recognize these donors in perpetuity for ensuring that the children we serve now and in the future receive the care and support that they deserve.

Judy Abrams

Marilyn Adler/Martin H. Adler Children's Fund

Paul Bagoon and Family

Merrie and Eric Bernstein

David and Gail Cohen

E. F. Harris Family Foundation

George and Fran Foussianes

Michael and Debra Gelband

Ed and Suzann Goldstein

Estate of Helen Grace

The Kapnick Foundation

Janet Keating

Lisa's Heart Kids Cancer Research, Inc.

The Markovitz Family

Krista McKerracher and Michael McCabe

David and Jane Novak

Lauryn Pepe

Bill and Heather Raincsuk

The Raine Group

Glenn and Stacy Schiffman

Joel and Ethel Sharenow

Jon and Abby Winkelried

VALERIE'S CIRCLE (\$100,000+)

American Express Estate of Judy Abrams Brendan and Jenifer Garvey Ed and Suzann Goldstein Jersey Mike's Franchise Systems, Inc. Jane and David Novak Barry and Helen Reiter Andrew and Julie Rubinstein Debbie and Howard Schiller Barbara Schoenberg Steven and Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation, Inc. Josh and Sharon Weintraub

LEADER (\$50,000+)

Erwin and Jody Bieber Daniel Choquette **Dell Technologies** Delta Air Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, Inc. Brad and Jennifer Henis JAG Physical Therapy, LLC Neil Mehta and Paula Cheng-Mehta Joel and Ethel Sharenow The Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust Singh Family Foundation Tina and Stephen Squeri Chetan and Shivani Vohra Scott and Rachel Yedid Diane Young and Philip P. Crowley Xingbin Zhang

PHILANTHROPIST (\$25,000+)

American Express Global Travel Atlantic Health System Keith and Debra Banks Edward Bastian



Merrie and Eric Bernstein Sanford Bier **Bread Financial DiFeo Auto Group** Chaojun Fan and Kaiyan Lin **Richard and Maureen Finkel** Fred and Marie Weiss Foundation John and Dawn Gallucci The Gelband Family Foundation Hope & Heroes Children's Cancer Fund Inserra Supermarkets, Inc. Jamieson and Hayley Johnson The KRE Group Lowenstein Sandler LLP Jeffrey and Katina Mayer Morgan Stanley Fixed Income & Commodities Mulvaney Family Foundation Oritani Charitable Foundation Rackson Restaurants, LLC

Robert Richter RWJ Barnabas Health Liam and Joy Sargent Schumacher Chevrolet Jonathan and Debbie Sebiri Toscano Family Charitable Fund Michael and Kirsten Weinstein

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PHOTO CREDITS

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Page 2: Carrie DeWan, School Intervention & Re-entry with patient with **Avery**, age 5, diagnosis AML

Page 3: Michell Graziano,

M. Ed-School Intervention & Re-entry, survivorship coordinator with **KaityIn**, age 19, diagnosis Osterosarcoma and **Sophia**, age 14, diagnosis Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH)

Page 4: Dr. Lawlor with Elli, age 7, diagnosis sickle cell

Page 5: Diana Gomez, M. Ed educational liaison with Sofia, age 21, diagnosis ALL; Ashley Mariconda MSN, RN, PED-BC, CPNP-PC, Nurse Navigator

Page 13: Katrina, age 19, diagnosis ALL with her mom

Page 14: Anderson, age 3, diagnosis Wilm's tumor with Joulé Shipman, MSW, LSW -Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Social Worker

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Page 19: Carsyn, age 10, diagnosis sickle cell with her mom

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