



FOCUS



The Valerie Fund's mission is to provide support for the comprehensive health care of children with cancer and blood disorders

DECEMBER 2021

MEET EMILY WOZNICK: Cancer Survivor, Future Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, and Valerie Fund Scholarship Recipient

Emily's achievements are especially remarkable considering she has been in and out of hospitals her entire life—first to cure her cancer, then because of illnesses caused by the late effects of her treatment, with which she will be dealing her entire life.

Now, at age 28, she is cancer-free, and in her second semester of graduate school at Montclair State University, studying for her master's degree in nursing. She is in an 18-month accelerated program and is on track to receive her master's degree in December 2022 for which she was awarded The Valerie Fund's Weintraub Family Scholarship.

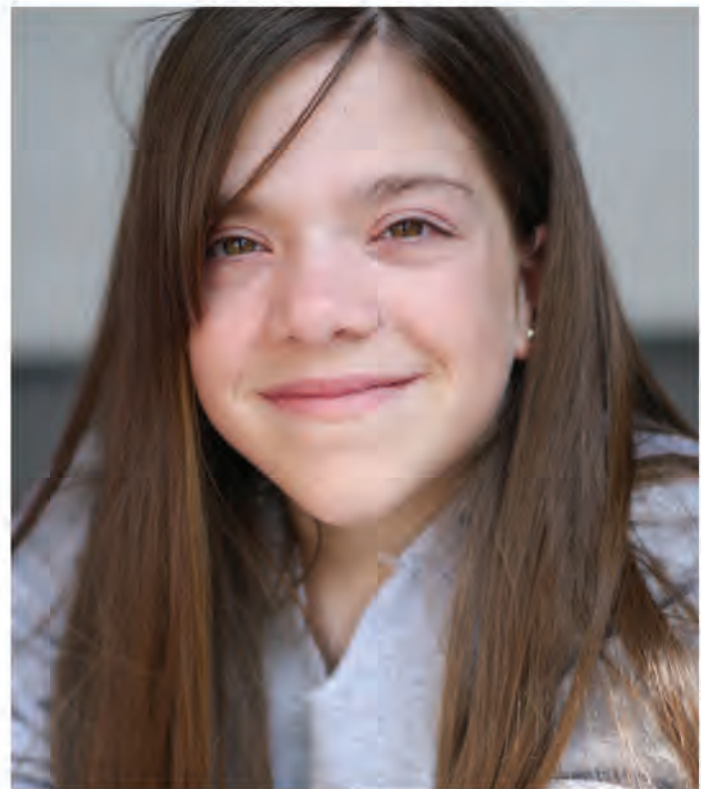
When she was eight months old, Emily was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma in her uterus. She had a hysterectomy and underwent chemotherapy and radiation.

During her senior year of high school, Emily's kidneys failed, which was a late effect of earlier cancer treatments to save her life. To stabilize the situation temporarily, doctors inserted nephrostomy tubes to her kidneys. Despite the pain she graduated high school on time in a wheelchair.

A month later—three days before her 18th birthday—Emily had lifesaving urostomy surgery. During Emily's sophomore year of college, she developed a benign tumor in her right leg. The surgery to remove it left her with nerve damage and she frequently develops infections.

In high school, Emily's friends "didn't get" what she was going through. They told her she was not a good friend and stopped talking to her. The only friend who visited her in the hospital was a friend she'd known all her life. Emily spent a lot of time with her dad doing "anything you can do from a sofa." Happily, once Emily went to college, she found wonderful, supportive friends. She also found she loves boxing! It helps her get out her frustrations.

Emily also found her special place at The Valerie Fund's Camp Happy Times for kids with cancer, where she has been every year since the age of nine, first as a camper, then as an LIT (Leader in Training), and now as a full-fledged CHT counselor. This is where Emily found her "friend group," a community of people who had been through the same experiences she had. Empathy for one another replaced the judgment Emily found in the outside world.



After being a camper for nine years, she wanted to help campers build the same priceless memories that she holds so dear. Emily says she is a "goofy person" and likes to be silly with her campers. She loves kids but will not be able to have children of her own. "It will be hard when my friends have children," she said.

After graduation she plans to be a bedside nurse for a year and then go back to school to become a pediatric Nurse Practitioner, though she is not certain she wants to specialize in oncology. There are so many other fields of medicine that she wants to explore before making that decision.

Emily sends out a big thank you to everyone at The Valerie Fund. So many people within the organization supported her over the years, and she can never thank them enough.

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THE 2021 NEW JERSEY AUTO RETAILERS UNITE CAMPAIGN RAISES OVER \$500,000 TO SUPPORT THE VALERIE FUND

Since 2014, more than 200 franchised New Jersey new car and truck dealerships have participated in **New Jersey Auto Retailers Unite** fundraising campaigns benefitting The Valerie Fund. Raising over \$2,250,000 for The Valerie Fund since 2014, their generosity has made an extraordinary impact on the lives of the more than 6,000 brave children with cancer, sickle cell disease and other blood disorders treated by The Valerie Fund each year.



This year's campaign set an ambitious goal of raising \$500,000. We are thrilled to report that the 2021 Campaign met this goal!

The 2021 campaign launched on September 21, during the month's national recognition of Pediatric Cancer Awareness and Sickle Cell Awareness. This year's campaign focused on educating the public about sickle cell disease, in particular. The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Newark Beth Israel treats more sickle cell

patients than any other hospital in New Jersey and is recognized as a Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center.

We are grateful that **Rosario Dawson** joined the campaign as the celebrity spokesperson. She was featured in a public service announcement that launched in mid-September. In addition to her many acting credits, Ms. Dawson is a well-respected activist, designer, businesswoman and community volunteer.

"New Jersey's 500+ franchised neighborhood new car and truck dealerships... compete for customers every day, but they can also unite behind a worthwhile cause," said **Jim Appleton**, President of the New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers.

"It is especially important to support the hundreds of children with Sickle Cell Disease treated at Valerie Fund Centers. This is an incurable disease that affects an underserved population," said **Judith Schumacher-Tilton**, NJ CAR Chairwoman and owner of the Schumacher Auto Group. "New Jersey's dealerships are coming together, across all brands, to support the vital work of The Valerie Fund."

THE VALERIE FUND 2022 SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 6	The Valerie Fund Named Scholars Reception via Zoom bit.ly/ValerieFundScholars
Thursday, February 24	Taste of Giving Mandarin Oriental New York, NY
Monday, August 1	The American Express Charity Golf Outing at Baltusrol Baltusrol Golf Club Springfield, NJ
Saturday, September 17	The Valerie Fund Walk and JAG-ONE Physical Therapy 5K Verona Park Verona, NJ
Tuesday, September 27	Burger King Golf Outing Brooklake Country Club Florham Park, NJ
Wednesday, September 28	CAREoke for the Kids Irving Plaza New York, NY
Friday, November 18	31st Annual Thanksgiving Ball The Grove Cedar Grove, NJ

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



The Valerie Fund is proud to announce that, **Chris Johnson** and **Neil Mehta** have joined The Valerie Fund Board.

Chris Johnson is a seasoned entrepreneur and a highly regarded and respected leader in the quick service restaurant (QSR) industry. He grew up working in his father, Ron Johnson's, Yum!

Brands franchisee company. He currently serves as CEO of Rackson Restaurants, a franchisee of Restaurant Brands International's Burger King brand with over fifty-five restaurants located in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions

Chris currently sits on the board of the Burger King Foundation. Since 2017, his restaurants have enthusiastically participated in The Valerie Fund's annual Burger King Coupon Campaign raising close to \$90,000 to date.

Chris received his Bachelor of Science at Boston College and his MBA at Columbia Business School. He is married and has three young children.



Neil Mehta is a Managing Director at Goldman Sachs in the Global Investment Research division. He oversees the North American Natural Resources Equity Research team and leads coverage of Large Cap Energy Equities. Neil joined Goldman Sachs in 2008 after graduating Columbia University.

Neil is Co-Chair of the Goldman Sachs Global Research Inclusion & Diversity Council, and a senior sponsor for the Asian Professional Network and PhD Fellowship Program. Neil resides in Maplewood, New Jersey along with his wife, Paula, and two young boys, Dev and Leo.

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SUMMER/FALL SPECIAL EVENTS RECAP

The Second Annual Kids Ice Cancer All-Star Hockey Game— June 16, 2021

The Second Annual Kids Ice Cancer All-Star Hockey Game was held June 16th at Mennen Sports Arena in Morristown. **Andrew Low**, the creator of Kids Ice Cancer, became interested in raising funds in support of cancer organizations after losing three family members to cancer in 2016. Last August, Andrew visited The Valerie Fund Center at Morristown, which he described as a “real eye opener.”

Andrew’s mission is to raise money to help kids who are facing the toughest battle of their lives. He recruited friends and other hockey players and created the tag line “Kids Helping Kids.” They have **raised \$191,000 in the past two years.**



The American Express Charity Golf Tournament— August 2, 2021

For more than two decades, **Steve Squeri, Chairman and CEO of American Express**, has been an integral part of the success of the annual golf fundraiser held at **Baltusrol Golf Club**. This event has raised millions of dollars, including **\$407,000 in 2021.**



The evening’s guest speaker was **Brianna**, Valerie Fund patient and nearly 15-year survivor. A recent graduate of the University of Miami, Brianna was a four-year recipient of a Valerie Fund scholarship. Event Chair Squeri took great pride in introducing Brianna as a patient advocate, congressional lobbyist, and public speaker in the pediatric

cancer community as well as a colleague, since she joined American Express last year as an analyst.

Special thanks to the Event Sponsor **American Express** and to major sponsors **Ethel and Joel Sharenow, Dell Technologies, ShopRite of Lincoln Park, Tom and Linda Held, In Serra Supermarkets, JDP Mechanical, and UM Worldwide.**

The 16th Annual Valerie Fund Walk and 5K presented by Ed & Sue Goldstein & JAG-ONE Physical Therapy— September 25, 2021

This year’s annual walk was held on September 25th. Over 1,000 walkers and runners attended, and **over \$800,000 was raised.**

We are so appreciative of all our loyal sponsors, including exclusive Run sponsor **JAG-ONE Physical Therapy**, our Founders **Ed & Sue Goldstein**, who became presenting sponsors this year, and media sponsor **CBS 2 New York**, with their very own Valerie Fund weather people, **John Elliott** and **Vanessa Murdock**, who was the event MC. Our thanks to **RWJBarnabas Health, Atlantic Health Systems – Morristown Medical Center, Saker ShopRites, Dunkin’ Joy in Childhood Foundation, Servier Pharmaceuticals, Merck & Co., Bristol Myers Squibb, West**

Deptford Energy, St. Joseph’s Health Foundation, CBOE Global Markets, In Serra Supermarkets and Northeast Risk Solutions.

Jemima, diagnosed with Stage 4 Rhabdomyosarcoma at **age 21**, joined us on stage. **Conor** also joined us, speaking about her experience of being diagnosed at **age 17** with Pre-B Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.



While we were thrilled to be able to have our Walk in person this year, we also broadcasted live, allowing people who could not attend to still be a part of the event. To relive the magic of the 2021 Walk, please visit thevaleriefund.org to watch our livestream broadcast.

The 24th Annual Burger King Children’s Charity Golf Classic – September 28, 2021- Brooklake Country Club



This year’s honoree was our newest board member, **Chris Johnson**. Chris currently serves as the CEO of Rackson Restaurants, a franchisee of Restaurant Brands International’s Burger King. Since 2017, his restaurants have participated in The Valerie Fund’s Annual Burger King Coupon Campaign, **raising over \$100,000 in the last five years.**

The Burger King Children’s Charity Golf Classic is made possible by our generous sponsors **New Providence Dentistry, Coca-Cola of North America, Keurig Dr. Pepper, Alfiero & Lucia Palestroni Foundation, Devs Food, Bimbo Bakehouse Foodservice and Darling Ingredients.**

CAREoke for the Kids—October 19, 2021



The Annual **CAREoke for the Kids** was back in person this year. Our fabulous MCs, **Pat Brennan and Cara Lewis**, carried the night. We are so excited to announce **we raised over \$270,000.**

Whether you watched at home or attended in person, you could feel the electric energy of all our performers. This year, VideoAmp took home the coveted trophy with their performance of Misery by Paramore.

Without the support we receive yearly from our New York advertising community, we would not be able to continue this entertaining and successful event. A special shout out to our **Platinum Sponsors: Amazon Ads, Innovid, Vevo, VideoAmp, and Warner Media.**

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE CAMP

Camp Happy Times followed the Yellow Brick Road with an amazing Wizard of Oz theme in 2021. Due to the continued pandemic, for the safety of our campers and staff CHT remained virtual for a second year. This did not deter the staff from providing campers a memorable experience. Campers and staff received their "Happy Camper Kits" with all the materials and a few surprises they needed for an excellent week.

CHT was transported over the rainbow to a land of friendship, bravery, brains and heart. Campers were placed into three age groups: the Fabulous Flying Monkeys, Terrifying Twisters, and the Merry, Merry Munchkins.

Campers enjoyed arts and crafts with Camp Director Matt. A camp favorite, cooking, continued in Beth's kitchen with amazing desserts and mac & cheese. Zoom games, as well as beading with the Bead Lady, were huge hits.

Our fishing team taught knot tying, and our own music guru, Mel, helped our campers write their very own song. Our British friends, Mags and Tanith, demonstrated how to tie-dye shirts and bandanas. Every group enjoyed a super relaxing session of yoga with Cara.

The Leaders-in-Training (LIT's) created a phenomenal virtual board game for all to enjoy. Our evening programs included trivia, our famous talent show, the masked singer, and our rockin' dance with DJ Jak. This year we were also joined by an awesome magician who entertained our staff, campers, and their families.

Smiles, fun, laughter and memories that last a lifetime are always on the menu at Camp Happy Times. Staff and campers alike are looking forward to not only being together again, but can't wait to be together in-person as soon as possible.



“You’ve always had the power my dear, you just had to learn it for yourself.”

~ L. Frank Baum

JERSEY MIKE’S GOES THE EXTRA MILE...AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD!



The Valerie Fund is thrilled to announce that our partnership with Jersey Mike's raised **\$7,800**. These funds will benefit the 6,000 children battling cancer and blood disorders in our seven New Jersey, New York City, and metro Philadelphia Valerie Fund Children's Centers.

For the entire month of September, patrons of Jersey Mike's were able to donate \$1, \$3, or \$5 at the register to help our Valerie Fund kids. The month of September is both Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month and Sickle Cell Awareness Month. Their passion for giving

is reflected in Jersey Mike's mission statement: "Giving...making a difference in someone's life."

The success of this collaboration comes at a critical time for our patients and their families. Since the start of the pandemic, many of our families are struggling economically. Food insecurity is reaching frightening levels. Payments to families from our Emergency Funding program have **increased by 150%**. The funds raised by Jersey Mike's initiative will help us fulfill our mission to keep our kids safe physically and emotionally.

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YOU HAVE OPTIONS

The traditional way of making your annual charitable donation by writing a check (for those who still use checkbooks) remains a simple and direct way to express your support of The Valerie Fund mission. Many have shifted to online giving through our website donor portal.

While these remain the most common forms of giving, you have additional options. These options may offer a convenient way for you to give or allow you to increase your support without feeling a pinch in your pocketbook, and even save on taxes!

Whatever means of giving you choose, your gift is as meaningful to The Valerie Fund as it is to you.

You can find details for all giving options at TheValerieFund.org/YouCanHelp

JOIN THE CLUB!

- Become the newest member of **Valerie's Monthly Membership** and enjoy the perks. It's our new monthly giving club so you can spread your donation out over 12 months and keep it going.

TAX SAVINGS!

- Even donors savvy in financial matters are often unaware they can **avoid capital gains tax** by transferring appreciated stocks. It's a powerful way to support The Valerie Fund kids. We will send you the stock transfer information upon request.



- Are you at least 70½? You can make a **qualified charitable distribution (QCD)** of up to \$100,000 from your IRA tax free.

- **Donate your Car through CAREASY.org.** Donating your car can result in tax savings and help the Valerie Fund children.

GIFTS THAT COST NOTHING!

• Legacy Giving

Making The Valerie Fund a beneficiary in your will or trust is a thoughtful and enduring way to invest in our children.

To add us to your existing will,

go to TheValerieFund.org/legacy for a downloadable addendum.

If you would like to make a perfectly legal will at no cost and designate us as one of your beneficiaries, go to Freewill.com/TheValerieFund and make your will in 20 minutes as our gift to you.



• Matching Gifts

Many employers will match your charitable donation, often dollar for dollar! Ask your benefits department if your gift qualifies.

• Amazon Smile

Sign-up for Amazon Smile and choose The Valerie Fund as your charity of choice.

Amazon **donates 0.5%** of your purchases to us at no cost to you.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE OPTIONS CONTACT:
Lori Abrams, Director of Development
at LABrams@TheValerieFund.org

MEET THE NEW VALERIE FUND CHILDREN'S CENTERS STAFF

Kids and their families may notice some new faces when they visit their Valerie Fund Children's Center. Each of these individuals assists with non-medical issues that arise when a child is sick: psycho-social needs, working with patients' schools, and obtaining emergency funds for basic necessities.

We are happy to welcome:

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital

Katie L. DiCola – Educational Liaison

The Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth
Casey Gilman, CLS - Child Life Specialist

Morristown Medical Center, Goryeb Children's Hospital
Caitlin Constantino - Educational Liaison

Victoria Lukas, MSW, LCSW - Long-Term Follow-up Social Worker

Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

Sara Pagano, MS, CCLS – Child Life Specialist

Donna Frasca-Brady, M.S. Ed. - Educational Liaison

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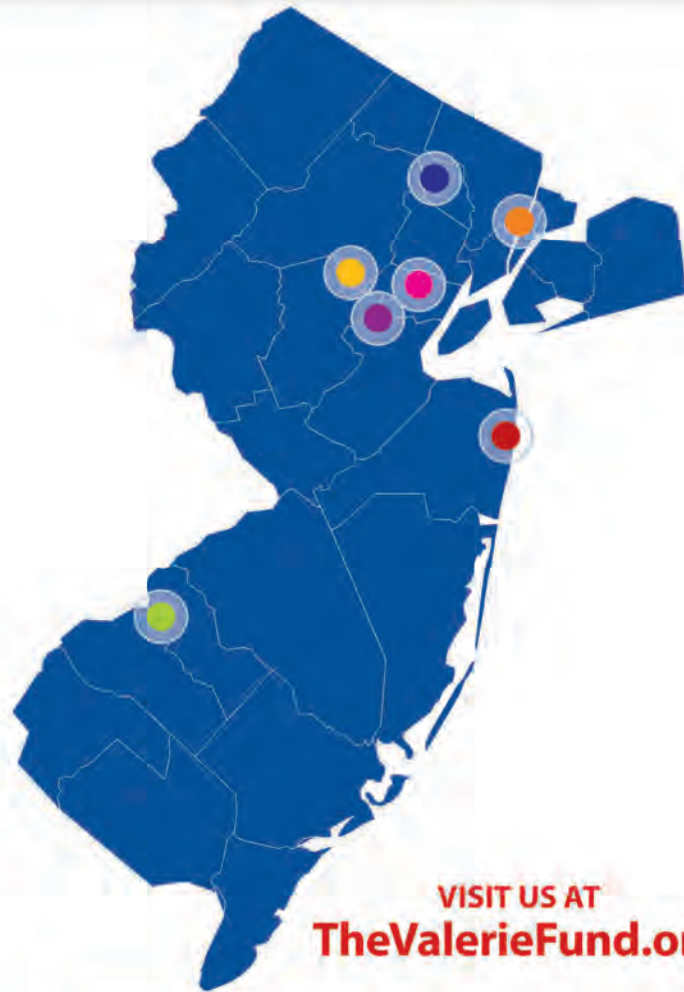
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Supporting
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for Children with
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HOW TO CONTACT A VALERIE FUND CENTER NEAR YOU

- **Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center**
 201 Lyons Avenue
 Newark, New Jersey 07112
 973.926.7161
- **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, NJ Section of Hematology/Oncology, Specialty Care Center**
 1012 Laurel Oak Road
 Voorhees, New Jersey 08043
 856.435.7502
- **Morristown Medical Center, Goryeb Children's Hospital**
 100 Madison Avenue, Box 70
 Morristown, New Jersey 07960
 973.971.6720
- **NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital**
 Columbia University Medical Center
 161 Fort Washington Avenue, IP 7th Floor
 New York, New York 10032
 212.305.5808
- **Overlook Medical Center**
 11 Overlook Road, Suite 230
 Summit, New Jersey 07901
 908.522.2353
- **St. Joseph's Children's Hospital**
 703 Main Street
 Paterson, NJ 07503
 973.754.3230
- **The Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center**
 300 Second Avenue
 Long Branch, New Jersey 07740
 732.923.7455



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TheValerieFund.org

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