



# 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 2022

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Dear Friends:

We are proud to report that 2022 was another banner year for The Valerie Fund, our children, and their families. In fact, as we all slowly emerged from the pandemic, 2022 was our second-best fundraising year in history. More than \$7.3 million was raised to support our three core programs of The Valerie Fund Children’s Centers, Camp Happy Times, and our ever-growing scholarship fund.

In 2022, we successfully expanded our psychosocial support to what is now a network of eight Valerie Fund Children’s Centers. For the first time, we provided over \$3.2 million in funding to provide the highest quality of care close to home to almost 6,000 children treated. What makes us especially happy to share is that we were able to (safely) bring Camp Happy Times back live in the summer of 2022 for the first time in three years! And our Valerie Fund scholarship program expanded yet again as we awarded 123 scholarships totaling over \$490,000 to current and former patients in an effort to encourage them to further their education and dreams.

However, the most exciting news is that we named our eighth Valerie Fund Center by partnering with Stony Brook Children’s

Hospital in Stony Brook, New York. With this new center, The Valerie Fund has extended its expanded footprint from metro Philadelphia to eastern Long Island. Our funding will make permanent a full-time psychosocial care team for the families who will experience over 5,000 oncology and hematology patient visits each year, including the 60 new annual pediatric oncology diagnoses Stony Brook saw in 2022.

We are so excited that your financial support has allowed our Board to expand our impact and geographic reach and bring The Valerie Fund “special sauce” and full spectrum of psychosocial programs to thousands of families. The future is bright. We hope you can spend time to read and be proud of all the programs on the following pages you help make possible.

**We are, and will always be, “all about the kids.”**

Sincerely,

Neil Yaris  
Chair

Barry Kirschner  
Executive Director

# New Valerie Fund Center at Stony Brook Children's Hospital



*Dr. Carolyn Milana, MD, Physician-in Chief; Neil Yaris, Board Chair The Valerie Fund; Barry Kirschner, Executive Director, The Valerie Fund; Suzann and Ed Goldstein, Founders of The Valerie Fund; Dr. Laura Hogan, MD, Chief of Division of Pediatric Hematology; and Oncology, and President Maurie McInnis, Stony Brook Children's Hospital.*

**T**he Valerie Fund announced its newest Valerie Fund Center at Stony Brook Children's Hospital in Stony Brook, New York. With the addition of Stony Brook Children's Hospital to its network of Centers, The Valerie Fund has extended its footprint from metro Philadelphia to Eastern Long Island, the most densely populated region in the United States. The new Center carries on a decades-long legacy of comprehensive healthcare for children and their families.

Stony Brook Children's Hospital, a national leader in children's health care offering one of the most advanced pediatric specialty care programs in the region, has a dedicated team of specialists in the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Program providing services to benefit the children of Suffolk and Nassau Counties. The hospital cares for 60 new oncology patients per year and sees 5,000 oncology and hematology outpatient visits annually.

Because of the growth in patient volume, Stony Brook Children's Hospital will benefit from the expanded psychosocial support services provided by The Valerie Fund. The Valerie Fund is providing

grant funding to ensure that the children and families treated at Stony Brook Children's Hospital have access to a full-time social worker, child life specialist, psychologist, educational liaison, and survivorship coordinator. More than 500 patients will benefit from this new psychosocial partnership, not only medically but also emotionally, socially, and developmentally.

"Stony Brook Children's Hospital is delighted about our new relationship with The Valerie Fund," says **Carolyn Milana, MD, Physician-in-Chief at Stony Brook Children's Hospital.** "We are grateful to be partnering with an organization that is so closely aligned with our mission of providing individualized care to children close to home. Having all these extra support services in place allows us to focus on the medical care, knowing we have staff to do what's necessary to keep the family functional."

"It is an honor to have the opportunity to work directly with The Valerie Fund," says **Laura Hogan, MD, Chief of Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Stony Brook Children's Hospital.** "My team and I are beyond grateful for the generous and



strategic commitment to enhance the psychosocial support for our pediatric hematology/oncology patients and their families. For these patients, psychosocial support is just as important as the treatments for their physical illnesses. We are excited about what we can accomplish together.”

“I often say, ‘It takes more than medicine to get well.’ Comprehensive psychosocial care for patients with childhood cancer and their families is vital to their healing,” says **Lauren Sharaby, MS, CCLS, Certified Child Life Specialist**. “By providing our patients with age-appropriate education, emotional support, and therapeutic recreation, I am able to enhance their coping skills and facilitate their adjustment to the medical

setting. Our partnership with The Valerie Fund allows us to give our patients and their families the individualized care they all deserve.”

**Michelle Graziano, M. Ed, School Intervention and Re-entry Coordinator and Pediatric Oncology Survivorship Clinic coordinator**, is “...looking forward to seeing our Oncology Survivorship Clinic patients benefit from a full team dedicated to supporting them and their families. Having a psychologist, social worker, child life specialist, registered dietician, and school intervention specialist on staff will allow us to provide comprehensive care that gives our patients the greatest possibility for success, not only in overcoming their medical diagnoses, but also in becoming well-adjusted, happy adults.”

“Our partnership with The Valerie Fund will allow us to continue the School Intervention and Reentry (SIRE) team,” says **Carrie Dewan, School Intervention & Re-entry Coordinator**. “The team offers faculty



and classroom presentations on the biopsychosocial needs of patients and survivors and works with colleges and vocational schools to help students meet their educational goals, both during and after treatment. In addition, being part

of The Valerie Fund will permit the SIRE team to continue presenting its annual Educating the Educator conference to school nurses, teachers, and healthcare professionals.”

“We are thrilled to welcome Stony Brook Children’s Hospital as our newest Valerie Fund Center,” says **Neil Yaris, The Valerie Fund Board Chair**. “In doing so, an additional 500 children each year will have access to the full range of psychosocial care that our other seven Valerie Fund centers currently provide. We look forward to a long relationship with Dr. Laura Hogan and her entire team.”

**Barry Kirschner, Executive Director of The Valerie Fund**, adds, “When a child gets sick, it’s not just the child who needs to be treated; the whole family is impacted. The Valerie Fund has the resources to help families, siblings and patients themselves manage the psychosocial challenges that often accompany these diagnoses.”



# A new grant from Alfiero and Lucia Palestroni Foundation supports survivorship programs

Since 2009, The **Alfiero and Lucia Palestroni Foundation** has made grants of nearly \$1 million to a range of Valerie Fund initiatives, from palliative care to our expansion of a new Valerie Fund Children's Center at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson to the most recent two-year grant of \$195,000 dedicated to survivorship programs at Goryeb Children's Hospital in Morristown and Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

**Debbie Sena**, a second-generation trustee of the Alfiero and Lucia Palestroni Foundation whose father Joseph Della Monica had a close friendship with its founders, explains, "The work of The Valerie Fund resonates with the founding principle set out by Alfiero Palestroni because of its incredible work healing the children and their families. Mr. Palestroni wanted to address the particular needs of people who have a strike against them, be it physical, emotional

or medical. For this reason, The Valerie Fund is one of the Palestroni Foundation's longest standing funding partnerships."

The grants made by the Palestroni Foundation have already touched thousands of patients and their family members. This new grant will monitor Valerie Fund patients declared cancer-free medically, emotionally, socially, and educationally well into adulthood to help ensure quality of life and help to ensure they reach the goals they set for themselves.



*Joseph Della Monica and Alfiero Palestroni*

## Nutrition program promotes healing for kids on treatment



Every parent knows how stressful it can be when kids don't eat well. Even more so for parents whose kids have a decreased appetite due to illness, or treatment like chemotherapy, that can bring food aversions and taste changes.

**Chelsea Caravella, the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist** at The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Goryeb Children's Hospital at Morristown Medical Center knows how to help parents and kids get creative in order to ensure children on treatment get the nutrition that will get them the calories they need to heal and stay strong. Chelsea's efforts help ensure patients have access to comprehensive, personalized and evidenced-based medical nutrition therapy. She helps patients and their families establish, achieve, and maintain unique nutritional goals.

In working directly with members of the medical and psychosocial team, Chelsea offers support to manage patients' symptoms and side effects and to promote their growth and development. This is important not only during treatment but for long-term nutritional well-being once treatment has ended.

Nutrition counseling and education helps equip patients and families with the tools to develop and implement individualized care plans while building a healthy, sustainable relationship with food.

Shortly after The Valerie Fund established the nutrition program in 2017, Rick and Maureen Finkel, who share a background in nutritional therapy, put their support behind it. Until the pandemic, Maureen even helped out with The Valerie Fund Center cooking classes.

"Understanding the connection between nutrition and recovery is important for anyone facing cancer treatment. Proper nutrition is essential to help the body regain strength and help fight infection. The Valerie Fund nutrition program provides important information and support that is necessary during treatment and helps with future health, growth and development," the Finkels said.

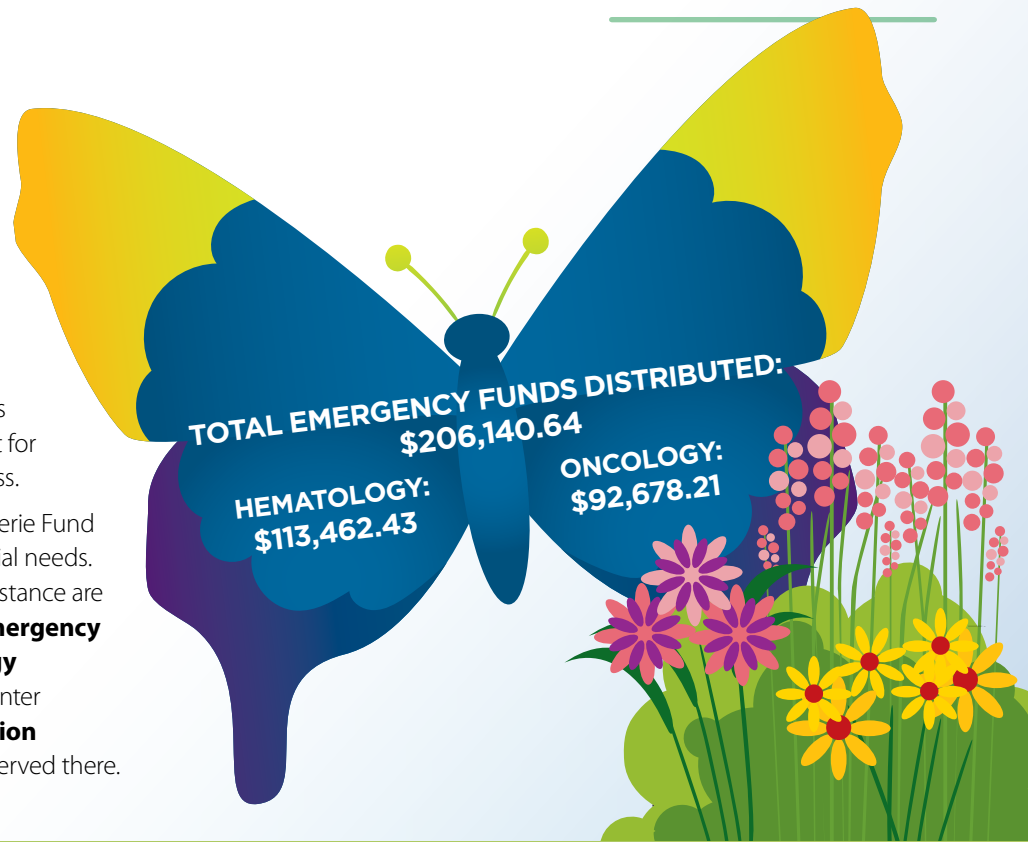
"Children in cancer treatment will need extra calories to help them heal and stay strong. We focus on balancing meals using a variety of different food groups to help provide children with calories, protein, fiber, vitamins and minerals," says Chelsea. "I encourage parents to focus on family mealtimes, model healthy eating behaviors and have their child be involved in the cooking process (as they are able to), all of which can help build healthy eating habits for children."



# Emergency Funds ease financial burdens for Valerie Fund families in 2022

Many families with a sick child face tremendous financial burdens. A single father who is self-employed as a cab driver misses work every two weeks when he brings his daughter to the Center for transfusion due to her history of stroke; he also had to cut back on his hours when business was slow in December and January. As a result, he is behind on the rent. A 19-year-old patient with osteosarcoma has been undergoing extensive treatment for over a year. His mother cut down on her work hours to be present for her son, so the family is experiencing financial stress.

The Valerie Fund provides emergency funds to Valerie Fund families who need help meeting their basic financial needs. Social workers who identify families in need of assistance are able to turn to the **Ed and Suzann Goldstein Emergency Fund**, as well as the **McKinley Place Hematology Emergency Fund**. Social workers at the CHOP Center in Voorhees have access to the **Holman Foundation Emergency Fund** set up specifically for families served there.



# Cancer survivors find magic at Newark Beth Israel's Valerie Fund Center

As part of the effort to provide comprehensive care to cancer survivors, The Valerie Fund Center at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center established the **MAGIC** program. MAGIC stands for marvel and grit inspired cancer survivorship clinic. The program utilizes medical and psychosocial clinicians to treat children and young adults who are two or more years post-treatment from childhood cancers or stem cell transplantation.

The MAGIC team is comprised of a physician, nurse practitioner, nurse coordinator, child life specialist, social worker, integrative health specialist, and educational liaison. They work together to ensure that cancer survivors are supported with a multidisciplinary approach and in a family-centered environment.

As expressed by the team, "The MAGIC program is a bridge that connects on-treatment and off-treatment patients. It gives our active oncology patients hope. It provides an opportunity for survivors to look back and reflect on what they have overcome. Together, through the program they all celebrate their MAGIC."

In June 2022, the Center held its second Annual Survivorship Day. This event recognizes and celebrates the patients who have battled

cancer and helps bring hope to those still fighting. Additionally, the day reinforces the Center's continued support and services. The Center plans to have another Survivorship Day in September 2023.



# Meet Dr. Lawlor, Medical Director of the Morristown Valerie Fund Center

We are pleased to announce that **Christopher James Lawlor, MD** has joined The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Goryeb Children's Hospital as the Division Chief of Pediatric Hematology Oncology at Goryeb Children's Hospital, part of Atlantic Health System. Dr. Lawlor grew up in Union County and he wants everyone to know that "Coming here is like coming back home!"

After attending the College of William and Mary, Dr. Lawlor graduated from New York Medical College. In 1996, he started his Pediatric Residency at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. He completed his Fellowship training in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Children's National and became an attending staff member in 2002. At Children's National, Dr. Lawlor worked in the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, caring for patients with a variety of conditions. His work focused on pediatric solid tumors, as well as histiocytosis and rare diseases.

Dr. Lawlor's next position, which he took in 2008, was as the Associate Medical Director for Children's Center for Cancer



and Blood Disorders in Northern Virginia. In 2016, he became the Medical Director for Pediatric Specialists of Virginia's (PSV) Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. PSV's mission, like that of The Valerie Fund, is to provide world-class care for children with cancer and blood disorders while keeping them close to their homes, their families, their friends, and their support systems.

Dr. Lawlor is very excited to be joining us at The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Goryeb Children's Hospital.

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## Child Life Specialist position permanently named at our Newark Center

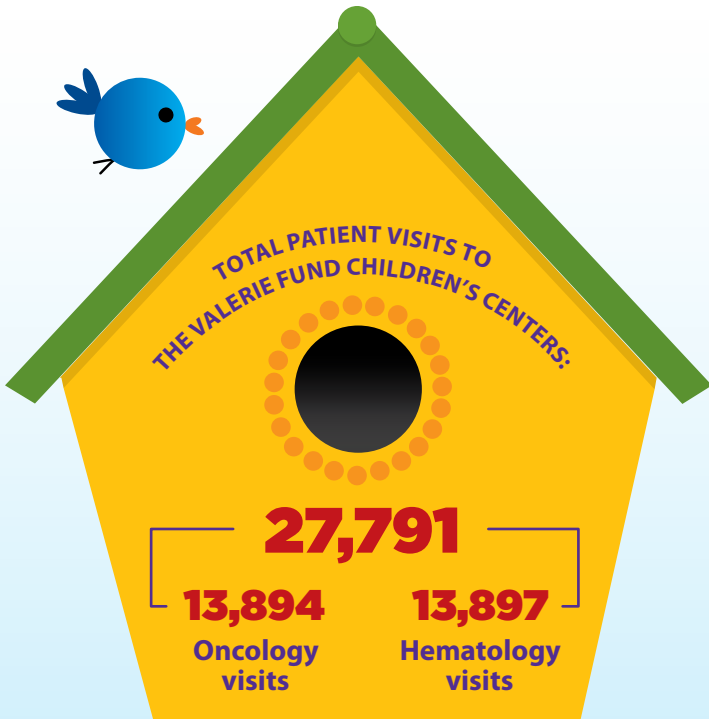


*Left to right, The Valerie Fund Executive Director, Barry Kirschner; President of Newark Beth Israel, Darrell Terry; Child Life Specialist; Jillian Hinko, Marilyn and Monroe Markovitz.*

"We are so happy to be here for the dedication of **The Marilyn & Monroe Markovitz Child Life Specialist**, and know that it will exist in perpetuity at The Valerie Fund Center. With this permanent position, many children with cancer and blood disorders who are treated here will always have the support that they need. It is a legacy Monroe and I, and our whole family, are very proud of," said Marilyn Markovitz.



# A model of comprehensive healthcare and program breakdown



## 2 YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE	2021	2022
Grants & Donations	\$3,062,481	\$5,065,517
Special Events (Net)	5,008,682	2,286,487
Investment Income	597,713	(507,028)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$8,668,876</b>	<b>\$6,844,976</b>
EXPENSES		
<b>Program Services</b>		
Hospital Centers	\$3,091,360	\$3,208,268
Camps	180,538	347,390
Advocacy	790,780	947,383
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$3,980,678</b>	<b>\$4,503,041</b>
<b>Support Services</b>		
Management and General	\$138,374	\$225,640
Fundraising	814,561	884,852
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>\$952,935</b>	<b>\$1,110,492</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,943,613</b>	<b>\$5,613,533</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,725,263</b>	<b>\$1,231,443</b>

Unaudited 2022 Results

- \$1,664,205** Child Life Specialists, Oncology Social Workers, Hematology Social Workers, Palliative Care Social Worker, Psychosocial Nursing Support, Art Therapy
- \$482,000** Scholarships
- \$449,525** Integrative Medicine Practitioners, Acupuncturists, Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner, Nutritionist
- \$426,873** Educational Liaisons
- \$383,600** Emergency support, holiday meals, transportation and gifts, etc.
- \$364,299** Psychologists/Neuropsychologists
- \$347,390** Camp Happy Times for children with cancer
- \$243,270** Cancer Survivorship Programs
- \$138,750** Research Coordinators

# Camp Happy Times live and in person



Campers and counselors were elated to return to **Camp Happy Times** this past August after a three-year hiatus. They loved being physically back together on the spectacular Tyler Hill campus.

We welcomed our first campers from Stony Brook Children's and saw the return of veteran campers and counselors from Idaho to England, and everywhere in between. We were also thrilled to see our returning campers and staff. The camp theme for 2022, "Every Day is a Holiday," inspired festive daily costume changes and activities.

But most important for campers was the opportunity to connect with one another, face to face. Inside the protective bubble created to ensure camp was 100% COVID free, new and veteran campers alike enjoyed the classic activities that make camp what it is: tubing, arts and crafts, archery, late night chats, swimming, the climbing wall and ropes course, the talent show, canteen, Chanel beauty day, the annual camp dance, and fishing. (The Girl Fishes took the trophy this year!)

A round of applause and our gratitude 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.



# Donors come together for a joyful celebration



**Andrew Low, Tallie Hess, The Valerie Fund founders Ed and Suzann Goldstein**

On May 17, The Valerie Fund hosted a Donor Appreciation Reception at Mountain Ridge Country Club that spanned three generations.

The evening was simply an opportunity to celebrate the impact of long-time and new major donors in person and give these like-minded individuals who care about the kids of The Valerie Fund an opportunity to meet one another.

Morristown-Beard High School senior **Andrew Low**, who launched his hockey fundraiser "Kids Ice Cancer" as a benefit for the Valerie Fund kids three years ago, met **founders Ed and Suzann Goldstein**, who in turn were able to experience the enthusiasm of this younger generation with whom the mission they set out 47 years earlier continues to resonate.



# The Valerie Fund Scholarship Program: planting seeds for growth

The Valerie Fund Scholarship Program was established in 2006 to give financial support to current and former patients for the cost of post-high school education. A committee selects the recipients based on academic achievement, determination and motivation, community involvement, and financial need. Each January, students who receive scholarships come together to meet their benefactors in person.

For the 2022-2023 school year, The Valerie Fund granted 31 named scholarships and an additional 92 general scholarships totaling \$492,000. This would have been impossible to achieve without the generosity of our donors.

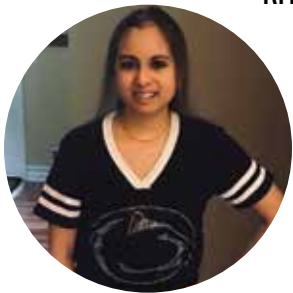
Meet three of our 2022-2023 scholarship recipients. All three have plans for their future that were influenced by their experiences during treatment at The Valerie Fund.



**AJAY** was awarded the **Yaris Family Scholarship**. He attends the University of Southern California where he is studying screen writing. In March 2020, Ajay was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. His sense of humor intact, Ajay says his diagnosis "coincided almost perfectly with COVID, so that was a fun double whammy." Ajay says his time in chemotherapy led to his interest in screen writing. "There's not much to do when you're sitting in a chair all day." Watching movies helped him "forget about why [he was] sitting in a chair with a tube in my arm... If I could one day write something that could get somebody through a similar experience, then that would kind of make it all worthwhile."



**LEO** is this year's recipient of the **Choquette/Bertolani Family Scholarship**. Leo is in his second semester at Virginia Tech University where he is majoring in general engineering. He was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) at the age of three. Leo wants to eventually study bioengineering to prepare him for a career in designing and building prosthetic limbs. At Camp Happy Times, Leo often meets patients and former patients who had limbs removed as part of their treatment. He is amazed that "nothing stops them," even though their prosthetics are "uncomfortable... don't feel right, and they still feel handicapped and limited." Leo is so eager to "use the second chance he got early on for good," that at school he is a member of Enable, a club in which students can design and create prosthetics.



**RHEA** received a **Kathy Richter Scholarship**. Rhea is a junior at Penn State University majoring in business marketing and management. She is a two-time survivor of childhood brain cancer. At age 11, Rhea was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor. She went through multiple 12+ hour long brain surgeries, in addition to chemotherapy and radiation. She relapsed a few months after finishing treatment. Now she is going through some long-term side effects related to her treatment "...but I don't let that stop me from living the best life that I can." During treatment, Rhea watched a lot of makeup videos on her iPad, however, she couldn't use anything she saw because of the harsh chemicals they contained. Rhea's goal is to start a makeup company that is chemical and toxin free, geared to cancer patients. At Penn State, Rhea is the overall chair for Penn State Lehigh Valley supporting THON—the largest student-run philanthropy in the world that benefits childhood cancer patients and their families.

# People and events that support our work

## TASTE OF GIVING



The 11th annual **Taste of Giving** was held virtually again this year. Although we couldn't gather in person to support The Valerie Fund kids there was a silver lining. Using a virtual platform afforded us the opportunity to invite guests from around the country who would

not normally be able to attend. Being able to expand our reach in this way helped us raise an incredible \$1.2 million dollars. Guests got a deeper understanding of The Valerie Fund and what we provide to the families, while enjoying our celebrity auctioneer, Michael Kosta, of *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*.

## KIDS ICE CANCER



**The Third Annual Kids Ice Cancer Hockey Game** took place at Codey Arena, led by founder **Andrew Low**. In 2019, while a high school student, Andrew created the non-profit, Kids Ice Cancer. Since then,

Andrew has recruited kids to play ice hockey, raising over \$250,000. We are so grateful for Andrew's support and his determination to continue the annual event, even as he goes off to Canada to pursue his hockey dream. We wish him much success.

## AMERICAN EXPRESS BALTUSROL GOLF



This year the American Express Baltusrol Golf Tournament raised an extraordinary \$440,000 to support our Valerie Fund patients and their families. This event has raised millions of dollars for The Valerie Fund over **more than two decades**. This year's speaker was **Abigaël**, who came to The Valerie Fund in 2021 when she was

diagnosed with stage one osteosarcoma. Today, Abby is proud to be able to say, "I am a survivor."

We extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors **Steve Squeri and American Express; Kevin Trent and Dell Technologies; Ethel and Joel Sharenow; AMEX GBT; Dentsu Inc.; Linda and Tom Held Charitable Trust; Inserra Supermarkets, Inc.; JDP Mechanical, Inc.; Momentum Worldwide; and UM Worldwide.**

## THE VALERIE FUND WALK AND 5K PRESENTED BY ED AND SUE GOLDSTEIN AND JAG-ONE PHYSICAL THERAPY



**The 17th Annual Valerie Fund Walk/5K** took place on September 17 during Childhood Cancer and Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month. Anyone in attendance couldn't help but be inspired by the sea of green t-shirts worn by our proud Valerie Fund kids. Thanks to the hard work of the 1,400 participants and our dedicated sponsors, we raised over \$830,000.

As in prior years, **CBS2 New York** was a media sponsor, generously sending reporters **John Elliott** and **Vanessa Murdock** to cover the festivities that were broadcast over local TV stations.

Generous corporate commitments were made by **The Edwin and Suzann Goldstein Family Foundation; JAG-ONE Physical Therapy, the event's exclusive Run Sponsor; RWJ Barnabas Health; Atlantic Health System; Bristol-Myers Squibb; Merck; Burger King; Jersey Mike's; Inserra Supermarkets; Saker ShopRites; St. Joseph's Children's Hospital; and Joy in Childhood Foundation.**

The walk once again featured the 2nd Annual Lawyers Run. Having decided that donating money just wasn't enough, they came together and formed a team to run in the event. They have raised over \$50,000 for The Valerie Fund since 2021.

We were so excited for our new partnership with **The Learning Experience** to create a *Kid Sprint*. Kids ages two to twelve participated in a 100-yard dash, running to the finish line where The Learning Experience's own mascot, Bubbles, waited to congratulate them.

From the stage we had the opportunity to hear from **Abigaël**, a Valerie Fund patient. At the age of 17, when she was a high school junior, Abby heard the three words that changed her life forever: "You have cancer." She was diagnosed with stage one osteosarcoma in her left knee, ending her dreams of a dance career. Now Abigaël is finishing her freshman year at Seton Hall School of Nursing supported by a Valerie Fund scholarship.



### BURGER KING CHILDREN'S CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC



On September 27, 2022, we were joined by Burger King franchisees and guests to enjoy a beautiful day of golf at Brooklake Country Club for the **Annual Burger King Golf Tournament**. This is the **25th year** The Valerie Fund has partnered with Burger King to

support our brave kids. This year we honored **Sanjay Patel of Dev Foods** for his continued support of the 6,000 Valerie Fund kids seen each year. Over 25 years, the Burger King Golf Tournament has raised almost \$1.5 million for the children and families of The Valerie Fund.

### CAREOKE FOR THE KIDS



**For 17 years, CAREoke for the Kids** has been a successful fundraising event, supported by the New York advertising community. This year's CAREoke event was our biggest one yet, raising over \$390,000. On September 28, we were

joined by executives from the media industry at Irving Plaza for an evening that combined entertainment and fun with helping our organization. We had great performances by groups from Dentsu, Discovery/Warner Brothers, Washington Post and others. This year's winner, for the second year in a row, was the team from VideoAmp performing Rain on Me by Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande.

### THE VALERIE FUND THANKSGIVING BALL GALA



The evening showcased the talent of our Valerie Fund kids, with a beautiful musical performance given by **River**, who was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma at age 12. Now 20 years old, River is a sophomore at the Berklee School of Music and a recipient of a Weintraub Family Scholarship.

When they found out they had cancer, River realized that life could end at any minute and how important it is to be happy with your life's

### JUNIOR BOARD GALA

On Friday evening, September 30th, The Valerie Fund Junior Board held its Decennial Gala at Lavan 541 in New York City. The event brought together Valerie Fund young leadership and more than 300 guests to support The Valerie Fund, while educating this new generation of supporters.

Guests heard from two peers who have been Valerie Fund patients and scholarship recipients, Steven Brown and Brianna Comerford. Brown and Comerford spoke passionately about the value of being treated at Centers where their families also received emotional support.

Grateful for the role that The Valerie Fund has played in their lives, Brianna and Steven helped rally the troops for this event, which was organized under the leadership of Junior Board co-chairs Daniela Verdugo, Daniela Cohen, and Jake Scherzer. At the end of 2022, they passed the baton to new leadership, Chuck Kohaut, a longtime Camp Happy Times counselor; and Manav Sarkaria and Dominic Kaczor, who learned about The Valerie Fund at Morgan Stanley, where they worked on the campaign started over 30 years ago by Julie Rubinstein and David Novak, who now sit on the board of The Valerie Fund.



accomplishments. It was this epiphany that inspired them to pursue their passion for music.

The Ball's honorees were the **New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers** as well as **Team Stoma, Midlige & Brown**. They were honored for their extensive efforts on behalf of the patients and families of The Valerie Fund. We are grateful for their support and proud to call them Valerie Fund partners.

We raised over \$1,100,000 at the event. This money will be used to fund all Valerie Fund programs across the eight Valerie Fund Children's Centers throughout New Jersey, New York City, Long Island, and metro Philadelphia. Thank you to our supporters for helping us meet The Valerie Fund's mission of delivering integrated psychosocial and medical care to patients and their families, close to home.

# Morgan Stanley Rec Day at the zoo begins a new annual tradition



**The 30th Annual Morgan Stanley Rec Day** had a day at the zoo in 2022.

Determined to bring Morgan Stanley analysts together with Valerie Fund families for a day of fun after a two-year pandemic hiatus, The Valerie Fund moved Rec Day from its longtime indoor venue to the Turtle Back Zoo.



Valerie Fund families spent the day talking to the animals, riding the zoo train, and even enjoyed a picnic lunch together delivered personally by the Morgan Stanley analysts. The analysts raised more than \$170,000 through the springtime campaign they organized and solicited inside of the firm. The funds they raise each year support Camp Happy Times and all of the services The Valerie Fund makes available to families at all of The Valerie Fund Children's Centers.

# Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey supports a new position



**THE HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION OF NJ**  
*founded by the Jewish community*

Since 1999, the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey has supported Valerie Fund programs that

include sickle cell support, teen programming, survivorship and most recently, a full-time nurse navigator position with its single largest grant to date. Over the past 23 years, the Healthcare Foundation has made grants to The Valerie Fund totaling more than \$430,000.

The nurse navigator is the first position of its kind in the constellation of psychosocial care The Valerie Fund supports across all eight Valerie Fund Children's Centers, beginning with Goryeb Children's Hospital in Morristown. Because medical knowledge is required to arrange for the array of tests, scans, procedures and insurance authorizations a patient needs throughout the course of illness and treatment, the

nurse navigator will serve as a single point of contact for families on the one hand, and patient-facing nurses and doctors, on the other. She will help families along the child's medical journey, providing important medical education about the diagnosis and treatment that begins with the first visit.

While she will serve as a liaison to clinical staff for families, having a nurse navigator will relieve nurses and doctors from performing tasks that can take time away from patients, creating a win-win on all sides.

"Since 1999, The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey has been proud to support the life-saving work of The Valerie Fund. Each patient and their family have their own complex journey in the battle against cancer. It is for this reason we awarded a critical grant to support the work of a Nurse Navigator at the Valerie Fund's Center at Goryeb Children's Hospital." said Michael Schmidt, Executive Director/CEO of the Healthcare Foundation

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**Cover:** **Ella**, age 2, diagnosis ALL

**Inside cover:** **Paula**, age 20, diagnosis ALL with child-life specialist, **Isabella Calonico**

**Page 2:** **Neil Yaris** and **Barry Kirschner** with **Nicoletta**, age 6, diagnosis ALL and **Jarely**, age 8, diagnosis ALL

**Page 3:** **Avery**, age 5, diagnosis AML, **Lauren Sharaby**, child-life specialist with **Ella**, age 2, diagnosis ALL, **Michelle Graziano**, M. Ed-School Intervention and Re-Entry Coordinator/Pediatric Oncology Survivorship Clinic Coordinator with **Kaitlyn**, age 18, diagnosis Osteosarcoma

**Page 4:** Nutritionist, **Chelsea Caravella** and **Claire**, age 14, diagnosis osteosarcoma

**Page 6:** **Dr. Lawlor**, Medical Director with **Ava**, diagnosis diagnosis acute promyelocytic leukemia

**Page 14:** **Carrie DeWan**, School Intervention and Re-entry with **Avery** and her dad

**Page 15:** **Shanell**, age 14, diagnosis Sickle Cell with **Dr. Menell**, Medical Director

**Page 16:** **Bill Copeck**, Nurse Manager with **Zoey**, age 5, diagnosis ALL

**Page 17:** **Jana**, age 9, diagnosis brain tumor with child-life specialist, **Isabella Calonico**

**Page 18:** **Dr. Kahn**, Attending Physician with **Alfredo**, age 12, diagnosis ALL

**Page 19:** **Zoe**, age 5, diagnosis ALL with her mom and dad

**Page 20:** **Dr. Laura Hogan**, Medical Director with **Ryan**, age 2, diagnosis High Grade Glioma

**Page 21:** Social worker, **Jennie** with **Leonardo**, age 5, diagnosis T-Cell ALL.

Our Program Locations

## **THE VALERIE FUND CHILDREN'S CENTERS & CAMP**

- Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Newark, NJ
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, New Jersey Section of Hematology/Oncology, Specialty Care Center, Voorhees, NJ
- Morristown Medical Center, Goryeb Children's Hospital, Morristown, NJ
- New York-Presbyterian, Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY
- Overlook Medical Center, Summit, NJ
- The Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, NJ
- St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, Paterson, NJ
- Stony Brook Children's Hospital, Stony Brook, NY
- Camp Happy Times, Tyler Hill, PA



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