THE VALERIE FUND

2024 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 2024

CARING
FOR KIDS
AND THEIR
FAMILIES
EVERY DAY

CHARITY NAVIGATOR
★★★★
Four Star Charity

Dear Friends:

We are thrilled to report that 2024 was another record year for fundraising and support of our Valerie Fund children and their families. **Not only did we raise over $9.7 million for the very first time but we increased our program service support to over $6.5 million for our three core programs and beyond: The Valerie Fund Children's Centers, Camp Happy Times and our Scholarship Fund. And we are most proud of the fact that in four short years, from 2021 to 2024, we have virtually doubled our support from $3.3 million to over $6.5 million to strengthen our pediatric hematology/oncology programs.** This guaranteed that over 6,000 of the bravest children you will ever meet, got the highest quality of care during 30,591 visits at our eight centers.

Beyond The Valerie Fund Centers, Camp Happy Times showed about 100 children and young adults touched by cancer another amazing summer week in the Pocono Mountains, all free of charge. Additionally, we invited siblings to join their brothers and sisters at camp for the first time in 2024! It was year 43 for Camp Happy Times, and the campers and LITs had a fantastic Willie Wonka themed experience.

Our Scholarship Committee awarded a record 129 college scholarships totaling $654,000 to our Valerie Fund young adults looking to grow and further their education. That is more than double the $245,000 that we awarded our young adults a mere 10 years ago.

Finally, our Emergency Fund doubled in just one year. We granted over $525,000 to support the urgent and growing needs of families cared for in our eight children's centers from Eastern Long Island through New York City and across New Jersey. We needed to make sure our families had essential rent, food, and utility support. You helped us to make it all possible.

We are proud to share with you all the stories that impact so many families who depend on The Valerie Fund for the highest quality of care close to home. Please take the time to read how our psychologists, nurse navigators, art and recreational therapists, social workers and child life therapists work as a team alongside doctors and nurses to care for so many children and young adults fighting cancer, sickle cell disease, and other blood disorders.

We expanded our direct financial support for all programs by over $1 million in 2024. This happened because of your support and trust in everything we do. You help us create that "Valerie Fund special sauce" that makes the difference every single day for our kids!

We are, and will always be, "all about the kids."

Sincerely,

Neil Yaris
Chair

Barry Kirschner
Executive Director

Expansion of The Valerie Fund's Emergency Fund Supports Families

Car payments, insurance, rent, mortgage. How would you cope if your child were chronically ill and you had to stop work to be with them? Valerie Fund families experience emotional and financial stressors when faced with a cancer or blood disorder diagnosis. These diagnoses affect the whole family. These families have our support, which is why we've expanded the Emergency Fund to address the urgent needs of the families in our care.

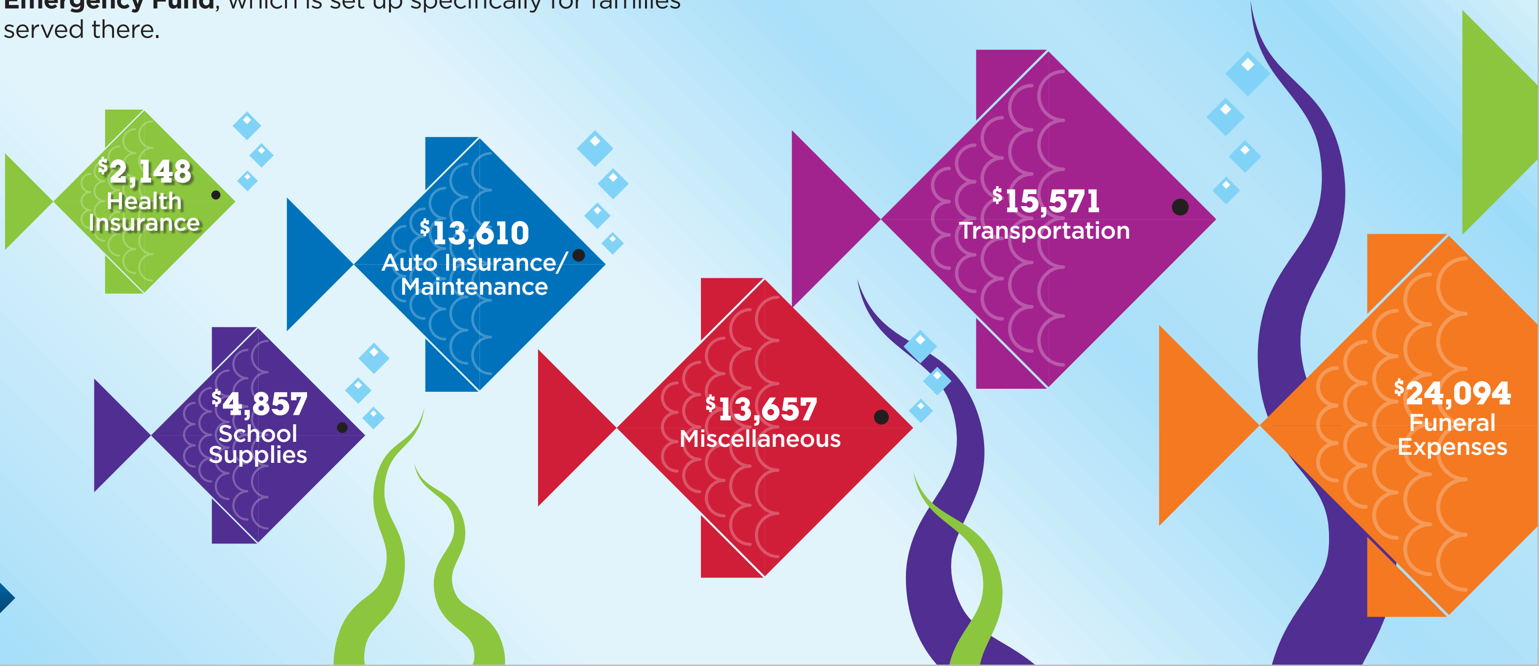
> “Our goal is to make sure that the parents feel comfortable taking time off from work and being present with their child, and not have to worry about any of these external things.”
>
> *~Katarina Siliris,*
> *LCSW, OSW-C, Social worker,*
> *Stony Brook Children's Hospital*

Needs for emergency funding exploded in 2020 as a response to the sudden financial need Valerie Fund families were experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Families already financially strained needed more support when hit with its effects. The Emergency Fund exists to respond to the most basic necessities when there is nowhere else to turn. Valerie Fund Children's Center social workers support families needing assistance, helping them access the **Ed and Suzann Goldstein Emergency Fund** or the **McKinley Place Hematology Emergency Fund**. Social workers at the CHOP Center in Voorhees have access to the **Holman Foundation Emergency Fund**, which is set up specifically for families served there.

Created to be a more responsive form of financial aid, The Valerie Fund's Emergency Fund exists to assist families with essential needs. Mortgage/rent and utilities make up over 75% of the requests made in 2024. Children and families need stability while in treatment, so a priority is keeping families in their homes or helping them with rent and security deposits to find more stable housing.

In 2022, there were 79 emergency fund requests totaling $109,733. In 2023, the requests more than doubled, with 185 requests totaling $227,467. Requests and payments doubled again from 2023 to 2024, with 362 requests totaling $525,023. Prior to 2024, requests were capped at a yearly maximum of $2,500 per family. In response to the ever-growing urgent financial support required, the program expanded in 2024 to $5,000 per family and extended our support to include services for patients facing a loss of fertility following curative treatment.

For hematology patients, most requests come from a temporary loss of income due to the child being hospitalized for a pain crisis or for transfusions. Accessing the Emergency Fund means families do not have to choose between which medication their chronically ill child takes—the most effective one or the most affordable one. By covering medication costs, no family will be faced with delaying or denying the best course of treatment because of the expense. And should the worst happen, no Valerie Fund family should struggle with funeral expenses.



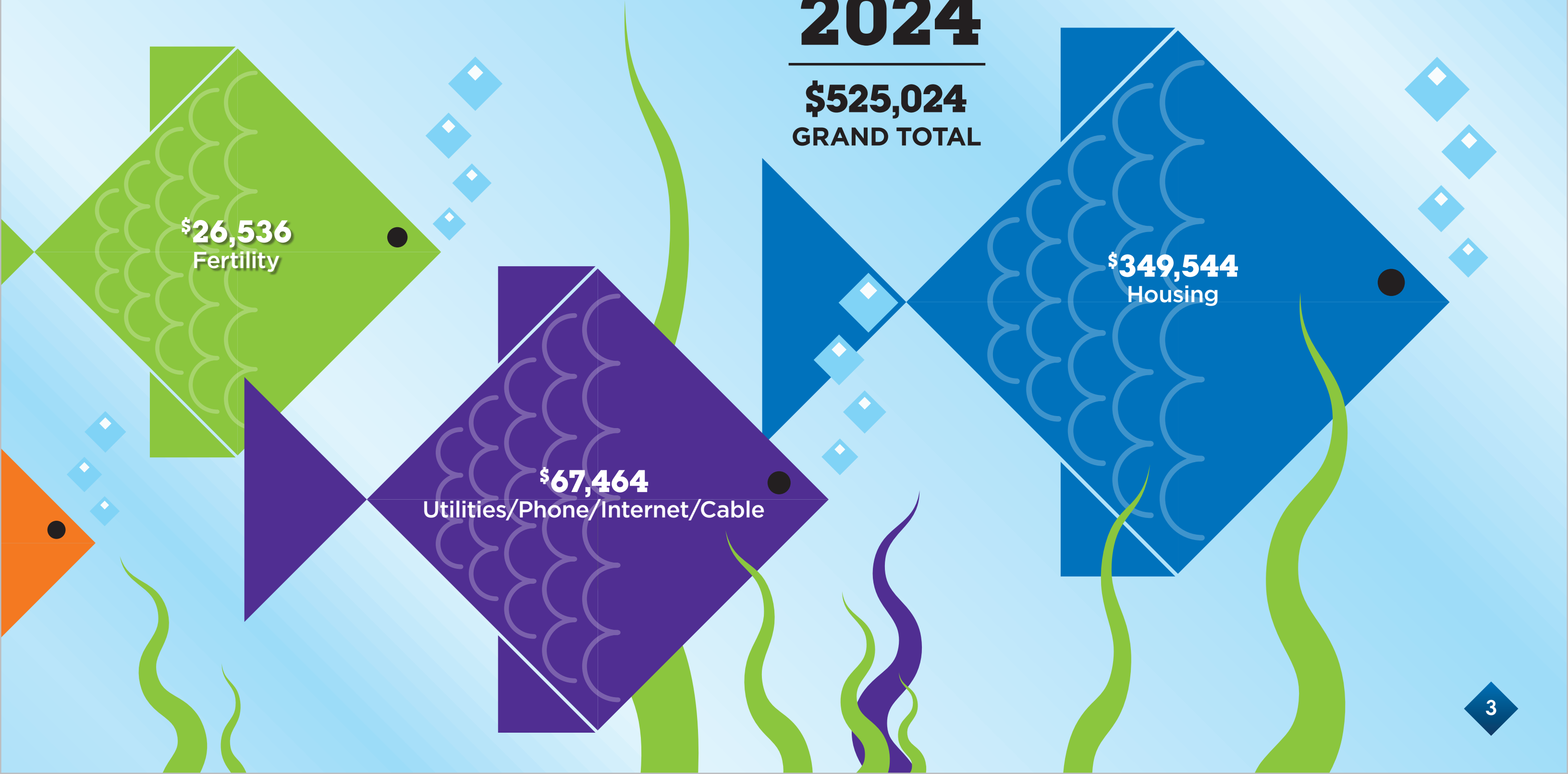
The Emergency Fund has covered wigs for oncology patients to help adolescents with body image issues. It has funded required house repairs, textbooks for college, school uniforms, laptops, and wheelchairs. It is a list of everyday needs that tell the story of families in financial stress. The Valerie Fund exists to ameliorate the everyday stresses that childhood illness plays upon families—physically, mentally, and financially.

A 4-year-old boy was hospitalized for a viral infection, only to be diagnosed with a blood disorder requiring a bone marrow transplant. He remained in the hospital until he could be transferred to a different facility for the transplant. His mother went on unpaid leave to be with her son while he was in the hospital. They could not risk anybody in the family getting sick, so they pulled his younger sibling from daycare. With Mom at the hospital, Dad stopped working to care for the sibling. Overnight, they went from a two-income family to no income. They were able to turn to The Valerie Fund for emergency support to bridge them financially until the boy's transplant took place.

A child's diagnosis of cancer or a blood disorder creates the ultimate financial stress test. Our goal at The Valerie Fund is to make sure every family that walks through the door is supported.

2024

$525,024
GRAND TOTAL



Hematology patient Nurse Navigator serves Valerie Fund families coordinating care

In 2022, a Valerie Fund nurse navigator was added to the array of psychosocial staff at Atlantic Health System's Goryeb Children's Hospital. That position proved to be so effective in helping families manage the complexities of care for their children that in 2024 The Valerie Fund approved funding for a second nurse navigator. Now oncology patients and hematology patients each have a nurse navigator dedicated solely to their needs. **Shannon Leahy, BSN, RN, CPN** is the first hematology nurse navigator at **The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Goryeb Children's Hospital**.

Life-threatening blood disorders can be complex and overwhelming, many of which are lifelong conditions; others are curable with timely treatment. The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Goryeb Children's Hospital cares for patients with blood disorders that include hemophilia and other bleeding disorders, clotting issues, sickle cell disease, Von Willebrand's, ITP, and dozens more. Each disorder disrupts life for the patient and family in its own unique way. As a result, there is no typical day for a hematology nurse navigator.

Newborn screening is an important, simple procedure performed at birth on every baby born in the state and identifies a wide variety of serious but treatable medical conditions. When an infant tests positive for sickle cell disease, their pediatrician refers them to a pediatric hematologist specializing in sickle cell disease, the majority of whom are physicians at one of our eight Valerie Fund Centers. From the very first meeting, the nurse navigator sits with the family, doctor, and psychosocial team who discusses the diagnosis with the infant's parents. As a point person in their child's care, Shannon educates them on what to expect with the treatment, as well as the support they can expect at their Valerie Fund Children's Center. She educates them on practical aspects around their medications, treatment, and follow-up care. This support is invaluable in helping families cope during the overwhelming time of a chronic diagnosis.

As a sickle cell patient goes through the phases of growth, a nurse navigator will be a constant resource for families. For example, the ongoing care and check-ups to optimize good health can be challenging for patients and their families. The support from a dedicated hematology nurse navigator can relieve a significant burden. She will take on the work of coordinating care with the pediatric hematologist, specialists across departments, and scheduling consultations, treatments, and procedures.

The hematology nurse navigator also serves a large community of Valerie Fund patients with hemophilia, whose treatment is highly specialized. It involves the delicate work of injecting medication, which can be complicated for people with bleeding disorders. By educating the families on at-home injections, the nurse navigator empowers these patients and their families, puts maintenance treatment into their hands, and reduces the number of trips to come into the center.

"I try every day to do my best to make the chronic illness as easy as humanely possible on the families. I troubleshoot for the families so everything they need to do can be as seamless as possible," says Shannon. An invaluable addition to the psychosocial care team, the hematology nurse navigator is part of the exceptional care provided for the whole family. This is The Valerie Fund difference.

Helping patients find their voice—art therapy at The Valerie Fund Children's Centers

Art is a means of delivering therapy, whether soothing a patient through a critical transition or helping build a sense of community around a shared experience. By working closely with child life and psychology, art therapists can treat the whole child and the family, too.

Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Valerie Fund Center Art Therapist **Karen Wallace, ATR-BC** attends clinic days, providing group therapy while oncology patients receive transfusions. She uses art to normalize the experiences around the children's cancer treatment. Her support extends to the families, working alongside social worker **Tara Aspen James, MSW, MA, LCSW, LAAT, ATR-P** to create a mother's support group, providing a space where mothers can gather and discuss their challenges and experiences while engaging in memory-building projects such as scrapbooking.

Karen loves tactile art projects. Braiding bracelets and rolling coils for clay pots can be very self-soothing. Oncology patients suffer so many intrusions on their bodies. Karen uses art to help the patients settle within their bodies, giving them back a feeling of empowerment or ownership over their bodies.

Describing the benefit of art therapy, Karen says, "Art lasts. Art can express things that there aren't words for. Children who don't want to talk will still do art."

Art therapy can open up new means of expression to help patients develop coping skills. At **Stony Brook Children's Hospital**, Art Therapist **Callie Barker, MA, ATR-P, CAT-LP** helped a struggling 11-year-old leukemia patient find his voice and fight his cancer through art. Through creativity, he shared his internal experience as a story with characters, heroes, and villains in the form of white blood cells and chemotherapy.

An 11-year-old leukemia patient has found his voice, and a feeling of empowerment over his illness. He illustrates his fight against cancer by giving personas to his white blood cells and the chemo, creating stories in comic book form. By illustrating his own experiences, he feels he's helping other kids get through their own struggles.

Art therapy can reveal insights and internal struggles a child cannot find words for. After several art therapy sessions, this 5-year old patient started drawing a deceased sibling in her images. She drew herself, her mother, her father, and her living sister in purple, followed by her older sister (who passed away) in pink. Finally, she encapsulated the rest of the family with the big red rectangle, which can sometimes symbolize a protective barrier.

Art therapy is one element of a broad psychosocial support team, relieving the anxiety of a less familiar location for these patients by bringing familiar materials into a very unfamiliar setting. Each element brings its own specialty, enabling truly individualized care for each patient. This care extends beyond the patient to include the family, making The Valerie Fund Children's Centers a truly special and supportive place.

Meet Our Valerie Fund Scholars

ALEX BLAUT

Weintraub Family Scholarship Recipient

Marketing/Business Administration Major at Stony Brook University

Alex describes his life as “based on a series of uncontrollable events.” He was born with body systems that are “just a little off.” He has had multiple surgeries and procedures to address these issues, which brought him to The Valerie Fund Children’s Center at Stony Brook Hospital, where he has been under the care of Dr. Laura Hogan for almost ten years.

His family has persevered through multiple medical challenges not just with Alex, potentially putting college out of reach. However, thanks to the Weintraub Family Scholarship, Alex can attend university close to his home and his medical team. This proximity is essential as Alex’s medical condition requires constant vigilance.

Alex is a marketing student focused on entering the film and television industry. He sees himself as a natural-born storyteller. As Alex describes his life, change may be the only constant. Despite this, he is always with a smile.

VANESSA GARCIA

Marna Pal Scholarship Recipient

Nursing Major at Ramapo College of New Jersey

Like many Valerie Fund patients, Vanessa’s path in life has been fundamentally shaped by her experiences through The Valerie Fund. Through her studies, Vanessa wants to be able to give back and help others in the same way she was helped by The Valerie Fund Children’s Center care team at St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital. She found the most challenging setback to her cancer diagnosis wasn’t just being unwell but also finding people doubting her ability to bounce back and continue her education once in recovery.

“My medical setback birthed the best version of myself,” Vanessa describes. Learning about a vocational school from friends at The Valerie Fund’s Camp Happy Times, she applied and was accepted into the biomedical sciences program. She found a love of anatomy and was able to lead younger students in their learning around the human body. Vanessa has found her place in the healthcare setting and seeks to help children undergoing challenges similar to those she once faced. Vanessa is interested in becoming a pediatric nurse and eventually getting her master’s degree to become a nurse practitioner.

Vanessa credits the support from The Valerie Fund Scholarship Program as helping students like her reach their goals, something they’ll never forget. This is a program changing lives.

> “The Valerie Fund was more than a foundation. They became family.”
>
> *~Vanessa Garcia, a Valerie Fund child*

JESSICA MOREAU

Yaris Family Scholarship Recipient

Masters Program at NYU School of Public Health

Jessica grew up in The Valerie Fund. She was born with sickle cell, a chronic disease that has changed her journey in life. Living with a chronic illness is not a singular event; it affects the whole family. However, being treated through a Valerie Fund Children’s Center, Jessica and her family always knew The Valerie Fund was there to support her.

After completing her B.S. in Biology, Jessica volunteered with a non-profit dedicated to helping marginalized children in Haiti. Her experiences volunteering abroad in a developing country brought home realities she’d only read about in a textbook—lives affected by HIV, hunger, and disease weren’t issues taught about in a biology classroom. They were the stark reality of those she was living amongst. Using her experience and the things she learned living with a chronic illness, Jessica was able to help other children face their own challenges.

Describing living with a chronic illness as something that has propelled her into the trajectory of her dreams, The Valerie Fund has awarded her the Yaris Family Scholarship as she pursues a Masters of Public Health, knowing Jessica will move forward, changing lives for good.

The Valerie Fund psychologists—the cornerstone of psychosocial care at The Valerie Fund Children's Centers

Valerie Fund Children's Center psychologists are integral to a robust psychosocial care team. Research has shown what we've always believed – psychosocial support improves physical health outcomes for oncology and hematology patients. Integrating psychological services within a pediatric medical department is uncommon making the services provided to patients and families at **The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Stony Brook Children's Hospital** truly a gold standard in care.

The support from Valerie Fund psychologists is essential in helping patients and families through diagnosis, treatment, and what may come after. Psychological support will look different depending on the diagnosis or where a patient is on their journey. However, the end goal is the same – helping the child and family deal with the adjustment to chronic illness, depression, anxiety, pain, and even post-traumatic stress symptoms. Valerie Fund psychologists are there to alleviate these stressors and support families through treatment and beyond.

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center psychologist **Dr. Karelyn Gonzalez Cruz, PhD** makes herself available to patients and families wherever they are. She provides support to families sitting in intensive care or sitting in their cars. The location doesn't matter, only the need. "I provide services in the best spot that I can find where the families feel safe," Dr. Gonzalez Cruz shared. The psychologists are a constant presence with the families. **Dr. Kendall Corcoran, PsyD** at the **Stony Brook Hospital Children's Center** makes sure to be available in the center during clinic days to build security and familiarity with families.

The psychologists act as a guide, helping the families through the challenges that come with a blood disorder or cancer diagnosis. Dr. Gonzalez Cruz will work with parents to find the little things that help their child get through treatment—a child's favorite blanket during chemotherapy.

Psychological support helps younger patients as they struggle to know how best to deal with nausea when it comes. The psychologists work closely with the care team to help ease the child through any distress. At Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Dr. Gonzalez can calm the child and familiarize them with the process and procedures, ultimately calming any behaviors that may interfere with care. Dr. Corcoran has successfully implemented a "one voice" technique to soothe behavioral outbreaks during hands-on procedures. This method was so successful for one particularly challenging patient that they could avoid an inpatient admission and allow the child to sleep in the comfort of home. Dr. Corcoran credits the team. "Through our own advocacy for this patient, we were able to manage the chemotherapy in an outpatient setting. Our team really came together to support this patient," she said. The child responded wonderfully to the behavioral plan and is no longer exhibiting the signs of traumatic stress-related symptoms.

Providing psychological support for sickle cell disease patients is both complicated and heartwarming. "These children have only ever known life with a chronic illness, so they tend to minimize their needs," Dr Gonzalez Cruz explained. Psychological support for these patients is about monitoring to ensure adherence to their treatment regime. As they grow up and become more independent from their parents, the psychologists help them find their place in the world, where they can do what they want and participate in activities in a medically safe way.

Whatever the approach, The Valerie Fund Children's Center psychologists and the full psychosocial team are there to support not just the patients but also the parents. Their goal is to provide optimal care for these families and give them the best chance at positive outcomes.

Recreational therapy at The Valerie Fund Children's Center at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital

The Valerie Fund's continuum of care has expanded at **St. Joseph's Children's Hospital** with recreational therapy. **Julie Mayer, CTRS** works with the children treated at this Valerie Fund Children's Center with goal-oriented therapy through recreation and leisure. Being diagnosed with cancer or living with a chronic illness such as sickle cell disease presents different challenges to children and their families. Through recreational therapy, Julie helps them build the skills to cope with their illness, develop socialization skills, and manage the stress that comes with being in treatment.

Julie works closely with the child life therapist Isabella. While both offer play activities, they have different goals in mind. Julie focuses on helping patients cope with being sick or in the hospital. At the same time, the child life therapist works on medical education and medical play to normalize the experience of being in treatment.

The benefit of recreational therapy is that the child just thinks they are having fun; they don't realize they are doing therapy. This enables Julie's relationship with the patient to be built around having fun and makes them feel more comfortable about being in the hospital. Recreational therapy provides a space for the kids where they are not talking about their cancer or getting their blood drawn.

When one patient relapsed and was exhibiting signs of traumatic stress about being back in the hospital, Julie was able to work with her and provide fun moments in the hospital. They planned an elaborate Nerf fight against the doctors, making a huge difference in this girl's life for that day and allowing her caregiver to see her having fun in the hospital.

The special relationship is particularly important when dealing with kids with sickle cell disease. Medical compliance is extremely important for these patients, so Julie is always striving to find new and fun ways to teach them skills to be able to take their medications. One teenage patient, "Mary," struggles with remembering to take her meds. Her frequent strokes from the disease complicate this. Julie works with Mary, empowering her to ask for help when she needs it. By making it fun through an app that will bark like a dog at medication times, Julie helps Mary adhere to the medical regime and minimize symptoms. When Mary comes to the clinic, Julie can see how many times the patient took her medication. Because of her relationship with the kids, Julie can have conversations that the patient might not be comfortable having with a doctor or a social worker. Through this, she brings the support full circle, enhancing care for our Valerie Fund kids and their families.

> "Being in the hospital can be very scary, so we try to make it as fun and playful as possible because they are still kids. Even though they are going through something very serious, recreational therapy provides fun moments they or their families can look back upon and smile."
>
> *~Julie Mayer, CTRS*
> *S. Joseph's Children's Hospital*

My Camp Happy Times experience

This past summer I was lucky enough to be a counselor at Camp Happy Times for the 10-to 12-year-old girls' cabin. Being a pre-teen is hard enough. When you add in a cancer diagnosis or its residual impact, it adds a completely new level of anxiety. As an adolescent, I so desperately wanted to be "normal" while simultaneously dealing with the residual impact of the cancer I was born with. I yearned to connect with those my age that shared my unique cancer journey.

At camp, we spent a Willy Wonka themed week doing everything together including the daily 6:00 a.m. fishing competition. I was shocked that every morning, without hesitation, the girls in my cabin (like the rest of the campers) were jumping out of bed to be the first at the dock. This was the first summer that camp was open to patient siblings, so I had the privilege of seeing one of my veteran campers get to watch her little sister catch her first-ever fish.

> "As an adolescent, I so desperately wanted to be "normal" while simultaneously dealing with the residual impact of the cancer I was born with."
>
> *~Kelly Rossiter*
> *Associate Director of Development,*
> *The Valerie Fund*

These young ladies aggressively support one another in everything. What was most striking and beautiful to witness was the quiet respect the girls had for one another and the gentleness and understanding they exhibited for their peers who are in the thick of their treatment. In fact, my cabin was a microcosm of what was taking place throughout camp, among boys and girls of all ages – even among the counselors who have returned year after year since being campers themselves.

Though our campers have the shared experience of cancer, it is not the focus at camp. Conversations emerged naturally. The girls casually showed their treatment port scars when swimming in the pool. As my girls were brushing their hair to go to dinner, I heard them discuss how long it took their hair to grow back.

Despite the extraordinary circumstances the campers have faced at such a young age, they are neither jaded nor cynical. Every bunk of kids, from the five- to seven-year-olds to the senior teens, greeted every activity with excitement and gratitude. Whether it was making smores around the campfire or rehearsing their dance for the talent show, my girls were fully immersed in the moment. They were fearless on the ropes course and cheered me on as I tried to overcome my fear of heights on the zipline. They made dozens of friendship bracelets for one another at arts and crafts. We even had nightly dance parties in our cabin to Chappell Roan.

I feel incredibly privileged to have been a counselor. It gave me the opportunity to experience through their eyes the magic of Camp Happy Times. My 10-year-old self finally got her week at camp and found the community she always needed.

~**Kelly Rossiter,**
Associate Director of Development,
The Valerie Fund

Community days bring together Valerie Fund families

Twice a year, Valerie Fund families have the opportunity to come together for our family community days. Patients and their families are invited to the Morgan Stanley Rec Day at the Turtle Back Zoo and to Verona Park for The Valerie Fund Walk & 5K Run.

For the 32nd year, **Morgan Stanley** analysts led a fundraising campaign throughout the firm to raise money for Rec Day, bringing Valerie Fund families to the Turtleback Zoo in West Orange, NJ for the third year.

Morgan Stanley analysts helped check in 250 Valerie Fund patients, brothers and sisters, moms, dads, and grandparents for a perfect day feeding giraffes, riding the train, and visiting monkeys, buffalo, lions, penguins, and much more. Families enjoyed a nice shady lunch break with the help of our Morgan Stanley friends, who got to spend a day in the suburbs and get a first-hand opportunity to meet some of the patient families their fundraising efforts have supported through Camp Happy Times and at The Valerie Fund Children's Centers. Co-chairs **Madeline Fouts** and **Tyler Hatem** spearheaded the 2024 campaign, raising $130,000 in support of Valerie Fund patients and their families.

The Valerie Fund Walk & 5K Run is our largest community event. Over 2,000 participants joined us for the Walk & 5K Run, presented by **Ed and Sue Goldstein** and **JAG Physical Therapy.** It was a beautiful spring day as our Valerie Fund community gathered to

Ignite Hope for our kids and their families treated at the eight Valerie Fund Children's Centers. Attendees enjoyed live music, free food, face painting, inflatable obstacle courses and lawn games in the family games area.

The Walk & 5K Run teams are made up of amazing people whose lives have been touched in some way by The Valerie Fund—patients in treatment, out of treatment with their own children, and families memorializing children lost, as well as compassionate community members. It is a day where everyone can gather, united by their shared experience. Patients and families are reunited with their Valerie Fund caregivers and community. Even though he was cured of sickle cell disease through a transplant, Valerie Fund kid Ryan and his Ryan's Power Pack team still attend the walk every year to connect with the community that supported him. This is the impact our community has.

Thank you to our Walk & Run captains and their teams, our generous sponsors, and our amazing volunteers. Together, they raised over $922,000 for the kids. Thank you to event sponsors **Oritani Charitable Foundation**, **RWJ Barnabas**, **Atlantic Health**, and special Ignite Hope sponsor **Schumacher Chevrolet**. The Color Run Kid Sprint, sponsored by **The Learning Experience** continued to be a huge hit with the kids as they dashed through the spray of colors to The Learning Experience mascot, Bubbles, at the finishing line.

2024 Special Activities

JERSEY MIKE'S HELPS JERSEY KIDS

The Valerie Fund joined forces with 132 **Jersey Mike's Subs** in New Jersey and New York for the 14th Annual March **"Month of Giving"** campaign to support local charities. Customers were invited to donate to The Valerie Fund during March, and on the Day of Giving 100% of the entire day's sales were donated to support The Valerie Fund children and their families.

Jersey Mike's Month of Giving raised over $1.8 million for The Valerie Fund, including $500,000, which Jersey Mike's founder and CEO Peter Cancro announced the company would donate.

We are grateful to all the franchise owners for their enthusiasm in selecting us for a second time for this partnership and for their dedication on the Day of Giving. It has enabled us to expand our support at our Children's Centers, increase our scholarship program, and support the rising emergency fund requests. Our Valerie Fund community is the best, and we can't thank them enough for supporting us at each Jersey Mike's in the state.

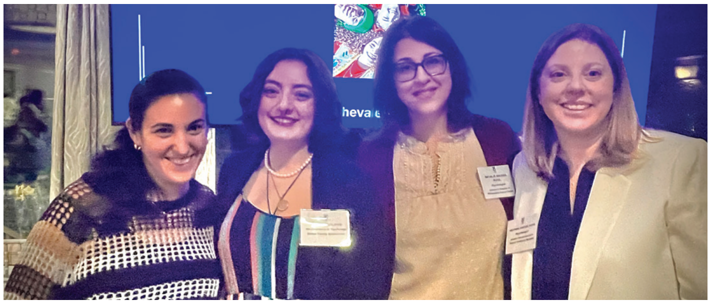
THE VALERIE FUND EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR, "PROMOTING RESILIENCE IN ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS"

Three Valerie Fund psychologists, **Dara M. Steinberg, Ph.D.**, Columbia University Department of Pediatrics, **Heather Ginter, Psy.D.**, Atlantic Health System's Goryeb Children's Hospital, and **Natalie Nageeb, Psy.D.**, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Cancer Center, came together along with Valerie Fund patient and MA candidate in Psychology, at Montclair State University, **Willow DeFilippo** to present on promoting resilience in adolescents and young adults.

The seminar, was held at the Maplewood Country Club. This year's seminar drew health care and medical professionals, parents, grandparents, educators, and The Valerie Fund founders, Ed and Sue Goldstein.

Pediatric psychologists help children with chronic medical conditions address behavioral and emotional concerns, and are specifically trained to meet the needs of The Valerie Fund children dealing with chronic illnesses such as cancer and other blood disorders.

> "Cancer at 11 years old and again at 18. How do you live the rest of your life when you've already been through that? My insight is to practice radical acceptance. Fully accept the moment for what it is. You don't have the power to change it, you only have the ability to continue moving forward."
>
> *~Willow, a Valerie Fund patient*



Valerie Fund patient Willow DeFilippo moderated the question-and-answer session and provided the highlight of the evening, speaking on their experiences with resilience and demonstrating post-traumatic growth as a Valerie Fund patient and two-time cancer survivor. Willow is one of the first Bieber Family Scholars, and plans to pursue a PhD in Psychology.

Willow provided an educational and inspiring look into developing resilience from the perspective of a student of pediatric psychology, as well as a patient. They were diagnosed with Pre-B cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at the age of 11 and again with ovarian cancer in 2020, their first year at college.

"The Valerie Fund tries very hard to make sure your world does not shrink that much. When your world shrinks to just that hospital floor, they do everything they can to make sure you still experience everything," Willow explained, adding examples like wheeling the IV pole out to the courtyard to do the Coke and Mentos experiment. The Valerie Fund brought the world closer and ensured that there were plenty of good memories to live alongside the difficult memories of going through cancer twice.

People and events that support our work

A TASTE OF GIVING

The 13th Annual Taste of Giving was held on March 7, 2024 at New York's Mandarin Oriental. Patient speakers gave guests a deeper understanding of The Valerie Fund. Comedian and Celebrity Auctioneer **Susie Essman** kept the crowd in stitches, raising $2.1 million to support our Valerie Fund Children and their families. 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

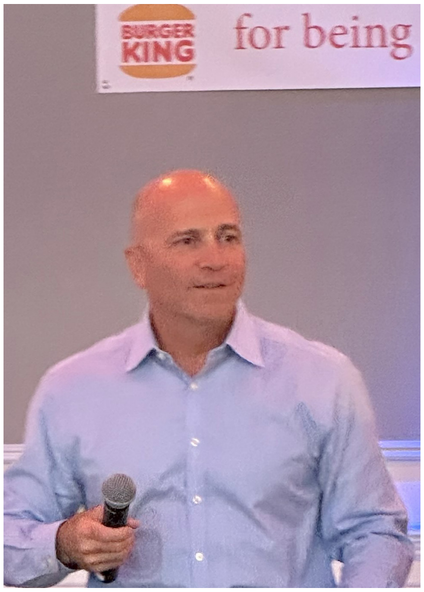
The Kids Ice Cancer hockey game benefiting The Valerie Fund took place on June 14, 2024, at Codey Arena in West Orange. With fans and other supporters in the crowd, Valerie Fund patient Camryn dropped the puck to start the game. In his fifth year organizing this event, **Andrew Low** and his teammates raised over $50,000 for our Valerie Fund kids.

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The American Express Charity Golf Tournament, in its 24th year, was held on August 5th at Baltusrol Golf Club. It was chaired by **Steve Squeri** and co-sponsored by **Dell. Raymond Joabar**, of **American Express** spoke to attendees. Over $418,000 was raised this year to support The Valerie Fund children and their families. Thank you to event sponsors **Technologent, American Express Global Business Travel, Bread Financial, Dentsu Creative, JDP Mechanical, Tom and Linda Held,** and **Inserra Supermarkets**.

CAREOKE FOR THE KIDS

The 19th CAREoke for the Kids gathered media industry executives for a night of karaoke fun at Irving Plaza. DirecTV won the night with their performance of Creed's "Higher," although the true winners were our Valerie Fund children and their families, with over $308,000 raised. Thank you, **Adam Mark, Cara Lewis, Dave Tennenbaum, Eric Hawes, Jonathon Ciancetta, Mike Graf,** and **Pat Brennan**, for their work on this event.



28TH ANNUAL BURGER KING GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 28th Annual Burger King Golf Tournament was held September 24th at Brooklake Golf Club. Burger King franchisees and their guests joined us to honor the **Burger King Franchisees of the Metro New York Franchisees Association**. **Jay Della Monica** spoke on behalf of the honorees. This partnership has raised nearly $3 million for the children and families of The Valerie Fund over the past 3 decades.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL NETWORK GALA

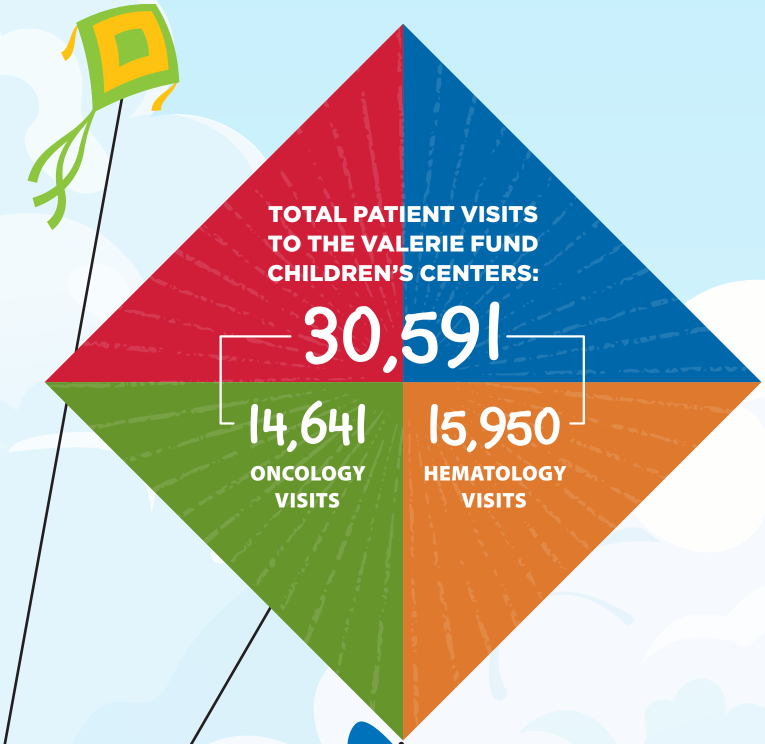
The Valerie Fund's Young Professionals Network (YPN) Gala was held on Saturday, September 28, 2024, in New York City. Thanks to the efforts of the three YPN Board Co-Chairs, **Dominick Kaczor, Chuck Kohaut, Manav Sarkaria,** and the YPN Board members, the event raised nearly $30,000 for our Valerie Fund children and their families. YPN brings together individuals in their 20s and early 30s from a range of fields to support patient programs and to have fun doing it.

THANKSGIVING BALL GALA

The 33rd annual Thanksgiving Ball Gala was held on November 22nd at The Grove in Cedar Grove, NJ. Guests met Valerie Fund ambassadors, including the talented Marko Dobre who wowed the crowd with his music and inspiring Valerie Fund story.

The Valerie Fund honored **Judith Schumacher-Tilton** and **Stephen Tilton** for all their work supporting our sickle cell community, and **Ann Stocknoff**, a beloved social worker at The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Goryeb Children's Hospital. Her work has improved patient and family lives for over 20 years. We are thankful to have them as Valerie Fund partners. This year's gala raised $1,464,000.

A model of comprehensive healthcare and program breakdown



TOTAL PATIENT VISITS TO THE VALERIE FUND CHILDREN'S CENTERS:

30,591

14,641 ONCOLOGY VISITS

15,950 HEMATOLOGY VISITS

2 YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE	**2023**	**2024**
Grants & Donations	$4,164,822	$4,053,197
Special Events (Net)	4,103,425	4,219,723
Investment Income	1,358,240	1,433,827
TOTAL REVENUE	**9,626,487**	**$9,706,747**
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Hospital Centers	$3,836,190	$4,248,421
Camps	384,496	431,334
Scholarships	548,348	654,186
Other Programs	436,493	1,241,271
Total Program Services	**$5,205,527**	**$6,575,212**
Support Services		
Management and General	$197,860	$418,479
Fundraising	779,747	736,458
Total Support Services	**977,607**	**$1,154,937**
TOTAL EXPENSES	**6,183,134**	**$7,730,149**
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	**$3,443,353**	**$1,976,598**

Unaudited 2024 Results

$2,249,259	Child Life Specialists, Oncology Social Workers, Translator, Hematology Social Workers, Palliative Care Social Worker, Art Therapy, Nurse Navigator Hematology and Oncology
$654,186	Scholarships
$504,262	Integrative Medicine Practitioners, Acupuncturists, Palliative Care Nurse Practitioners, Nutritionist
$681,030	Educational Liaisons
$881,726	Emergency support, holiday meals, transportation and gifts, etc.
$687,435	Psychologists/Neuropsychologists
$431,334	Camp Happy Times for children with cancer
$341,619	Cancer Survivorship Programs
$144,361	Research Coordinators

Our corporate and foundation partnerships make us stronger

AMERICAN EXPRESS

AMERICAN EXPRESS GLOBAL BUSINESS TRAVEL

Atlantic Health System
Goryeb Children's Hospital

Victor & Clara C. Battin Foundation

BLOOMFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING CORP.

BCG

bread financial

BURGER KING

Dechert LLP

DELL

DELTA

DiFeo's Manahawkin
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fiserv.

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JAG
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Since 1956
Jersey Mike's Subs

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Morgan Stanley Fixed Income & Commodities

MULVANEY FAMILY FOUNDATION

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RACKSON

RWJBarnabas HEALTH

Come Join the Family
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CHEVROLET AUTO GROUP
LITTLE FALLS | DENVILLE | CLIFTON | LIVINGSTON | BOONTON
SchumacherChevy.com

Singh Family Foundation

SOHO²

the Bravitas Group

The Silver Family Foundation

verizon

2024 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.

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Marilyn Adler/Martin H. Adler Children's Fund
Paul Bagoon and Family
Merrie and Eric Bernstein
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The Markovitz Family
Krista McKerracher and Michael McCabe
David and Jane Novak
Lauryn Pepe
Bill and Heather Raincsuk
The Raine Group
Helen and Barry Reiter
Glenn and Stacy Schiffman
Joel and Ethel Sharenow
Jon and Abby Winkelried

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Brendan and Jenifer Garvey
Ed and Suzann Goldstein
Jersey Mike's Franchise Systems, Inc.
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Barry and Helen Reiter
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Goldman Sachs Matching Gifts Program
Hilton
Inserra Supermarkets, Inc.
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Patrick Fleming
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GM Advisory Group
Goldman Sachs & Co.
Greater Essex Jack & Jill
Robert and Julie Greenholtz
Eli Gross
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Susan Huang
Impact Through Golf Foundation
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theTradeDesk
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Marc and Bridget Toscano
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UCFW Local 1262 Charitable Fund
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Saamya Kidwai Khanna
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Hao Li
Lukasavage Family
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Elayne Punia
Zain Rashid
Kelly Rossiter
Matt Ruttler
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Gerald Tobia
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Diane Young

GIFTS IN KIND

2M Electrical Contractors LLC
American Express
Best Provision Co., Inc.
BEST Racing System
Beverly Friedlander MD
Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc.
Bloomingdale’s
Nicole Boretz
Broadway.com
Brooks Brothers
Burger King
CAE

Ronald Carr
CHANEL
Maryann Corey
David Mitchell Fine Event Design
Essex County
Dolce Salon & Spa
Dunkin’
East Coast Food
Eight Hills Caterers
Eyechic
Friends of Johnny Deluisi
The Gelband Family Foundation
Girl Scout Troop 62409
Girl Scouts #96625
Herr Foods, Inc
Timothy and Amy Hertz
Holt Machinery Company
Jersey Mike’s Franchise Systems, Inc.

Peter Kelly
Jill Kupcha
Lafayette 148 Boutique
Gretchen B. Lerach
The Life Christian Church
Little Learners
Local Smoke BBQ
Master Yoo’s Summit Martial Arts
MaxMara
Metropolitan Seafood Gourmet
MGM Resorts international
Michael Kors
MTF Biologics
Stacy Oberfield
Oro Society
Paramount
Polar Bear Grand Tour
The Portable Playhouse

Prada USA Corp.
Restaurant Serenade
Salem Drive Elementary School
Salvatore Ferragamo
Gregory and Heidi Sherry
Village Super Markets, Inc.
Ross and Linda Silver
Olivia Spiridigliozzi
Stephen and Tina Squeri
Michael Stemmler
Tarheel Total Pet Care
Taylor Products, Inc.
Tiffany & Co.
Tonsorium
Tory Burch Boutique
Touchstone Crystal by Swarovski
Truma
Joe Uva
Village Super Markets, Inc.
Wakefern Food Corporation
Matthew and Rebecca Weinstein
Williams Sonoma

MEDIA PARTNERS

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Future Today Inc.
FOX
OUTFRONT Media
Paramount
Samsung TV
Screenvision
Televisa Univision
Tubi
Vevo
WCBS-TV

PHOTO CREDITS

Front cover: Matteo, age 9, diagnosed ALL

Page 1 Barry Kirschner with **Luca**, age 7, diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma, **Katie**, age 16, diagnosed with Neuroblastoma and **Delaney**, age 18, diagnosed with Neuroblastoma and **Neil Yaris**

Page 3 Channon, age 6, diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) and his mom.

Page 4 Shannon Leahy with **Jaziah**, age 5, diagnosed with Sickle Cell Disease

Page 5 Karen with **Ashraf**, age 7, diagnosed with Thalassemia

Page 7 Kyomi, age 4 diagnosed with ALL ,with **Karelyn Gonzalez Cruz**, P.h.D. Psychologist

Emma, age 6, diagnosed with Precursor B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia with **Kendall Corcoran,** PsyD Clinical Psychologist

Page 8 Jaad, age 4, diagnosed with Neuroblastoma with **Julie Mayers**, CTRS Recreational Therapist

Page 16 Ashraf, age 7, diagnosed with Thalassemia

Page 17 Jaad, age 4, diagnosed with Neuroblastoma with **Isabella Calonico**, CCLS Child Life Specialist

Page 18 Ian, age 6, diagnosed with Sickle Cell Disease with **Dr. Menell**, Medical Director

Page 19 Kyomi, age 4, diagnosed with ALL

Page 20 Ian, age 7, diagnosed with Sickle Cell Disease and his dad

Page 21 Alissa Kahn, MD Attending Physician with **Jaad**

Page 22 Chiara, age 6, diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Page 24 Katarina Siliris, LCSW, OSW-C with **Asmara**, age 4, diagnosed with Anaplastic Ependymoma

Our Program Locations

THE VALERIE FUND CHILDREN'S CENTERS AND 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
- Atlantic Health System's 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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