

About Our Organization

We have established the Megan L. Cordeiro Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)3, non-profit organization, in the hopes of making a difference in the world of childhood cancer. There were special organizations that had a major impact on Megan's life as she battled cancer. Without those special people, Megan's journey would have been a much tougher one. We are eternally grateful that they were a part of our lives. The Megan L. Cordeiro Memorial Foundation will help support the non-profit organizations that helped our family during the most trying of times. Organizations such as:

The Tomorrow Fund

The Tomorrow Fund is a non-profit organization located in Rhode Island that provides daily financial and emotional support to children with cancer and their families who are treated in The Tomorrow Fund Clinic located in the Edwin Forman Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Center at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, RI. Kids can come from anywhere in the world; but they must be treated in our pediatric oncology program at Hasbro to receive our services. To date, more than 1,500 children and their families have received financial and emotional support from The Tomorrow Fund. In addition to supporting The Tomorrow Fund Clinic at Hasbro Children's Hospital, The Tomorrow Fund is there providing daily monetary stipends for in-patient families; hospital parking passes for the duration of treatment; financial aid for home expenses such as heat, utilities, and rent; bone marrow transplant expenses, etc. We also fund programs that help lift the burden of parenting a child with cancer including coping, teen and bereavement support groups, parent consultants, and community education.

To Date the Megan L Cordeiro Memorial Foundation has donated \$48,000 to the Tomorrow Fund

Hole in the Wall Gang Camp

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp was founded in 1988 by Paul Newman to give every child – no matter their illness – the chance to “**raise a little hell.**” Including their summer Camp in Ashford, Conn, they run 9 programs that serve more than 25,000 kids and family members throughout the Northeast each year. The Hospital Outreach Program (HOP) allows them to bring the joy and fun of Camp **beyond** the Camp grounds to children and families in a hospital setting. From **arts & crafts to interactive games**, HOP activities are inspired by our summer Camp program but are specially adapted to each unique hospital and clinic setting, and just like at Camp, all interactions are child-driven, restoring choice – something children undergoing medical treatment so often lack. Megan looked forward to these visits each and every week, and totally fell in love with the incredible Jeff and his big black bag of fun. Unfortunately, Megan never made it to camp, but we believe that these visits from HOP were what helped keep our determined little warrior to continue in her fight. Paul Newman, Jeff Smithson, and all the other amazing people that have made such a difference in these kid's lives, will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

To Date the Megan L Cordeiro Memorial Foundation has donated \$52,500 to Hole in the Wall Gang Camp

Flashes of Hope

This is a wonderful non-profit organization that brings professional photographers to pediatric hospitals to offer professional photo shoots to children and their families battling life threatening illnesses. John and I have been chapter Directors of a Flashes of Hope in Providence, RI at Hasbro Children's Hospital since June 22, 2010. Thanks to the generosity of our participants and sponsors, to date we have photographed over 300 children and their families. We are honored to be there each month to capture those smiles and forever preserve images of courage, beauty and dignity. By focusing on the child, we put cancer in the background. Volunteer stylists make every child feel special before they step in front of the camera with family, friends and often, a favorite nurse or doctor. A routine day quickly turns into a celebration of the love that surrounds them. Every year, FOH provides free portrait packages to 7,000 children in 55 cities across the country. Each family is presented with framed enlargements, proofs and a CD of all the images. The portraits help the children see themselves in a new light. The images are not of sick kids, but of strong and beautiful children filled with hope. Megan was photographed with her sisters in March 2008, a few short weeks before her final relapse. Those pictures are our last photos of our girls together. Megan had so much fun that day, smiling for the camera, that we felt we needed to do everything we could to bring this incredible opportunity to Hasbro. To give these special memories to other families who are battling the unthinkable. The Megan L Cordeiro Memorial Foundation is the sponsor of the Hasbro Children's Hospital Chapter of Flashes of Hope.

To Date the Megan L Cordeiro Memorial Foundation has donated \$70,000 to Flashes of Hope

Floating Children's Hospital

The Child Life Services Program, initiated in 1948 as one of the nation's first hospital activity programs for children, is designated to help patients and their families cope with the stress of illness, injury, disability and hospitalization. They offer a range of services including tutoring, arranging overnight privileges for parents, support groups and play. Play is a vital component of children's lives; at all stages of development, play is the major way that children communicate, learn, rehearse, relax and have fun. Children gain a sense of mastery and control through play, leading to an increased ability to cope with stress. Play is a valuable way to help children in the hospital express their feelings and deal with being ill. The Floating Hospital pioneered the concept of integrating play into the daily routine, and it is an important part of the care Child Life provides. The Child Life program at Floating Children's Hospital, Boston Ma, was instrumental in keeping our Megan happy during her many clinic visits. Megan received her Bone Marrow

Transplant at Floating Children's Hospital and the Child Life Specialists worked their magic in making our Megan happy and comfortable. Although this was a very difficult time for Meg, she still remained upbeat and enjoyed her visits with these amazing people.

To Date the Megan L Cordeiro Memorial Foundation has donated \$11,000 to Floating Hospital's Child Life Program

Hasbro Children's Hospital

Certified child life specialists are professionals who are trained in the areas of child life development, play and psychology. They have been specially trained to work with children who are dealing with health problems and the concerns and reactions that arise due to hospitalizations and illness. They work to create an atmosphere that is family centered, therapeutic, and most of all fun. These amazing people kept Megan happy and entertained throughout her mostly inpatient 9 month stay. She played games, did crafts, and always remained happy while at Hasbro, and child life played a definite roll in her positive attitude.

To Date the Megan L Cordeiro Memorial Foundation has donated \$18,700 to Hasbro Children's Hospital

The Neely House

The Neely House at Tufts Medical Center is a bed and breakfast style home away from home for cancer patients and their families. It was created to fill an important need - to help pediatric and adult cancer patients and their families while undergoing treatment. The house is an environment in which families who stay there can talk with others in similar situations while being near loved ones in a warm, home-like setting. The House is located within the walls of Tufts Medical Center, a world-renowned medical center for adults and children. The Cancer Center at Tufts Medical Center and its Floating Hospital for Children are among the finest medical institutions in the nation. The philosophy of Tufts Medical Center's cancer program is consistent with that of The Cam Neely Foundation - to provide leading-edge medical care with the highest level of compassionate patient care. This was our home away from home for a month after Megan's Bone Marrow Transplant. We were able to spend family time in our beautiful room at the Neely House, and enjoy dinner together as a family. We were a 10 minute walk from clinic which we never had to leave the hospital to get to. It was amazing to be able to sleep without beeping, nurses in and out of our room...to just have peace and quiet, something we longed for after having lived in a hospital for 10 months.

To Date the Megan L Cordeiro Memorial Foundation has donated \$9,000 to the Cam Neely Foundation/Neely House

Binkeez for Comfort

Binkeez for Comfort supports sacred pediatric communities, those of babies and children struggling to survive life threatening illnesses and acute developmental disorders by LovingForward Binkeez blankets made from certified fabrics. Each fabric has been named after someone special. An amazing group of women who consists of cancer moms and moms of angels donate their time to make beautiful blankets for these children.

In 2016, The Megan L Cordeiro Memorial Foundation joined forces with Binkeez For Comfort to bring this awesome program to Floating Children's Hospital. Megan's blanket will forever bring love and comfort to the children at Floating Children's Hospital.

To Date the Megan L Cordeiro Memorial Foundation has donated \$11,500 to Binkeez for Comfort

Hope Hospice & Palliative Care RI-Camp BraveHeart

Children dealing with the loss of a loved one find solace at Camp BraveHeart, a summer camp program designed to help kids ages 4-17, cope with grief. At Camp BraveHeart, children who have lost a loved one take part in fun traditional camp activities such as swimming, kayaking, archery, rock climbing, gardening and storytelling. In addition, grief counselors provide emotional support through discussions and opportunities to memorialize loved ones during art, music, theatre and drum circle activities. The two day summer camp concludes with a butterfly release and a remembrance ceremony. For ten years, Camp BraveHeart has helped thousands of children cope with grief in a place both nurturing and safe.

In 2018, the Megan L Cordeiro Memorial Foundation was once again a proud sponsor of Camp BraveHeart, held in August 2018.

To Date the Megan L Cordeiro Memorial Foundation has donated \$10,000 to Hope Hospice & Palliative Care RI-Camp BraveHeart

With your help and generosity, all of these dreams have become a reality, and we are making a difference in the lives of children battling a life threatening illness.

Thank you for your support