

Gracious Giving

Throughout the year, Making Headway receives numerous generous gifts from individuals, families and friends. Generous gifts help bridge the financial gap between the costs of providing programs and the fees charged.

In another touchdown for Chappaqua’s Gracious Giving, NFL Head Linesman, Casey Tichy, his officiating crew donated $500 to Making Headway. But the most valuable gem was the $682 raised for Making Headway. Maria Barbieri hosted a jewelry party, Lily Taubin gave $24 from her jewelry, and the Gershwins in “All Night Strut!” Making Headway of gracious giving include the following:

- The party that featured the Trunz Family and supporter of Making Headway’s Ongoing Care Team, Allison Trunz, in memory of Courtney Tomkin, and the Gershwins in “All Night Strut!” Making Headway

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Making Headway’s Ongoing Care Program is based on health psychology. It has grown over the years from team telephone and group support services to a comprehensive program of specialty counseling and resources. The first member of the team was health psychologist, Lisa Greendall, PhD. Today, Dr. Greendall continues to play a major role by providing ongoing assessments, counseling and care to children.

As the program grew, other critical specialties services were added. A child developmental specialist, Stacie Feinberg, MD, became part of the program to help children developing skills and build self-esteem and to help their parents.

I joined the team as a child life specialist, a professional who helps children navigate the emotional stresses of hospital care. We help children communicate, collaborate and coordinate their care in order to ensure their needs are met and that they can continue to interact with their peers while they are in the hospital.

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Partying with a Purpose

The Putnam Community is known for its vibrant holiday season festivities with a host of events that bring joy and community spirit to our towns and villages. One such event that has become a beloved tradition is the annual Mardi Gras Bash, hosted by Ralph Arbia, his daughter, Marisa, and her husband, David, their son, Vincent. These fundraising events, held at the Westlake Men’s Club Concord, have raised thousands of dollars for local charities.

This year, Making Headway Foundation, a New York-based non-profit organization dedicated to helping families who have children with cancer, brain tumors, or spinal cord injuries, had the honor of receiving funds from the Mardi Gras Bash. The event was held on March 12 and was a resounding success, raising over $204,250 for Making Headway.

According to Kim Madsen, Executive Director of Making Headway, the event was a testament to the community’s support and dedication to making a difference in the lives of those affected by childhood cancer.

Introducing the Long Term Follow-Up Program at Household Children’s Center

By Kim Madsen, President & Chief Executive Officer, NYU Langone Medical Center

In your child’s survivor of a pediatric brain tumor who completed chemotherapy or radiation treatment two or more years ago? If so, he or she is eligible to join the Household Children’s Center Long Term Follow-Up Program.

The Long Term Follow-Up Program, launched in January, 2009, is based on guidelines developed by the Children’s Oncology Group, an association of institutions dedicated to ensuring that young survivors of childhood cancer receive the best quality care available. The program is designed to provide survivors with ongoing education, monitoring, and support.

The initial visit is comprehensive, lasting approximately four hours and including a medical examination, neuro-psychological evaluation, and a review of prior treatments. It begins with a comprehensive medical history and physical examination conducted by the neuro-psychiatrist. A parent or guardian accompanies the patient to the initial visit.

During this initial visit, family members will meet with a neuro-psychiatrist who will discuss their child’s medical history, current symptoms, and any concerns or questions they may have.

The neuro-psychiatrist will also review your child’s prior medical records, including their medical history, treatment plans, and any complications or side effects of treatment. They will provide an overview of the Long Term Follow-Up Program and answer any questions you may have.

At the end of the initial visit, you will receive a comprehensive report, including a summary of your child’s medical history, treatment plans, and any recommendations for future follow-up visits.

Your neuro-psychiatrist will review your child’s medical history and discuss any concerns or questions you may have. They will also provide ongoing support and guidance in using the web for further medical research.

Follow-Up Program

The Long Term Follow-Up Program at Household Children’s Center is a comprehensive program designed to help survivors of pediatric brain tumors maintain their health and well-being.

Access to the Long Term Follow-Up Program is open to children and young adults who have completed their initial treatment for a pediatric brain tumor, including those with neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1) and those with other genetic syndromes.

To learn more about the program, or to make an appointment, contact Heidi Langone Medical Center at (212) 304-9653 or visit www.makingheadway.org.