



**A Foundation Dedicated to the Care, Comfort and Cure of Children with Brain and Spinal Cord Tumors.**

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Making Headway is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation.

Making Headway Foundation works closely with the Stephen D. Hassenfeld Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at NYU Langone Medical Center. Our services are available to all brain and spinal cord tumor patients and their families throughout the tri-state area.

**One Family's Experience Becomes a Gift for Many**

*A Message from Catherine Lepone, Director of Development, Making Headway Foundation*



*How do you honor the memory of Holly Lind, a mother, wife and friend who passed away at the age of 33? By bringing hundreds of people together in support of a cause she cared about deeply: Making Headway Foundation.*

*This past summer's Holly's Angels Gala was the largest fundraiser in Making Headway history. The 750 guests who showed up to honor Holly, her family and the many children she met at the Hassenfeld Children's Center—the children she dubbed her "angels"—together raised more than \$1.5 million.*

*The fundraiser was the result of a joint effort. For a speaker, Making Headway reached out to its longtime friend and supporter, President Bill Clinton, while Holly's husband, Keith, reached out to friends, acquaintances and business associates for an audience. President Clinton wasted no time in saying he'd be delighted to make an appearance; the hard part was finding a date and location that worked with his busy schedule.*

*Once that was settled, it was just a matter of details. Making Headway supporter, Louis Konstantinos Vellios, of Konstantinos Floral Design, donated his genius for décor to create a custom environment at Cipriani's 42nd Street location. A special dinner committee worked with the Cipriani staff to add distinctive lighting and choose the perfect menu.*

***An Evening of Memories, Laughter and Inspiration***

*The gala was held on the evening of Tuesday, June 26. Celebrity sportscaster Erin Andrews was the emcee, and comedian Seth Meyers lightened the evening with his gentle brand of humor. Keith Lind spoke movingly about Holly, who had been his high school sweetheart, while Making Headway president, Edward Manley, and medical advisor, Dr. Jeffrey Allen, each took a turn to speak about the Foundation's work.*

*But not surprisingly, it was President Bill Clinton who brought down the house. President Clinton used his time not just to focus on one of his favorite topics, grassroots philanthropy, but to give his own personal account of knowing the Manleys and express his admiration for Making Headway's work.*

*After that, it was time for another first, as Keith Lind returned to the stage with an impassioned appeal for participants to donate again right then and there—through their cell phones. The response not only set a record for Making Headway, which has never done text-based fundraising before, but broke the record of Text to Pledge, the company processing the donations.*

*All in all, it was a wonderful night, in which the children who had so inspired Holly Lind became an inspiration for us all.*



*Top: President Bill Clinton speaking at the Holly's Angels Gala.  
Photo: Hechler Photographers*

*Right: Making Headway massage therapist Gunilla Asp (center) with Jeena Chacko and Darren Thevathasan at the Holly's Angels Gala.  
Photo: Hechler Photographers*

## Gracious Giving

Throughout the year, Making Headway receives numerous gifts from individuals, families and friends, organizations and companies. These gifts help us fulfill our mission. No matter how great or small, we are honored by each contribution and sincerely thank you. Some examples of gracious giving include the following:

Apparently, wedding favors are out of favor—replaced by open hands and hearts. Recently three separate couples redirected their favor budgets to Making Headway:

- **Andrew Rastetter** and **Amy Graffeo** honored Andrew's brother, Richard, with a gift of \$250.
- **Bryan Harkins** and **Leslie Cartogena** replaced favors with \$500 in memory of Nicky Docu.
- **Lea Rocco** and **Thomas Berman** donated \$250. Some of our readers will know Lea from the annual "All-is-onE Tulip Festival Dinner" fundraiser, where she has volunteered her time and hard work in the past.

Some stellar members of the younger set also thought "outside the gift," turning their birthday celebrations into opportunities for giving:

- **Owen Dodd** marked his seventh birthday with the same generosity of spirit that he's shown for years. He asked friends and family to direct their presents to the Hassenfeld Children's Center Playroom, collecting a heap of toys—which he plans to personally deliver—plus \$38 in donations.
- **Grace Cuttita**, a young and devoted fan of Making Headway's own Maya Manley, also used her birthday celebration as a way to give back. She asked for donations in lieu of gifts for her sixth birthday, raising a grand total of \$270.

The enterprising **Girl Scouts of Troop 432** in Glen Gardner, New Jersey, hand-decorated 85 colorful pillowcases, donating them to the young patients at Hassenfeld Children's Center for their personal use at home.

If you couldn't find a good glass of lemonade this summer, you clearly weren't looking hard enough. Three separate sets of generous and enterprising young people used mouth-watering refreshments to raise funds for Making Headway:

- Young sisters **Dylan** and **Alexa Schimel**, along with their friends **Chloe Cornell** and **Chloe Talbot**, opened a lemonade stand to raise money in honor of Chloe's twin sister, Alexandra Talbot. Tasty baked goods were available, too, and the venture pulled in \$133 for Making Headway's Talbot Family Research Fund.
- Sisters **Gillian** and **Carley Goldstein**, 11- and 9-years old, respectively, along with their 9-year-old friend **Vanessa Magid**, held a lemonade, cookie and brownie sale at the beach this summer, raising \$125 in memory of Lily Taubin. The girls were inspired to give to Making Headway when they heard about Lily, whose dad, Greg Taubin, has worked with Gillian and Carley's dad for many years.

- **Tucker, Teagan, Annie** and **Zoe**, grandchildren of Dr. Erin Hartnett, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at NYU Langone Medical Center, sold lemonade from their stand on the Jersey Shore. Priced at a more-than-reasonable nickel per cup, the liquid refreshments went fast, bringing in \$23 for Making Headway.

**Gina Macaluso** started collecting, sorting, recycling and returning bottles at her high school during her sophomore year. By the time she was a senior, she had recycled or redeemed over 13,000 bottles! The result was a check for \$450, which she donated to Making Headway in memory of her friend, Courtney Tomkin.

Maya Manley barely had time to unpack two boxfuls of beautiful hand-crocheted blankets and hats from **Corinne Jeziorski** before they all disappeared, snapped up by the delighted children at Hassenfeld Children's Center.

## Four Ambitious Young People Win Scholarships

The Scott J. Reisser Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by Fritz and Joanne Reisser to honor the memory of their 22-year-old son, who succumbed to a brain tumor just short of achieving his dream of college graduation. Each year, Making Headway Foundation matches the Scholarship Fund's \$10,000 contribution, enabling a total of four deserving young people to continue their educations with a one-time \$5,000 grant apiece:

- **Chantelle Lovett** is pursuing a degree in social services at Suffolk County Community College.
- **Sydney Lilieholm** will start her sophomore year at Salem State University this spring, working toward a degree in business management.
- **Morgan McNary** is continuing her engineering studies at the University of Dayton.
- **Alex Pratzon**, a freshman at Alfred State College in New York, plans to study electromechanical engineering.

Congratulations to Chantelle, Sydney, Morgan and Alex!



*Above top: Teagan and Tucker McDonough with their cousins Zoe and Annie Zaumeyer selling lemonade at the Jersey shore to benefit Making Headway.*

*Above bottom: Gina Macaluso surrounded by bottles for recycling to benefit Making Headway.*

*Below: Scholarship winners Chantelle Lovett, Sydney Lilieholm, Morgan McNary and Alex Pratzon.*



## What's In a Name?

The only things lacking at the 15th annual *All-is-onE Tulip Festival Dinner*, graciously hosted once more by Jeannie and Greg Trunz, were tulips. An unusually warm winter had caused the flowers to peak earlier than expected and by the May 2nd event they were little more than a memory. But that didn't dampen anyone's spirits. The Swan Club in Glenwood Landing, Long Island, was still lovely and throngs of guests still enjoyed tasty hors d'oeuvres, made their bids in a silent auction and sat down to an elegant dinner.

This year's event honored Evan Sohn and Doug Hirsch of the Ira Sohn Conference Foundation as well as Dr. William Carroll, Director of the NYU Cancer Institute and the Pediatric Hematology Oncology Program at NYU Langone Medical Center. All three were commended for their work helping to establish a new neuro-oncology research laboratory for pediatric brain and spinal cord tumor patients. The evening, which also featured presentations by Making Headway massage therapist, Gunilla Asp, and medical advisor, Dr. Jeffrey Allen, brought in nearly \$100,000. 🌱

## When It Rains Kindness

For anyone concerned about drought, the friends of Nicky Docu may be onto something. Last year's *Friends of Nicky Docu Memorial Golf Outing* was played out in threatening weather, with the skies opening up just as the last golfers hurried in from the greens. This summer's event, on June 22, was held under the threat of a downpour once more, causing the delicious barbecue lunch to be served from an underground passageway on the Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course. And once again, the heavens opened up just as the last foursome returned to the Club House.

The evening's festivities went on indoors as planned, with food, games and a lot of good-natured ribbing aimed at the host, Tom Docu. And no amount of rain could diminish the generosity of the outcome: the enjoyable event raised \$25,000 for Making Headway. 🌱

*Solia Connell with her dad at the 20th annual Making Headway Family Fun Day.*

## Family Fun On Land and (Almost) At Sea

June 17 was a beautiful day and the more than 500 people who joined Edward and Maya Manley for their 20th annual *Family Fun Day* made the most of it. The event once again found families enjoying swimming, music, games, pony rides, a petting zoo and arts and crafts activities, along with plenty of live entertainment, from Looney Lenny's funny magic show to "Goowin's Balloowins" and Adam the clown. Those in search of more relaxing entertainment could seek out a manicure or massage. And whether one's taste ran to poached salmon and salads or barbecued ribs and home-baked desserts, there was something to pile high on every plate.

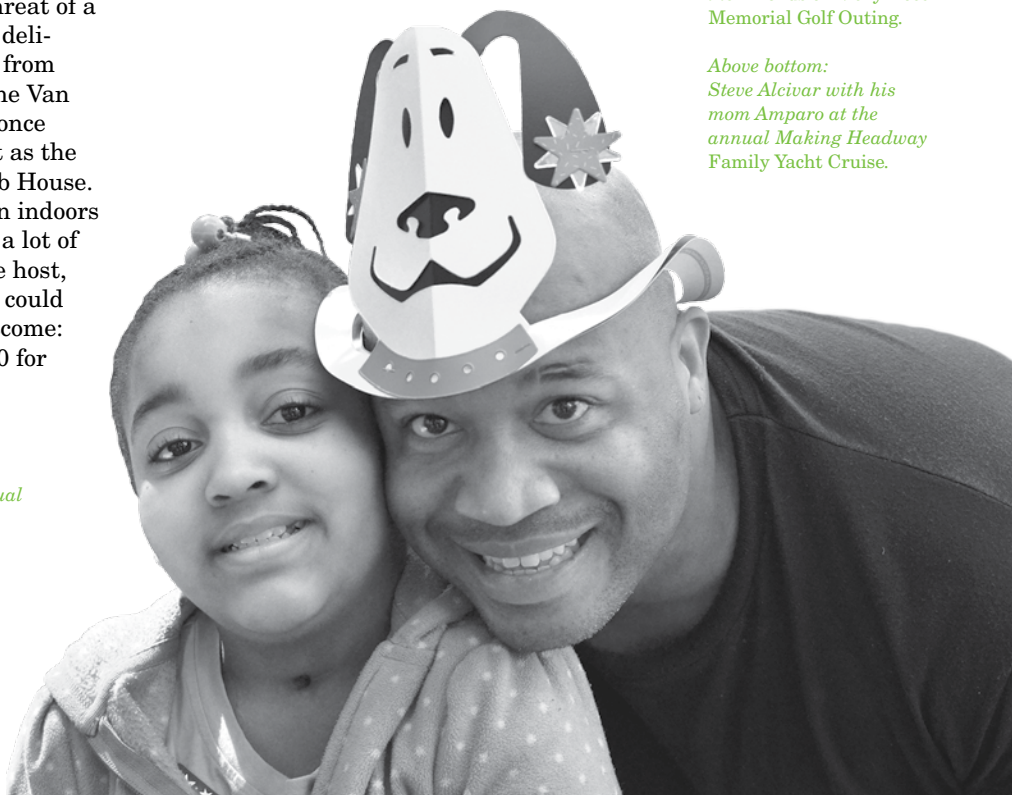
Two months later, on September 16, more than 200 people—families that have been helped by Making Headway—gathered at Chelsea Piers for the annual *Family Yacht Cruise*. Generously sponsored, as always, by Marisa and Richard Stadtmauer, the cruise set sail under sunny skies. Adam the clown entertained the crowds with comedy and magic and everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch. Then, thanks to Tom Ryan, retired firefighter and good friend, the crowd enjoyed a magnificent water cannon display by the New York City Fire Department set against a backdrop of the Statue of Liberty. 🌱



*Above top:  
Swan Club owners  
Jeannie and Greg Trunz  
at the All-is-onE Tulip  
Festival Dinner.  
Photo: Todd Shapera Photography*

*Above middle:  
Tom Docu giving the  
"Straightest Drive Award"  
to golfer Todd Horgan at  
the Friends of Nicky Docu  
Memorial Golf Outing.*

*Above bottom:  
Steve Alcivar with his  
mom Amparo at the  
annual Making Headway  
Family Yacht Cruise.*



## The Biggest Battle

by Jack Miller, Making Headway Family Counselor and Bereavement Specialist

Before I met Jack Reyna, I wondered if being the firstborn son of a world-famous soccer player would make his last months with brain cancer seem even more unfair. Claudio Reyna, known to fans as Captain America, was captain of the US National Soccer Team for many years, and this past year was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame. This is a man who doesn't flinch or falter in battle.

But Claudio wasn't there for his big day last spring. As the press put it, "Claudio Reyna was unable to attend the Hall of Fame induction ceremony because of a family matter." For Claudio, family comes first.

Claudio is married to his best friend, Danielle, and together they have four children. Jack is the oldest of the four, and nothing in the universe—not even death—will change his place on the team.

On July 19, 2012, newspapers around the globe reported, "Jack Reyna, 13-year-old son of superstar Claudio Reyna, lost his battle with brain cancer today." But they failed to report what matters most: Jack Reyna won the battle for his life.

The disease could not weaken Jack's loving spirit or diminish his strong character. That's because Jack's parents made an almost impossible decision two months before his passing: First, they accepted reality. Then, they made a family plan for Jack to finish his journey with a deep sense of personal accomplishment and heroic success.



"We're a snuggling bunch," says Danielle, "so we took turns sleeping next to him. We told him he had grown up to become every parent's dream son, and that he was already the man we hoped he would someday become."

"My strategy," said Claudio, "was to save the whole family together."

Jack's parents took turns attending every game and school event for his siblings. Extended family came to stay, so the parents could give equal attention to Gio, Joah and Carolina. In return, the kids rallied day and night for their brother without anger, fear or depression—only gratitude and love for Jack. "You're the best big brother and the best soccer coach I ever had," confided nine-year-old Gio. "When I'm on the field, I play for both of us." Five-year-old Joah put it his way: "I think about you every day, and I always will."

Jack responded not with words, but with his famous smile, glistening eyes and loving arms. He had not failed his father by getting sick, and he knew it. Instead, he had made him the proudest man on earth. He had not failed his mother, but had fulfilled her dreams. He had not failed his siblings, but had shown them the grace, gratitude and courage of a heroic brother at peace with the world, and with himself.

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Making Headway thanks Catherine Lepone and Linda Mudford-Lewis for their generous help with this newsletter. Special thanks to Jack Miller for his contribution.

This newsletter is dedicated to our donors and supporters, whom we celebrate every day.

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*Photos:*  
Hechler Photographers  
Catherine Lepone  
Todd Shapera Photography

*Design:*  
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*Printing:*  
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*Above:*  
*The Reyna Family.*

*Left: Jack Reyna.*



*Jack Miller has served as Making Headway's bereavement specialist since its founding. His work is part of a larger passion for shared respect and healing around issues of family suffering. If you have any questions about Making Headway's counseling and bereavement services, call (914) 238-8384.*