



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

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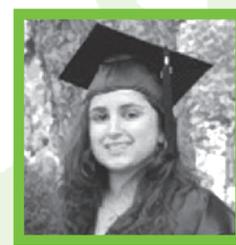
Making Headway Foundation works closely with the Stephen D. Hassenfeld Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at NYU Langone Medical Center.

**When a Job is Not Just a Job**

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

*It's hard to believe it's already been nine months since I began working with Making Headway. This has been one of the most rewarding periods of my career.*

*Working with Making Headway families and hearing how we have helped a child gives such purpose and inspiration to my new role as Director of Development. For instance, we recently received some updates about our scholarship award recipients. Katherine Vallone wrote, "I greatly thank Making Headway Foundation's donors (my mother does too) for their contribution to my sophomore year of college. You helped level the burden of my college tuition, balancing my and my family's medical expenses, and allowed me to continue with my higher education..." The parent of another scholarship winner told us that, "the scholarship gave [my daughter] a little lift under her wings to know that someone believed in her besides her parents."*



*It is interesting to see how many of these students choose to help others by working in health-related fields. As one parent commented, "The Making Headway Scott J. Reisser Memorial Scholarship helped make [my daughter's] wish come true by enabling her to obtain an Associate's Degree in the health field. The future is all hers now and just how far she'll go we can't wait to see."*

*The many fundraising activities we have in the works will help us continue sponsoring all our programs for families while we work to fund the best scientific research possible. We are also venturing into the world of cyberspace, with more online fundraising and social media marketing, such as our popular Facebook page. We hope such new channels will expand our reach so we can help as many children and families as possible.*

*This year, we will also be holding some new events: our first gala, Holly's Angels, at Cipriani 42nd Street®; a golf outing at Split Rock Pelham Bay Golf Course, headed up by Mike McCabe; a walkathon/fundraiser in memory of Holly Lind at Sherwood Island State Park and a bowl-a-thon at Chelsea Piers, organized by the Rittner/Cohen family.*

*Just in the past few months several other families have approached us to say they want to organize a fundraising event for Making Headway. They do this as a gesture of appreciation for the positive impact we've had on their lives. It is my great privilege to help make their visions a reality.*



*Top: Making Headway Scott J. Reisser Memorial Scholarship winner Lauren Chiamonte.*

*Right: Hailey Cordova and Jahaira Cruz.*

## Remembering a Colleague

When employees of Take2Games gathered for a reception at a private home in Manhattan's meatpacking district last October, they had one thing in mind: to remember their late co-worker, Holly Lind (see back page). The evening of tribute was organized by colleague, Maeve Cronin, who was one of many attendees to speak movingly about her friend. Pizza and drinks rounded out the evening, which raised \$5,635 for Holly's favorite cause, Making Headway. 🌱

## Time to Get Up and Samba!

The spirit of "Carnaval" was in the air at the New Victory Theater in Manhattan on February 26, as a sold-out audience stomped and cheered through a joyous production of **Brazil! Brazil!** The sizzling South American celebration featured music, dance, acrobatics, capoeira and soccer-inspired street dance. Special guest, Brazilian football freestyle superstar, Arturo, brought down the house. The show left the audience dancing—and brought in \$441,000 for Making Headway.

And New Orleans and Rio have nothing on the **Mardi Gras Bash** Tom and Lisa Fitzgerald throw each spring in memory of their son, Thomas. This year party-goers gathered in Cortlandt Manor, New York, on March 24. They filled their plates with sliders, custom-made fried rice, and piles of tempting baked goods. They danced and outbid each other on an array of intriguing items in the silent auction. The balloons, beads and celebrants in their finery were a sight to see but the \$4,000 raised for Making Headway was the icing on the King Cake. 🌱



## These (Rain)boots are Made for Walking

A chilly rain did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the more than 100 men, women and children who showed up for the 14th annual **Little Bit of a Walk and Fun Run** in Point Lookout, New York. Held on Saturday, March 31, the event was organized as always by Diane and Pat Ryan and their energetic committee in memory of the Ryans' daughter, Elizabeth. The walk began and ended at the Bishop Molloy Recreation Center, where DJ Dan Kelly kept a steady beat going as kids of all ages got their faces painted, ordered up balloon-animals from a clown and snacked on fruit and hot, freshly-popped corn. Some lucky participants even walked away with new bicycles! The day's activities and purpose warmed up a cold day, and brought in \$24,000 in research funds for Making Headway. 🌱

## What a Day for a Sail

Forty Making Headway families enjoyed a delightful cruise around lower Manhattan and the New York Harbor on September 18. The day, generously sponsored by Marisa and Richard Stadtmauer, was picture-perfect. When not taking in the stunning skyline or the Statue of Liberty, families dug into a sumptuous lunch and enjoyed the hilarious antics of Looney Lenny, the clown. 🌱



*Above top: Kelly and Colleen Ryan at the Little Bit of a Walk and Fun Run.*

*Above middle: Tom and Lisa Fitzgerald at the Mardi Gras Bash.*

*Above bottom: Looney Lenny with the Dubon Family on the yacht cruise around lower Manhattan.*

*Bottom left: Michael Schwartz with Dr. Jeffrey Allen at the performance of Brazil! Brazil!*

## 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:

Children undergoing treatment at the Hassenfeld Children's Center last December reveled in holiday warmth and cheer thanks to the timely arrival of some thoughtful gifts:

- **Ethel Thomas** and her fellow parishioners in the **Linus Blanket Group** at Plainview Reformed Church once again distributed their cozy, beautifully hand-crocheted blankets, while **Robert and Corinne Jeziorski** sent two boxfuls of colorful, soft, hand-knit blankets and hats.
- A large carton arriving from **Jeanne Egan** and her family turned out to be brimming with toys, which were promptly distributed as gifts to the delighted children.

As always, numerous young people went to enterprising lengths in support of Making Headway:

- **Isabella Icatar** requested that celebrants attending her 8th birthday party focus their gift-giving efforts on Making Headway. More than forty children attended the gala event, which included a giant bouncy castle, bringing in \$328.



- Entrepreneurial sisters **Cora, Eleni and Kalliope Soupios** raised \$103 with their lemonade stand and donated all proceeds to Making Headway. As Cora explained, "We thought it would be helpful to donate it to people with cancer. We hope we helped!"
- 10-year-old **Gilad Coll** raised \$252 selling bracelets door-to-door in his Stamford, Connecticut, neighborhood. His parents report the effort not only benefited Making Headway, but did wonders for his self-confidence.
- Eighth-grader, **Noelle Sollivan**, sold gray ribbons to classmates at her school in Linden, New Jersey, bringing in \$437. Her mother tells us that she's already making plans for expanded fundraising efforts next year, in high school.
- **Rebecca Landau** honored her Bat Mitzvah with a visit to the Hassenfeld Children's Center bearing several gigantic bags of toys and art supplies that she'd collected in memory of her cousin, Jamie Levy. Together

with her younger brother and sister, Ethan and Ally, she proudly handed the playthings out to children in the Playroom.

- Members of the **Sayville Girls' Varsity Soccer Team** in Long Island were aiming for more than the goal at the end of the pitch last October 22. They also set out to raise funds to fight pediatric cancer. Fans munched on caramel apples, brownies, cupcakes and more as they cheered their team to victory, but the big winner was Making Headway, which received \$300.
- The girls of **Horace Greeley's Varsity and Junior Varsity Hockey Teams** took another approach to fundraising, creating 400 beaded bracelets in the school colors, blue and orange. They handed out the bracelets in exchange for donations to Making Headway, raising a total of \$2,500.

The **employees of Ernst & Young's Jericho office** happily paid for the privilege of wearing jeans one comfortable Friday, raising \$245 for Making Headway.

Brandon Mackie, a patient of Dr. Jeffrey Allen, has a big fan in his uncle, **Wayne Mackie**. Mackie, a member of the NFL's famed Steratore's Crew, suggested the crew direct some of its annual giving to Making Headway. His colleagues happily took up his suggestion, donating \$500.

**Jeanne Egan** gets rave reviews for once more organizing an evening at Long Island's Merrick Theater and Center for the Arts—this time providing Making Headway families and supporters with a gripping performance of *Twelve Angry Men*. The night out brought in \$480.

Nowhere near ready to hang it up, **John-Claude and Michele Hallak** continued their clever fundraising strategy, informing customers of their upscale dry cleaning business, Hallak & Sons, that they'd donate 10 cents for every returned wire hanger. The hangers came clattering in, and the Hallaks presented Making Headway with a check for \$1,000. 



*Ally, Rebecca, Ethan Landau at the Hassenfeld Children's Center Playroom.*



*Robin Thea, Eve Buseck, Jillian Green and mom Steffi Green of the Horace Greeley Varsity and Junior Varsity Hockey Teams.*

*Left: Isabella Icatar at her birthday party.*



### These High Schools Must Be Teaching More Than English and Math

Hauppauge High School's 4th annual **Kicks for Cancer** fundraising event brought out scores of people to cheer on their team and remember Courtney Tomkin, who succumbed to brain cancer during her senior year at the Long Island high school. Signs paying tribute to cancer survivors and victims lined the field as the Lady Eagles, the school's varsity soccer team, battled through a close game. Despite a windy October day, the team pulled off a 2-1 victory against their rivals at North Babylon. A month or so later, the whole team dropped by the Hassenfeld Children's Center to present a \$17,000 check to Making Headway and tour the facilities.

October was also the month for the fifth consecutive **Horace Greeley High School Gridiron Club Walk-A-Thon**. Once again this year, young varsity, junior varsity and freshmen athletes from the Chappaqua high school organized the event, taking pledges and then showing up on a lovely fall day to circle the track for hours, cheered on by friends and family. Fortified with breakfast pizza donated by local restaurant Bellizzi's, cupcakes and other goodies, the group walked its way to \$8,511 for Making Headway.

### It's the Bottom of the Third and Everybody Wins

It was another home run for Making Headway when the Conetta Family held its 3rd annual **Swing for a Cause** whiffle ball tournament and picnic on September 24, a lovely fall day in Stamford, Connecticut. Eight teams competed in this year's event, which brought in \$4,880 from a sellout crowd—prompting the Conettas to get started early organizing the 2012 tournament. They're hoping for even more teams this year, so start dusting off those plastic bats!



### A Fight Even Pacifists Can Get Behind

More than 100 people showed up for the 2nd annual **Fight with Alexandra** fundraiser at the Public House in Manhattan on November 9. Hosted by Marc and Elizabeth Talbot in honor of their daughter, the event featured mouth-watering food and drink, a silent auction, lots of socializing and plenty of good cheer. Numerous family members pitched in to make the evening a success, and a success it was, raising \$135,435 for research.



### Fundraising on the Fairway

The nice fall weather was still holding on October 24, when golfers assembled in Bay Shore for the 7th annual **Brian D'Angelo Memorial Golf Tournament**. Organized by the Long Island Golf Course Mechanics Association, the day offered not only golf but three square meals, beginning with a full bacon and egg breakfast, followed after a morning on the links with a barbeque lunch and finishing off for the tired athletes and their fans with a full, sit-down dinner. Donations from golfers and spectators and hole sponsors—as well as donated golf fees—brought the day's take for Making Headway to \$8,600.



Above top: The Conetta Family at the Swing for a Cause whiffle ball tournament.

Above middle: Chris LeVine, Marc Talbot and David Mintz at the Fight with Alexandra fundraiser.

Above bottom: Alexandra Talbot.

Top left: Hauppauge High School soccer team at the Kicks for Cancer benefit.

Bottom: Noreen D'Angelo (center) and Tom D'Angelo (far right) congratulate the top team at the Brian D'Angelo Memorial Golf Tournament.





## Announcing Holly's Angels

Making Headway Foundation is pleased to announce its first fundraising gala, *Holly's Angels*, to be held at Cipriani 42nd Street® in Manhattan, on Tuesday, June 26.

*Holly's Angels* is named for Holly Lind, a brave wife and mother who succumbed to cancer a year ago at the age of 31. Because her particular form of cancer is most frequently seen in children, Holly underwent treatment at the Hassenfeld Children's Center at NYU Langone Medical Center under the care of Dr. Jeffrey Allen. The many children she saw in treatment there first horrified and then inspired her; she called them her "angels."

It was at Hassenfeld that Holly and her husband, Keith, first discovered the Making Headway Foundation. Keith was moved to organize this inaugural *Holly's Angels* gala in support of the Foundation, with the hope that it will become an annual event.

We are delighted that long-time Making Headway friend and supporter, President Bill Clinton, has agreed to be special guest speaker at the gala. 🌱

*To purchase tickets for the Gala, visit: <http://bit.ly/HollysAngels>. For more information, call Catherine Lepone, (914) 238-8384, ext. 12, or email her at [catherine@makingheadway.org](mailto:catherine@makingheadway.org).*

## In Memoriam

We deeply mourn the passing of Dr. Brian Grobois, an integral member of the Making Headway Ongoing Care Team since 2007. Dr. Grobois, who died as the result of a hiking accident on Mt. Ranier, was an excellent psychiatrist, well-trained in his profession and highly respected by the medical community. Always gracious and caring, he took the time to listen and understand his patients' concerns. They loved him for his calm and friendly manner, and his profound understanding of their needs. 🌱

## Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events:

### Friends of Nicky Docu Memorial Golf Outing

June 22, 2012

Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course, Bronx

### Holly's Angels Gala

June 26, 2012

Cipriani 42nd Street®, Manhattan

*Special Guest Speaker:*

*President Bill Clinton*

### A Day in the Park Honoring Holly Kensicki Lind

September 23, 2012

Sherwood Island State Park, Westport, Connecticut

### Chelsea Cohen Memorial Bowl-A-Thon

September 30, 2012

Chelsea Piers, Manhattan

### Brian McCabe Drive for a Cure

October 15, 2012

Split Rock Pelham Bay Golf Course, Bronx

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

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*Top left: Holly, Avery and Keith Lind.*

*Bottom right: Mauricio Jimenez (left) and Nuris Jimenez.*

