Our mission is to help families tackle childhood cancer by providing comprehensive financial, emotional, and practical support. From diagnosis to recovery and beyond, we are part of the team, allowing parents to focus solely on their child’s well-being. Our goal is to BE THERE for parents facing the unthinkable so they can BE THERE for their families.

Dear Friends,

As the flowers start to bloom, harbingers of spring and all the hope it brings with it are everywhere. That hope extends directly to our families we’ve been assisting as they support their sick child, and the glimmer of sunlight they are experiencing is thanks to you. Our appeal for annual gifts raised just shy of $600,000, ensuring Jay Fund families will not have to worry about grocery, utility, or transportation bills. Thank you for your generosity.

A childhood cancer diagnosis can be brutal, earth shattering, and heartbreaking for any family. It permeates every facet of life. From work and school disruptions for patients and parents to all the emotional turmoil it causes in the process, pediatric cancer is unfair and robs a family of the joy they should be sharing together. Unfortunately, the Jay Fund cannot wave a magic wand and change that, even though we wish we could, but we can BE THERE for them during the here and now so they can BE THERE for their child. That spirit of help and hope is who Jay McGillis was, and that is the legacy he inspired and what the Jay Fund is and always will be.

Thank you for being a part of that hope and help.

Tom Coughlin
Founder and President

ANDREA, TOP RIGHT, AT CAREGIVER CARE YOGA

“When we think of the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund, we can’t help but smile. The Jay Fund has been right alongside us the entire time, offering our family financial and emotional support, love, comfort, memories, adventures, and real connections with others who walk both similar and not so similar paths. No one can do this alone and the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund sees that and jumps in, creating that bridge amongst us. It makes a huge difference and has impacted our entire family in such a powerful way. Thank you, Jay Fund!”

- Andrea, Gunner’s mom

“When my daughter Viviloria was diagnosed with brain cancer, the Jay Fund family was there smiling and waving before I even knew who those folks in blue were! They came in like a rush of overwhelming love and support from the first moment. In the middle of our struggle with treatment for Viviloria’s brain cancer, my son Victor, who is nonverbal autistic, was also having challenges and the Jay Fund was there to help us have family time away from our daily medical struggles. Whether it’s the supportive staff, the zoo experience, or sending extra support specially designed to help our family, thank you for providing a helping hand.”

- Kathy, Viviloria’s mom
FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

As we head into spring, I want to begin by sharing the incredible success of this year’s Wine Tasting Gala. Together, we raised a record breaking $325,000. Thank you for your commitment and generosity to our mission.

The past two years have been extraordinary by any measure, but we persevered, and we are proud of the work we’ve been able to accomplish. In 2021, we saw a 33% increase in requests for financial assistance, with housing and food support representing the highest needs. Because of your generosity, we continued to never turn away a family that needed our help.

Additionally, we saw the emotional toll the pandemic has had on our families with 73% of those surveyed reporting they continue to feel a sense of isolation, lack of connectivity, and have decreased social support. To help alleviate some of that anxiety and loneliness, the Jay Fund hosted 88 emotional support events and experiences in 2021. Please look at a brief report of the Jay Fund’s 2021 impact on this page.

I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to the foundation staff and to all of you. You have helped our families face the adversity brought on by a cancer diagnosis and compounded by COVID and done so with grace and strength. As we say, no one fights cancer alone, and I feel so blessed to know all of you are part of the Jay Fund team.

Sincerely,

Keli Coughlin Joyce

2021 IMPACT

SUPPORT TO 692 FAMILIES
ZERO FAMILIES TURNED AWAY

$2,609,162 IN TOTAL ASSISTANCE

$1,394,806
347 Families

Jacksonville

$1,214,356
345 Families

NY/NJ

2,709 BILLS PAID

88 EMOTIONAL SUPPORT EVENTS/EXPERIENCES

WINE TASTING GALA

Thank you to all of the sponsors of the 2022 Wine Tasting Gala for making this event possible and helping us raise a record-breaking $325,000!

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IN HONOR OF JUDY COUGHLIN
MILA

Mila and her family’s arduous journey began last November when she was diagnosed with osteosarcoma at 8 years old. Weeks of chemotherapy, inpatient hospital stays, along with managing the family schedule and finances, have been all-consuming. Mila has been a champion throughout her treatment, but the whole family had to adjust to an insane schedule that left little time for family activities, friends and self-care.

“Our biggest challenge since Mila’s cancer diagnosis has been time,” said Mila’s father, George. “At the end of the day, it’s hard to find the time or energy for anything except planning for what’s next on the path of Mila’s cancer treatment. We have been introduced to a level of chaos we never knew existed and it has had an immense impact on every aspect of our lives.”

George and his wife, Jenna, have struggled to balance their jobs with managing Mila’s intensive health care needs. In addition, Mila’s younger brother, Niko, is just seven years old and is too young to understand the gravity of Mila’s diagnosis.

Like many siblings of cancer patients, Niko misses spending time with his parents and sister and struggles to grasp why life has turned upside down.

Following a complicated surgery to remove the tumor in her left arm, Mila still faces months of grueling chemotherapy and the family’s difficult pediatric cancer journey continues. “Time is precious and has a remarkable way of showing us what really matters,” said George. “We hope that Mila will be cancer-free this summer and that it will be a new beginning for the whole family.”

JEREMIAH

The bond of family is immeasurable for Charlene, her two grandsons, and their grandfather. They have faced numerous setbacks and have supported each other through difficult challenges. Life was good until Charlene was diagnosed with cerebral degeneration, a disease which causes deterioration of muscle coordination. Hearing this news, Charlene’s former husband and the boys’ grandfather, Vince, moved to New Jersey to support the family.

In December 2020, life took another difficult turn when 15-year-old Jeremiah started experiencing debilitating headaches. After multiple medical procedures, it was discovered that Jeremiah had T-cell lymphoma. His only treatment option was a stem cell transplant, requiring months of hospitalization and isolation from family and friends.

“We were all devastated when Jeremiah was diagnosed. It was killing me to see him go through this and at the same time watch his brother become undone,” said Charlene. “They are so close, and now it would be months they wouldn’t be able to see each other.

After three rounds of chemotherapy and a successful stem cell transplant, Jeremiah was finally able to return home. While he was tutored throughout his hospital stay, Jeremiah desperately missed attending class in-person and the normal routine of a teenager. Jeremiah returned to the classroom last November and is making up for lost time.

Throughout the past year, the Jay Fund provided food and transportation assistance to the family. “My priority is my grandsons, and every ounce of my being went to making sure Jeremiah was well cared for,” she said. “I could not have done it without the help of their grandfather and the Jay Fund, who just make life easier.”

Jeremiah is adjusting back to life as a high schooler, although still with limitations due to being immunocompromised and COVID concerns. His medical team reports that he is doing “phenomenal” and this fearsome foursome is finally breathing a little easier.
The Impact Players Program helps motivated individuals and organizations raise funds and awareness for the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund through third party fundraisers.

Thank you for being part of our team!

NOVEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022

$10,000+
Facebook
Morgan & Morgan

$1,000-$4,999
Duuvval House Teal Gate FUNraiser
From Phillips & Hunt, Folio 2.0, and ESPN Jacksonville
Florida Georgia Pickleball Classic
Gary Hyatt
Hit Back Cook Off
From the Lawn Offices of Brett Hastings
Honey Baked Ham Gift Cards
Hope for the Holidays
The Florida Bar Board of Governors and the Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar
Ryan and Valeen Hyde
Sip and Shop at Kathy’s Creative Gardens & Nursery
Donna Augustyniak and Selin Hensley
The Moorman Group Shines Gold
First Coast Sotheby’s
United EVENTures/HCL

$100-$999
Amazon Smiles
Flight Adventure Park T-shirt Sales
Navy Supply Corps 227th Birthday Ball
Norm Blum’s Tennis Fundraiser
Seabreeze Elementary 1st Grade Puppies
Hot Chocolate Stand
Sip and Shop at Glen Rock Creative Den
Tavolino’s Jay Fund Pizza Day

*Special thanks to the following Facebook users who hosted fundraisers in honor of the Jay Fund:
Andy Allen
Norm Blum
Cara Clark
Bill Cowell
Dezi Gore
Richard Hillyard
Jodie-Ann Ivey
Aaron Lester
Mary Jane Pulzello
Jordan James Smalenski
Ben Velishka

**IMPACT PLAYERS**

**5 STEPS TO BE AN IMPACT PLAYER BY HOSTING A THIRD PARTY EVENT**

1. **BE THERE** If you know a family with a sick child or want to make a difference in the lives of those tackling childhood cancer, don’t sit on the sidelines. Decide to be an Impact Player.

2. **GOAL & PURPOSE** Are you hosting a fundraiser or raising awareness? Or maybe you are hoping to do both while exposing our mission to a new network. Many events have more than one goal, so defining your goal and purpose is important to your success.

3. **THINK SMART & DEFINE THE 4 W’S** Who is your target audience? What is your event? When is your event? Where is your event? How will you execute?

4. **SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL** If you would like to host a fundraiser to benefit the Jay Fund, please submit an application a minimum of 3 weeks before your scheduled event. All Impact Player Events must be reviewed and approved prior to launch.

5. **HAVE FUN!** Share your passion and motivation with others to join you in making a difference in the lives of our families. Go for it and have fun in the process!

Have questions or ideas? Contact edye@tcjayfund.org
PATIENT FAMILY SUPPORT EVENTS

VALENTINE’S ZOO DAY

The Jay Fund welcomed 77 families to the Jacksonville Zoo for a day of fun and a timeout from cancer. They spent time together as families and connected with others who are walking a similar journey. Jay Fund patient Evie shared her appreciation for the chance to meet someone else with the same rare diagnosis.

CAREGIVER CARE LAUNCH

Caring for a child with cancer can be emotionally, mentally, and physically taxing. Often, parents put their own needs and well-being on hold as they assume the role of caregiver, focusing their energy towards their seriously ill child. Forty percent of parents report their overall health worsened after their child’s cancer diagnosis. However, research shows that if a caregiver has support and their well-being is taken care of, the patient’s overall well-being is positively impacted. The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund recently launched the Caregiver Care program focused directly on caregiver needs to help them be their best selves so that they can BE THERE for their child.

The objective is to provide increased opportunities for fitness and physical health, educating on the importance of a healthy diet and self-care, and nourishing peer, family, and spousal relationships.

The Jay Fund celebrated the formal launch by hosting an adult night out for caregivers at Intuition Ale Works. Thank you to the various organizations who provided services during the night and will be partners in the program: Art With a Heart in Healthcare, First Coast YMCA, The Candle Garden, and Yoga 4 Change.

VALENTINE’S DAY BOXES

Volunteers filled boxes and bags to the brim with arts and crafts, frames, fidget bracelets, notecards, coloring and activity books, sweet treats and more for 25 patients in New Jersey. “Thank you for bringing a smile to her face,” wrote Stephanie, Ava’s mom, when they received their box.

SLOANE’S PLAYSET BUILD

Thank you to the NASCAR Foundation and Ashley Lane Boutique for gifting Jay Fund patient Sloane and her family with a playset for their backyard. And a special thanks to the team of Jay Fund volunteers who helped build the playset!

Tackling cancer often involves a lack of social interactions and a weakened immune system, so this playset will give Sloane a safe place to play and an opportunity for her family to create happy memories together.
GIFTS

The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund is grateful for every single gift, regardless of amount. If possible, we would list every person who contributes. However, due to space limitations, this list is limited to gifts greater than $500.

NOVEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022
ADP Foundation
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Goldman Sachs
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David & Amanda Dobosco
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Morgan Stanley
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RWJ Barnabas Hospital
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Jorge Alicea
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Daniel Beilfuss
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Matthew Ray
Michael Reimer

TRIBUTE GIFTS

We deeply appreciate those choosing to give in memory and honor of their loved ones.

IN MEMORY OF:
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dEdna Austrach
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Rickard Bergstrom
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HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS RECAP

TOILOLO’S SHOPPING SPREE
Ten Jay Fund families were treated to a shopping spree at Stop & Shop supermarket days before Christmas thanks to the generosity of New York Giant Levine Toilolo and his wife, Steph.

HOLIDAY MOVIE NIGHT
The Jay Fund welcomed 50 patients and their families for a drive-in viewing of ‘How the Grinch Stole Christmas’. Gift bags with snacks, blankets, and gift cards were also part of the fun.

GROVER CLEVELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
Grover Cleveland Middle School organized and dropped off bags of pajamas and blankets for families getting treatment at St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital.

ACOSTA GROCERY BAG DONATION
Acosta’s N.J. staff filled multiple bags with groceries and supplies that were delivered to our patient’s families to help ease the financial difficulties of putting food on the table during a time of medical crisis.

GIFT CARD DRIVE
Jay Fund holiday support included gift card drives to provide families with opportunities to not only shop for gifts, but also groceries and essentials. The goal was to assure a special family celebration for each patient family. Thank you to The Harvey Bernhardt Foundation, Joe Cosgrove, Danis Construction, First Coast Sotheby’s International Realty (Brian & Amber Moorman), Tom and Jo-Ann Kelly, Mayo Audiology Group, Newmark Grubb Phoenix Realty, and Strategic Sites for your contributions that made the season bright!

FROM DR. MICHAEL JOYCE
A cancer diagnosis is a long journey. My experience shows that families with support handle the bumps along that road better than those without adequate resources and help. My job is to find the right treatment for the diagnosis, but the emotional well-being of the whole family is a huge piece of the journey.

Families tackling childhood cancer need to be able to smile every once in a while and to feel stable at home in order to face this monster called cancer.

Dr. Michael Joyce is a founding board member and the Medical Director for the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund. He is a physician in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Pediatrics at Nemours Children’s Health and Pediatric Hematologist Oncologist for Wolfson Children’s Hospital. Dr. Joyce graduated from St. Louis University of Medicine and has been practicing medicine for 38 years. He was among the ‘Best Doctors in America’ list in 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2015.

DR. JOYCE (LEFT) AND COACH COUGHLIN