



THE HOPE REPORT

LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SOFIA'S HOPE

SPRING 2023 EDITION



Join us on Thursday, May 18th at UM Newman Alumni Center for Wine & Cheese



Wine & Cheese was our first-ever fundraiser and allows us to mix and mingle for the cause. Now 10 years later, we are celebrating a major milestone...together! The 10th Annual Wine & Cheese is back LIVE and in person. Join us on Thursday, May 18th beginning at 6:30pm at the UM Newman Alumni Center.

In the last decade, Sofia's Hope has provided over \$1 Million to the childhood cancer community by funding research on the late effects of chemotherapy, raising awareness about childhood cancer, and offering patient and family programming throughout the year.

With 200 anticipated guests, we'll enjoy cocktails, great food, music, silent auction, inspiring speeches and more. If you have been touched by childhood cancer or want to affect positive change for those who have, our Wine & Cheese event is right for you!

Tickets are only \$150 per person or \$250 for a 2-ticket bundle. Please visit the website to get your tickets, <https://www.sofiashope.org/wineandcheese>. If you are interested in aligning your company or family to this enchanted evening, please call our office at (786) 730-4545. Here's to fighting childhood cancer with HOPE!



Moving Day...10 Years in the Making

As you may know, for the past year, Sofia's Hope has been looking for office space. From Day 1, our HQ had always been Marta Blanco's home, and for most of our days, that was manageable. But in the last few years, as programs and hospital partnerships continued to expand, Sofia's Hope items were taking over. With the addition of a program coordinator, we knew it was time to take the leap.

Friend and supporter, Gigi de Troyban, joined the team as a realtor in arms to scour the South Miami market, but the inventory just wasn't there. Fast forward to last fall, where Marta made an instant connection with Brian Burkhardt of the Oliver Patch Project. They offer a jacket or tote and patches to support and empower warriors along their cancer journey. We include their welcome patch in the Newly Diagnosed Family Kits and dreamed about other ways to partner. Office space was one of the proverbial pies in the sky.

Then, at the start of the year, the plan came into focus. Brian was connected to the family of the de Moya Foundation, whose organization creates employment opportunities for young adults with unique abilities. They own a building in South Miami and were looking for a renter...or two. And now this partnership is official—Sofia's Hope and Oliver Patch Project have moved in together!



Our new office address is:
13131 SW 132nd Street, Suite 105
Miami, FL 33186



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Letter from the President

Dear Friend,

Can you believe it's already been 10 years since we opened Sofia's Hope?! All those years ago, I had a wish in my heart to help kids just like mine—warriors and siblings like Sofia and Gabi who faced cancer head on, and to support the parents and families, whose worlds were rocked with four little words, "Your child has cancer".



It seems like in the blink of an eye, while also acknowledging moments of sadness, and frustration at losing warriors—and of missing Sofia, we have arrived at 10 years. It snowballed over the years, from monthly art activities, treasure chest and holiday gifts at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, to running 10 annual patient/family programs and provide services to all six South Florida hospitals, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

These patient/family programs continue to grow thanks to the help of our very important staffers. It started last year with Jennifer Allen, who came in precisely when we needed her, and she showed us all a coordinator could do. Now that she's retired, we are in the capable hands of Program Coordinator, Melissa Perez, and Program Assistant, Nataly Prieto.

With help from our village of Sofia's Hope supporters, we have awarded over \$1 MILLION in support to the childhood cancer community. Our impact touches 2,000 patients and families annually while also making incredible strides in the pediatric cardio-oncology space. Lives are being saved and will continue to be saved because of our directed research efforts signaling the importance of using cardio protective drugs during cancer treatment.

We are making this happen, and it's because YOU, who honor us by joining our fight against childhood cancer...with HOPE! We will be celebrating this milestone all year long, and we hope you will join in the fun—this success is ours together.

Best regards,

Marta Blanco
President & Founder

Sofia's Hope Board of Directors is expanding with three new members:



Mariana De Michele, M.D. Andres Hidalgo Silvia Stazio

Dr. De Michelle and Mr. Hidalgo are both childhood cancer survivors who have been long time supporters of Sofia's Hope and are looking forward to being more actively involved in helping Sofia's Hope fulfill its mission. Ms. Stazio is a certified financial planner who has helped us develop an investment policy and leads our Finance Committee. Welcome!!!

Sofia's Hope Board of Directors

Marta Blanco
Founder and President

Jamie Doherty
Vice President

Linda Villena
Treasurer

Silvia Stazio
Secretary

Sandra Bruno, M.D.
Medical Advisor

Sandra Berenguer
Board Director

Mariana De Michele, M.D.
Board Director

Andres Hidalgo
Board Director

Jorge Martinez
Board Director

Linda Martinez
Board Director



Connect with us:

Sofia's Hope, Inc.
13131 SW 132 St., Suite 105,
Miami, FL 33186
Direct: 786.730.4545
www.sofiashope.org

@sofiashopeofficial

@sofiashope

@sofiashopeNPO



2022 at a Glance

Surpassed **\$1 Million** in Support to the Childhood Cancer Community!!!

2,000
Children/Families Served



35
TREASURED
MOMENTS
Patient Wishes Granted



PROVIDED:

648
ART PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

15
American Girl
+
18
BUILD-A-BEAR
EST. 1997

92
ZOO PARTICIPANTS
(Virtual and Field Trips)

63
RIDERS
at Horse Camp

120
KITS
for Newly Diagnosed
Families



\$32,000
IN GIFT CARDS
146% ↑ vs 2021



79
Adopt-an-Animal
Care Packages
WITH
Zoo Miami
Family Memberships

PROGRAM EXPANSION:



ENGAGED:

7,626
FOLLOWERS
@ 2,364 f 5,164 98



\$21,500
IN ANNUAL SUPPORT

90
MEMBERS

320 + **155** + **537** = **1,012**
Wine & Cheese Auction Bidders Denim & Diamonds Attendees Reason To Run Participants Event Supporters

THANK YOU!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

First International Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Conference Held in Cincinnati!!

The First International Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Conference presented by Sofia's Hope with Cincinnati Children's Heart Institute and the University at Buffalo Department of Pediatrics at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences was held on Friday, October 21st and 22nd in Cincinnati. There were over 100 attendees from all over the US and Europe including oncologists, cardiologists, endocrinologists, NPs, pharmacists, DNPs, PAs, PhDs, and DOs. Over the two-day conference attendees enjoyed a packed agenda with 10 sessions, an Exhibitor Hall, Poster Presentations and oral presentations of the best selected abstracts. BMC journal Cardio-Oncology presented the top team with certificate and cash prize: Lieke (E.A.M.) Feijen-Allenstein, PhD, Takeshi Tsuda, MD, FACC, Elvira C. van Dalen, MD, PhD and Christina Yang, MD.

Attendees were engaged, asked questions, participated in discussions, etc. The feedback received has been extremely positive including the following:

"It was not only a nominal 'First,' but its design and the inclusion of so much more than 'rounding up the usual suspects' made it totally unique. And it worked! The presence (and interactions) of the oncologists and cardiologists was remarkable!"

Stephen Sallan, MD | Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

However, the biggest compliment was being asked when we were doing the conference again. We couldn't be more happy or proud as our research grant helps to disseminate information on the use of the cardio-protective medication and provides education on the importance of survivorship/monitoring. We are working toward a world of NO MORE SOFIAS!! Thanks again to local sponsor, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, and all sponsors, committee members, and attendees for making this dream a reality!

Cincinnati Calling

Thanks to the connections we made during the conference, Sofia's Hope President and Founder, Marta Blanco, met virtually with the social workers and child life specialists at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Hem/Onc department right before the holiday season. Since then, we have been able to support their patients with gift cards for gas, groceries and holiday gifts. Their patients and/or siblings now also participate in our virtual programs (Healing Arts, Study Buddies, and Zoo Miami visits). Our growth continues!!!

A Partnership That Is Making a Difference

The Miami Cancer Institute at Baptist Health is partnering with Sofia's Hope for horse camps, Zoo Miami visits (virtual and in-person) and the Newly Diagnosed Family Kits! They are empowering us to make a difference every day. We are proud to be their partner and look forward to many more years of collaboration ensuring a lot of smiles and beautiful memories for children in our community facing cancer and their families.



#NailedIt with The Kirk Foundation

Last fall, Sofia's Hope began distributing Nailed It DIY kits to clinics and hospitals to provide warriors with fun art activity! In December monthly in-person visits began at the Kidz Medical Services Hem/Onc clinic at Nicklaus Children's Hospital (NCH) with over 20 patients and siblings participating and in February we started monthly visits at the NCH Hem/Onc unit (6T). We were honored to be first foundation invited back to 6T!

Thanks to The Kirk Foundation for making this program and expansion possible, and to Kim Williams at Nailed It DIY for partnering with us!

KIDZ Supports Childhood Cancer

KIDZ Medical Services (KIDZ) is a physician-owned healthcare network that provides pediatric, neonatal, and obstetrical healthcare in South Florida since 1988. They work at 16 South Florida hospitals, including our very own partner hospitals Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, and Palm Beach Children's Hospital. They see and understand the work we do alongside their physicians, and have confirmed their support of the Treasured Moments program. This patient-family safeguard program offers support from tissues and toys for treasure chest, to special wishes and gift cards for families in financial hardship. Thank you, KIDZ Medical Services, for your support!



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And it's quite fitting that on February 15, International Childhood Cancer Day, Amazon DMI9 donated our entire office wish list and more! DMI9 Manager, Ken Wallace, and his dedicated team worked with counterparts in several other facilities to ensure all items were ready for Prime Delivery. Marta and Melissa Wetzel, Sofia's Hope Director of Development, visited the facility, and talked with the team about 10 years of Sofia's Hope, and the impact we make in the childhood cancer community together.

Overall, they donated 27 items large and small from a lounge chair to printers and a fridge to a workstation with all the trimmings totaling thousands of dollars. An added bonus is that we are neighbors! The Amazon facility is just a block away from the office, so in solidarity, the group of 20 all walked to the office together to unload the Amazon truck. It was an incredible day that set us up for moving day.

For us this move was meant to be—it took a community of folks around us, partnerships at every turn and hands outstretched and poised to make this dream a reality. That's how we work here at Sofia's Hope...always together.



ADVOCACY

Children's Cancer Cause Externally Led FDA Panel

Last fall, the Children's Cancer Cause, the leading national advocacy organization working to achieve access to less toxic and more effective pediatric cancer therapies, hosted a Patient Focused Drug Development meeting on Reducing Cardiac Late Effects in Pediatric Cancer Survivors. It was the first opportunity for pediatric cancer survivors living with cardiomyopathy, and their caregivers, to share their perspectives on their well-being and on their lives as survivors with FDA officials and other key stakeholders responsible for evaluating new pediatric cancer therapies. Our President and Founder, Marta Blanco, shared Sofia's story as part of the afternoon panel, "Perspectives on current and future treatments for cardiac late effects".



"By sharing Sofia's story, the meeting was an incredibly empowering day for childhood cancer survivors and family members, giving our community a long-deserved spotlight on your personal story and the severe impact of cardiac late effects on Sofia and your family, thus providing the FDA with important perspectives on a critical issue with significant unmet needs and burden on the length and quality of life."

Steve Wosahla, Chief Executive Officer CCC

Beat Childhood Cancer Plate

In late 2020, the Florida legislature approved the creation of a specialty license plate that would raise money and awareness for childhood cancer. However, prior to production there must be 3,000 pre-orders. As of now less than 1,000 orders placed, which means we still need to reserve over 2,000. Please consider pre-ordering your plate by visiting your nearest Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles office. Together we can beat childhood cancer...with HOPE!



Cardio-Oncology Virtual Conference with IC-OS

International Cardio-Oncology Society (IC-OS) has invited Sofia's Hope to co-sponsor a half day pediatric cardio-oncology virtual event later this fall. This educational effort is set up to run on the off years of our International Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Conference. When asked about this effort, Stephen J. Casselli, Ph.D., IC-OS Executive Director said, "You are the only one that I know of doing this work! We want to do anything we can to support you." We are honored to be recognized as leaders in the pediatric cardio-oncology space and will provide additional details as they become available.



**JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE 10 YEARS
and fight childhood cancer with HOPE!**



IN THE COMMUNITY

Collaboration with M3PHC

Sofia's Hope and M3 Pediatric Home Care are working together to provide home health care services to children facing a cancer diagnosis. Patients who need sub q injections, PICC line dressing changes, lab draws, etc. can now contact M3PHC for in-home services and, for those with financial need, Sofia's Hope will cover the costs at a reduced rate. This is available for patients throughout South Florida from Homestead to Broward regardless of where child is receiving treatment.



Strong School Support Remains...THANK YOU!

Throughout the year, Sofia's Hope receives support from school drives throughout South Florida, but there is a special cohort of schools who come back to support childhood cancer year after year. During the second half of 2022 alone, the faculty, students and their families have fundraised thousands of dollars, donated holiday gift bags, dumplings, fun band aids, stickers, squishy toys (the most requested!), items for our Newly Diagnosed Family Kits, smaller toys and arts & crafts for clinic Treasure Chests, larger toys for end of treatment and birthday celebrations and various gift cards.



THANK YOU to all who participated in their school's projects. It is only because of their help that we can make children in our community facing a childhood cancer diagnosis feel loved and cared for.

The End of an Era

It's hard to believe that Nina and Max Fonseca, who have spearheaded the Sweet Hearts annual fundraiser and Go Gold ties event at Christopher Columbus High School, respectively, are graduating from high school this May. Since 2016 Sweet Hearts and Go Gold ties have raised nearly \$90,000! We could not be prouder of them both for their work and support over the years and wish them the best as they prepare for college and beyond. Plus, Max found another student to take over the Go Gold ties event, so this effort will continue on. Adelante!





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Sofia's Hope = Transparency & Accountability

Sofia's Hope once again earned the 2022 Platinum Transparency Seal through Candid for the 4th year in a row! Candid is the parent company of Guidestar, the premier destination for nonprofits and nonprofit research. Check out our nonprofit profile online at Guidestar's website, <https://www.guidestar.org>.

We are also proud to share Sofia's Hope is featured on the Great Nonprofits Top-Rated List for the 4th year in a row. Great Nonprofits distributes this annual list to media and corporate foundations, and is the leading platform of community-sourced stories about nonprofits. Read inspiring stories about us and add your own by visiting <https://greatnonprofits.org>.

