





10106 SW 126 Street
Miami, FL 33176


Help Us Spread Hope!

Sofia's Hope is on a mission to fight childhood cancer with HOPE, but we can't do it alone! You can help us make an even bigger impact simply by following and sharing our mission on social media.

Follow us to stay updated on events, stories, and ways to support children and families affected by childhood cancer. Your engagement helps us reach more people who can join our cause!

 <https://www.facebook.com/sofiashope/>

 <https://www.instagram.com/sofiashope/>

 <https://x.com/sofiashopenpo>

Every like, comment, and share brings more awareness to the fight against childhood cancer. Let's spread hope together!

Do you want to receive our monthly Hope Report via email? Scan the QR Code and sign up



THE HOPE REPORT

LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SOFIA'S HOPE

SPRING 2026



Hope Shines Bright at the 2nd Annual Evening of Hope



Join us for a night dedicated to bringing hope, support, and change for children battling cancer. Our 2nd Annual Evening of Hope will be held on Thursday, April 30th at 6:00 PM at the UM Newman Alumni Center, in Coral Gables. Enjoy delicious bites, craft cocktails, and an exciting silent auction, all while making a meaningful difference. Tickets are only \$150 per person or \$250 for a 2-ticket bundle. Scan the QR code to get yours TODAY! If you're interested in aligning your company or family with this event, please call us at (786) 730-4545.



Celebrating the Champions of Hope

Champions of Hope celebrates individuals whose unwavering commitment, passion, and advocacy have made a profound and lasting impact in the childhood cancer community.

This year we proudly recognize Dr. Athena Pefkarou, MD, a pediatric hematologist-oncologist at Nicklaus Children's Hospital whose care extends beyond medicine through initiatives like Camp UOTS, Thrive Fest, and Rediscover, creating joyful and supportive spaces for young patients and survivors. We also celebrate Dr. Ziad Khatib, MD, Medical Director of Hematology/Oncology and Co-Medical Director of the Neuro Oncology Program at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, whose decades of clinical leadership, research, and mentorship continue to advance treatment and brighter futures for children battling cancer. These Champions of Hope embody the passion, commitment, and resilience needed to bring real change to the childhood cancer community.



Evening of Hope Exclusive Getaway Raffle!

Enter the Evening of Hope VIP Vacation Raffle for the opportunity to win a luxurious four-night, all-inclusive getaway for two to one of three stunning destinations: Costa Rica, Cabo San Lucas, OR Puerto Vallarta (valued at \$2,250).



This incredible vacation package includes a stay at a 4- or 5-star resort, with meals and beverages included and full booking and concierge services to make planning your trip stress-free! Only 50 raffle tickets will be sold, making this an exclusive opportunity to win a dream getaway.

The winner will be announced at the 2nd Annual Evening of Hope, but you do not need to be present to win. Don't miss this chance to turn a \$100 donation into a luxurious getaway. Purchase your ticket today by scanning QR code.



Celebrate with purpose. Bid with heart. Give with hope.



Dear Friend,

Sofia's Hope is built on three pillars: **Hope. Support. Research.** We stand beside children fighting cancer today while working to protect the healthy futures they deserve.

Alongside you and our village of supporters, we walk with families through diagnosis and treatment by providing comfort, financial assistance, and moments of joy inside the hospital and beyond. At the same time, Sofia's Hope is the only nonprofit in the country solely focused on Pediatric Cardio-Oncology, dedicated to protecting the hearts of children undergoing cancer treatment and throughout survivorship.

Our commitment to this work comes from a deeply personal place. What we experienced with Sofia's heart opened our eyes to the urgent need to protect warriors' hearts, and it continues to drive our research program. With that inspiration as our compass, we are helping blaze a new path in the emerging field of pediatric cardio-oncology.

To date, we have funded a clinical research editor to educate and expand awareness around pediatric cardio-oncology, founded the International Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Conference, co-created the Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Consortium (PCOC), and have now established the first-ever Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Scholar Program in the nation. This work fills me with the satisfaction that we are genuinely protecting warriors' hearts, saving lives, and creating a ripple effect of enacting lasting change that is our combined legacy.

With gratitude,

Marta Blanco
Founder & President

**Sofia's Hope
Board of Directors**

Marta Blanco
Founder and President

Jamie Doherty
Vice President

Linda Villena
Treasurer

Andres Hidalgo
Secretary

Mariana De Michele, M.D.
Medical Advisor

Sandra Berenguer
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Sandra Bruno, M.D.
Board Director

Cindy Lopez
Board Director

Lindsay Mendiola
Board Director

Silvia Stazio
Board Director

Sofia Settineri
Junior Officer



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Food Family & Philanthropy...and Sofia's Hope

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Michael Nathanson for his recent interview with Jamie Doherty, Vice President of our Board, on his podcast, *Food Family & Philanthropy*. Through this conversation, Michael helped raise awareness about childhood cancer, Sofia's Hope, and our mission to support children and families affected by this disease. We are grateful for his dedication to shining a spotlight on the work we do and the stories that inspire hope every day. You can find the podcast, on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Buzzsprout.



Spreading Comfort When It's Needed Most

We are deeply grateful to Love Your Melon for their continued support. Their recent donation of 100 beanies, included in our Newly Diagnosed Family Kits, offer warmth, comfort, and a tangible reminder to children and their families that they are not alone. Support like this goes beyond a physical gift, it delivers care, encouragement, and hope when families need it most.



Community Kindness in Action

We are incredibly grateful to the students, families, faculty, and administrators from St. Brendan Catholic School, Kendale Elementary School, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, and Ransom Everglades School for their generosity and compassion in organizing fundraisers and collection drives in support of Sofia's Hope. What may seem like a small toy, cozy pair of socks, or sticker book can bring a much-needed smile, distraction, or moment of comfort to a child facing cancer. Thanks to the generosity of these schools and their communities, we are able to continue delivering these meaningful moments of care.



Sofia's Hope Earns 2026 Platinum Seal of Transparency

We're proud to announce that Sofia's Hope has earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid, the highest level of nonprofit accountability and openness. Candid is a leading nonprofit organization that promotes transparency by providing trusted data and insights on charitable organizations worldwide. This recognition reflects our commitment to stewarding every contribution with integrity and purpose as we continue funding our mission and bringing hope to families with children with cancer.



Welcoming Lindsay Mendiola to Sofia's Hope Board of Directors

Sofia's Hope is pleased to welcome Lindsay Mendiola, Chief Financial Officer of KIDZ Medical Services, to our Board of Directors. Lindsay was first introduced to Sofia's Hope through the KIDZ pediatric hematology/oncology practice located on the campus of Nicklaus Children's Hospital and brings extensive healthcare leadership experience to our organization.

"I support Sofia's Hope because every child facing cancer deserves not only exceptional medical care, but a community that surrounds their family with strength, compassion, and unwavering hope." —Lindsay Mendiola

We are honored to have Lindsay's expertise and commitment to help guide our mission as we continue supporting children with cancer and their families.

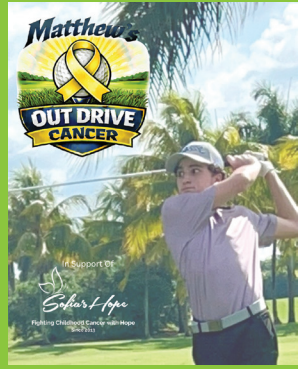


December drive raised nearly \$28,000.
Thanks to all who became one of our Heroes!

Become a Hero of Hope
And fight childhood cancer with HOPE, all year!



IN THE COMMUNITY



Matthew's Out-Drive Cancer: From Survivor to Champion for Hope

Matthew Gonzalez, an acute lymphoblastic leukemia survivor, has combined his love of golf with his desire to make a difference by creating *Matthew's Out-Drive Cancer*, a golf challenge benefiting Sofia's Hope. In April, Matthew competed in a nationally recognized two-day tournament at PGA National's Fazio Course and supporters joined his journey by pledging a donation tied to his performance, turning every birdie, par, and swing into HOPE. Thanks, Matthew, for choosing Sofia's Hope!

Partners in Hope: Thank You, RSM!

For the third year, Sofia's Hope was honored to be selected as the charity of choice for RSM's Power of Love Campaign through the Miami office's fundraising efforts, an uncommon distinction that reflects RSM's deep commitment to supporting children and families facing childhood cancer.

Through employee contributions, matched at 50% by the RSM Foundation, the campaign generated nearly \$25,000, resulting in over \$82,000 in total support for Sofia's Hope. We are incredibly grateful for their continued partnership and dedication to the families we serve.



5th Annual Childhood Cancer Awareness Parade

On Wednesday, April 1st our President Marta Blanco was at the Early Childhood Center (ECC) in Coral Gables for the 5th Annual Sofia's Hope Childhood Cancer Parade. Along with the annual parade, the ECC community raises funds in support of our programs. For every \$25 donation, families received an entry to win tickets to Disney on Ice, Xplore Kidz gift card or passes to Velocity Climbing Rock Climbing Gym. Congratulations to the winners! Special thanks to the administration, staff, event committee, parents and families for their continued support of this fundraiser. Together they have raised an overall total of over \$15,000!!!



Spotlight on Sofia's Hope

2025 marked a major milestone for AFP Miami...50 years of impact in our community. As part of this anniversary, AFP Miami included *Miami Moment Spotlights* on their website and Sofia's Hope was one of the four organizations seen as inspirational in helping bring this chapter's history to life. Thank you AFP Miami!!



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 7th at Deering Estate



2025 AT A GLANCE

 OVER **3,000** FAMILIES SERVED

890
GIFT CARDS



43
TREASURED MOMENTS
Patient Wishes Granted



PROVIDED:

1,466
ART PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

270
HEALING ARTS
PARTICIPANTS

111
ZOO PARTICIPANTS
(Virtual and Field Trips)

57
CAMPERS
at Horse Camp

69
KITS
for Newly Diagnosed
Families

76
Adopt-an-Animal
Care Packages
WITH
Zoo Miami
Family Memberships

37
PARTICIPANTS
Tinez Farms Field Trips

19
American Girl
+
35
Build-A-Bear

PEDIATRIC CARDIO-ONCOLOGY VIRTUAL SUMMIT:

450 / 307
Registrations / Attendees

38
Countries
Represented

3
Sessions
December 4, 2025



THANK YOU!

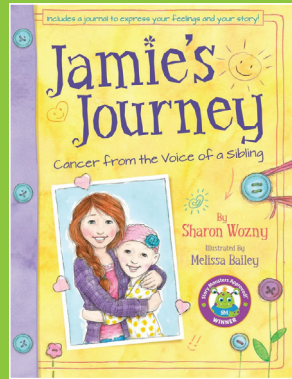
8,455
FOLLOWERS
@3,146 f5,192 X117



\$42,000
IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT

122
MEMBERS

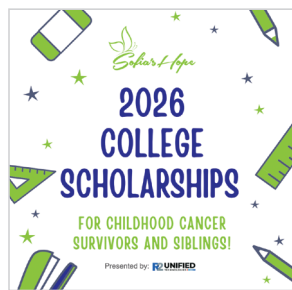
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



New Addition to Our Newly Diagnosed Family Kits

We are pleased to introduce a meaningful new resource in our Newly Diagnosed Family Kits (NDFK), *Jamie's Journey: Cancer from the Voice of a Sibling* by Sharon Wozny. Part story and part journal, the book follows 13-year-old Jamie as she navigates life after her younger sister's cancer diagnosis, encouraging siblings to process their emotions and share their own stories.

By including this thoughtful resource in our NDFKs, we hope to remind siblings that their feelings matter, their voices deserve to be heard, and they are not alone on this journey. Thank you to Miami Cancer Institute for its generous support of the kits!



2026-2027 Sofia & Gabriela Blanco Scholarships

We began this year's cycle on January 1st, accepting applications through March 15th. Every year we receive more and more submissions, but we could not believe we surpassed the 1,000 mark this year!!! A record 456 applications were completed and submitted, and our amazing Scholarship Review Committee is in the process of scoring and determining the recipients. A shout out to them and this year's newcomers: Stephanie Bossier and Jacqui Cosio, for their thoughtful review and commitment to the program. Keep an eye out on social media and digital monthly Hope Report for a list of the winners.



Grateful to Allegany Franciscan Ministries for Tau Grant

Sofia's Hope is honored to receive a Tau Grant to support our General Operating needs. This two-year grant, spanning from October 2025 through September 2027, strengthens our ability to serve children with cancer and their families every day. We are deeply grateful for this investment in our mission and look forward to what we trust will be the beginning of a meaningful and enriching partnership with the Allegany Franciscan Ministries.



New Art Kits, Greater Impact!

Beginning this month, Sofia's Hope is expanding its art program by providing ClayWorld Art Kits to Child Life Specialists at Nicklaus Children's Hospital and UM/alex's place. Each kit includes all the materials needed for every project, along with a QR code that links to step-by-step video instructions, making creative activities easy, engaging, and accessible. We will continue delivering our popular Nailed It! DIY Kits but are excited to grow this program, bringing more hands-on creativity, comfort, and moments of normalcy to children facing childhood cancer.



First PCOC Virtual Summit A Real Success

The first PCOC Virtual Summit held on Thursday, December 4th through Cincinnati Children's Heart University was a tremendous success, with 450 registrations and more than 300 participants attending live during the half-day event. The purpose of this global gathering was to share knowledge, advance research & improve care for childhood cancer survivors at risk of heart disease. It will be held every two years.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this milestone possible. If you weren't able to attend — or would like to revisit any of the presentations — you can watch the full summit online by scanning QR code.



Sofia's Hope Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Scholar is Named

Sofia's Hope is proud to announce that Dr. Hugo Martinez, MD, from the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin, has been selected from a competitive pool of highly qualified applicants as the first-ever Sofia's Hope Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Scholar.

The Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Scholar Program was created to address the critical shortage of clinicians and investigators trained at the intersection of pediatric cardiology and oncology. Through this program, Sofia's Hope is investing in the development of future leaders who will improve outcomes at the bedside, advance evidence-based best practices, and help shape sustainable pediatric cardio-oncology programs nationally and internationally.

Under the mentorship of Dr. Steven Lipshultz, MD, a globally recognized pioneer in pediatric cardio-oncology currently at the University at Buffalo, Dr. Martinez will receive advanced training to help expand evidence-based care and improve heart health outcomes for children and survivors facing cancer.

"This scholar program reflects Sofia's Hope's commitment to long-term, systemic impact," said Marta Blanco, Sofia's Hope President. *"By supporting leaders like Dr. Martinez, we are helping to ensure that children facing cancer today and survivors for decades to come receive the highest quality, data-driven heart care."*



SAVE THE DATE

3rd International Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Conference
October 23-24, 2026 in Cincinnati, OH