

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report

Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Research



## Executive Board of Directors

**Holly LaBombard-Hull**  
Founder/CEO, Director of  
Advertising/Communications/Social  
Media, Director of Grants

**Cole Hull**  
Founder/1<sup>st</sup> Vice President &  
Co-Director of Fundraising

**Stacy LaChapelle**  
Secretary

**Roger Roumpf**  
Treasurer/Director

**Farrah Whitney**  
Director of Fundraising

**Nina Roumpf**  
Director of Events

**Donna LaFountain**  
Director of Junior Hope for Miracles  
Co-Director of Events

**Justin DeCoste**  
Co-Director of Grants

**Kelly LaBombard-Blanchard**  
Director

## HFM's Word of the Year

As I look through the last two years' "One Word Challenge" (since HFM's inception), I see that our first word was 'Heal' and that last year's word was 'Faith'; how absolutely appropriate... The day that word was chosen, I looked to Karson for help. I explained to him that I was thinking on my "One Word Challenge" for 2020 and that I needed to think of a word for the year; a word to live throughout all aspects of life, all through the year.. Without even a pause he had said, "Faith"; and he got it in one. "Faith" .... His insightfulness never ceases to amaze me. He is one VERY special little man.

Of course, I had to confer with him again to help me with this year's... and again, in one word and straight from his heart ~ "Thankful". Again, how fitting... We are so very thankful that Karson is healthy and cancer free. We are thankful for God, for Karson's teams at UVM and MSK, for our supporters, friends and family. We look forward to, and it is only right, to share our thanks; to live it throughout all aspects of life, in all seasons, all throughout the year 2021.

2019's word, and Hope for Miracles' first word in its inception, was Heal ~ this is exactly what Hope for Miracles, Inc. is all about and was formed to do - bring healing.

Faith, our word for 2020 ~ We would not have made it through this year without faith. Faith that God has and is holding Karson in his hands, and he is not letting go; God has big plans for Karson ~ he is destined for great things. I think God has a direct line to Karson's ear... he always seems to know what we will need before we do. We continue to have "Faith" that together we can and will raise funding to find a cure for Neuroblastoma.

"To every thing there is a season" ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.  
2019 was a time to heal; 2020 was a time for Faith;  
and 2021 will be a time to be thankful.

From all of us at Hope for Miracles, we wish you and yours all the best of health and happiness in the year 2021!  
#thankful

## A Message from our Founder/CEO

I can't believe this is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year in existence; time is flying. But first, let me share with you the financials from last year. As a nonprofit, we were very concerned that canceling all of our events due to COVID would be detrimental to our fundraising. However, you all proved us wrong. Keep in mind that in 2019, we raised a total of \$44,000 with several events, including our major fundraiser – Gala of Miracles. Last year we were able to raise just under \$37,000 with only 1 fundraiser. As you can see from the graph and chart below, over 50% of funds raised were through Facebook, with 26% of the funds raised coming from Facebook Birthday Fundraisers! This is amazing! When you remember to choose us for your fundraising efforts, it really makes a difference. Please remember us in the future – and know that 99% of those funds raised will go directly to research.

***\*Last year 99% of proceeds raised through HFM went straight to Neuroblastoma research. I'm proud to tell you that we have been able to do the same this year. We were told by many that this was unheard of and couldn't be done. Yet both of our first years in existence, we have been able to keep our operating costs below 1%! ~ Not many (if any) nonprofits can say the same! \****

Let me change my hat from CEO to Mom and tell you how it's almost impossible to explain the feelings of love and happiness that you gave us in your cards, donations, gifts and comments to Karson. Just seeing his eyes light up when reading your encouragement was a gift I can never repay. From the bottom of my heart, thank you! Each and every one of you have blessed not only our family, but every family touched by neuroblastoma.

**Holly LaBombard-Hull**  
**Founder/CEO Hope for Miracles**  
**Co-Director of Events**



## A Message from Memorial Sloan Kettering

You already know that no one works harder for patients than the people at MSK Kids—and this will never change. In fact, with Hope for Miracles, Inc. in our corner, we will continue to advance how we diagnose and treat kids with cancer at a rapid pace.

MSK Kids, Memorial Sloan Kettering's pediatric program, is dedicated to all children, young adults, and families facing childhood cancer. With specialized expertise and care focused on the individual child, we're proud to say that more families turn to us for cancer care than any other hospital in the United States. And as pioneers in research, no one fights harder than our physicians and scientists to develop and deliver more effective strategies to prevent, treat, and ultimately cure childhood cancer—for our patients at MSK Kids, and for those everywhere.

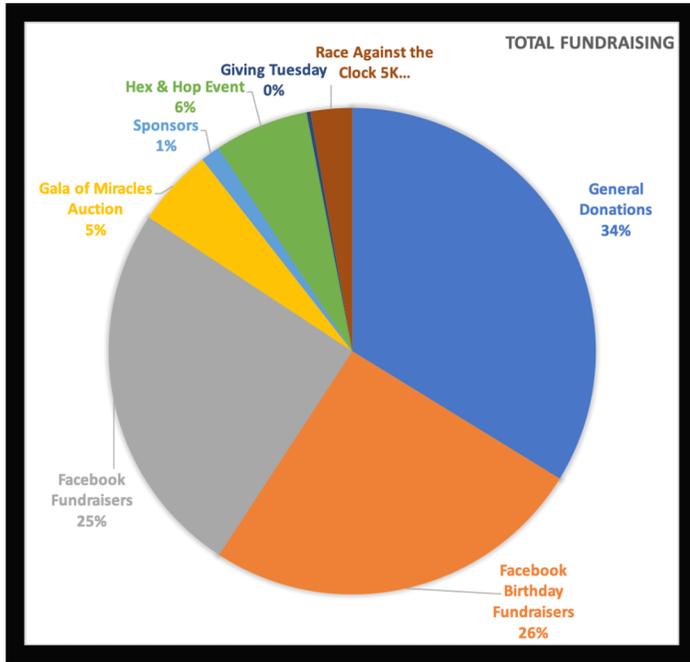
Thank you for choosing Memorial Sloan Kettering as one of your beneficiaries – we are so grateful.



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
 Cancer Center

GIVING

# A Break Down - What do the Numbers Mean?



A year ago, none of us could have possibly imagined just how much the world was about to change. The global pandemic certainly altered the way that we were and are able to fundraise. However, through creativity and determination, we were able to nearly reach the same amount in 2020 that we raised the previous year. In 2019 we raised a total of \$44,000. In 2020, even with all of the changes and setbacks, we were able to raise a total of \$37,000 – or 84% of our previous year’s total!

1. General Donations was where the majority of funds raised came from this year with \$13,115 – 34% of total funds raised. General donations are donations sent by mail or through Donorbox, our online donation platform.

2. Facebook “Birthday” Fundraisers raised \$9,875 – 26% of total funds raised. Anyone with a Facebook account can create a fundraiser for their birthday and choose Hope for Miracles as their recipient. How amazing is it that you all chose us and were able to raise this much money for children’s cancer research!

3. Facebook Fundraisers raised \$9,730 – 25% of total funds raised. These fundraisers are donations made through our Facebook posts or general donations through our Facebook page.

(Together, our Birthday and general fundraising through Facebook was just over half of our total funds raised; \$19,605 - 51%. In comparison, last year we raised just \$3,000 – 7% of total funds raised. This represents an increase of over 650% in just one year! Going forward, we feel that even more growth is possible in the future by utilizing this valuable tool. Continuing to fundraise via Facebook will be crucial to meeting our fundraising goals this year as the remnants of the pandemic linger on.)

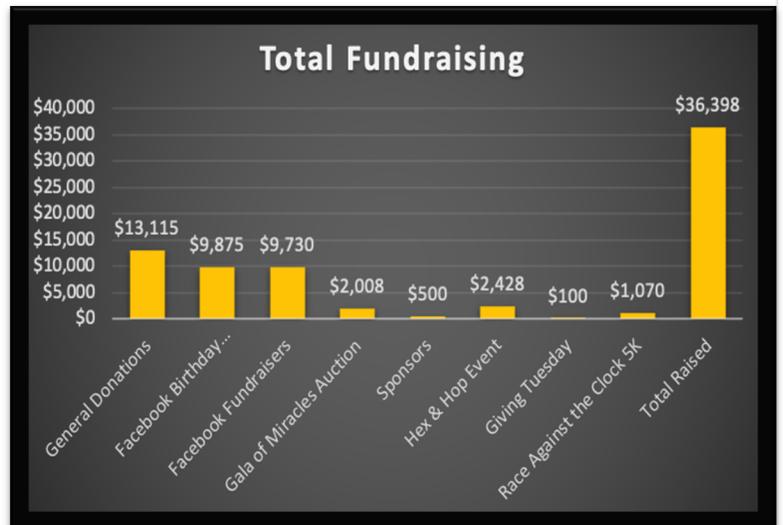
4. Our Hex and Hop event raised \$2,428. Hex and Hop was our only event this year. Last year, we held 4 events, with one being our major fundraiser – our Gala - and raised \$31,315 - 71% of the total funds raised for that year. This shows just how much of an impact events have in reaching our fundraising goals.

5. Our Gala of Miracles Auction raised \$2,008. Our annual auction is normally held at our Gala, but we were creative this year and went with an online auction.

6. Race Against the Clock 5K raised \$1070. This was our first race to beat the clock on finding a cure for childhood cancer. Many runners sent inspirational messages for Karson, while he was going through surgery and treatment in NYC at Memorial Sloan Kettering. We hope to make this an annual race.

7. Sponsors contributed \$500. Last year, Sponsors contributed \$14,000. Due to the fact that we only had one event, due to the pandemic, this was basically inevitable. However, we do anticipate increased sponsorship funds in the future. Had our sponsorship contribution repeated at the same level as 2019, we would have increased our overall total for the year 2020 by nearly 15%.

8. Giving Tuesday raised \$100. Last year we raised \$5,100. More preparation in planning for Giving Tuesday will be needed this year to ensure we are able to reach and surpass this amount.



**We Want to Thank All of Our Sponsors & Donors**

## What our Board Members Have to Say about HFM

*"At age 24, I lost my dad to kidney cancer. Less than a year from diagnosis to goodbye. I felt so angry about what was stolen from him and me. He never walked me down the aisle. He never even met my first husband. He never held my babies; they never knew their grandfather. I would daydream often of starting a charity that would raise money for cancer research, but knew that that was really all it was - a fantasy. For a woman that had a full-time job, and is a mother of two, would never have the time to see it to fruition. One evening, as I was scrolling through my Facebook feed, I saw a post written by someone who wanted to start a nonprofit to raise monies for cancer research. I thought briefly how noble; good for them. Then I sort of chuckled thinking to myself, this poor schmuck will be buried in paperwork for a year just to get the organization a tax-free number. I continue to scroll, and then curiosity got the better of me, and I returned to the post to see who this individual was with such lofty expectations. Holly LaBombard-Hull. I literally said out loud - If anyone can make*

*this happen, it's my girl Holly. I commented immediately - I'm in! Fast forward three years, and Hope for Miracles is going strong. Though this year has been a challenge with COVID-19, forcing the cancellation of most of our annual fundraisers, it has been a year of triumph as well. The North Country community and beyond has continued to support our vision of the end of childhood cancer. Karson bravely fought his third battle with neuroblastoma and emerged victorious. How blessed I am to be a part of this organization; to work with amazing people; to meet compassionate individuals; to be part of the team that WILL defeat cancer."*

**Donna LaFountain**  
**Director of Junior Hope for Miracles**  
**Co-Director of Events**

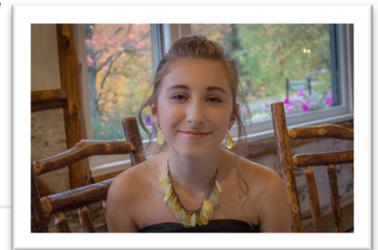


## A Message from our Junior HFM President

*"This year, Junior Hope for Miracles has had the honor to work with so many great people. While I missed working alongside of my fellow Jr. Board Members, we were still able to accomplish great things. I also learned a lot through this time. One of our major accomplishments was delivering care packages to some of the childhood cancer patients at Albany Medical Center and The University of Vermont Children's Hospital. It felt very rewarding handing these packages out. My favorite part of this trip was getting to meet a little boy named Jacob. Jacob had a type of cancer called Leukemia. He shared his story with us, and it was nice to see the look on his face as we handed him the care package. Seeing the patients and hearing their stories makes you realize how strong these kids really are.*

*Another project Junior HFM accomplished this past year was a slide show for healthcare workers to show appreciation for their hard work. People in the community helped us out by sharing pictures of rainbows, etc. We also put drawings and messages for them in the slide show. We all enjoyed showing our appreciation to these amazing people. We can't wait for more great things like these to be done this year. Keep a look out for our next project! Thank you all for your support. We couldn't do this without you."*

**Kaitlyn Hull**  
**Junior HFM President**



## A Message from Karson

*"Thank you for all of your cards, gifts and donations - they made me happy. Thank you for supporting me and Hope for Miracles."*

## What's Coming Up in 2021?

### Save the Date

- **Rusty DeWees "The Logger" to benefit HFM – Shows to take place at:**



- The Green in South Royalton VT on May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- The Community Center in Wilmington on June 11<sup>th</sup>
- Hemlock Ridge Barn Venue in Ellenburg on June 12<sup>th</sup>
- Valcour Brewing Company in Plattsburgh on June 13<sup>th</sup>
- Lake Placid - TBD

- **Experience the Woods Family Fun Day** at Experience Outdoors in Lake Placid - TBD

- **End of Summer Fling** at 20 Main in AuSable on August 14<sup>th</sup>

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gala of Miracles Online Auction** – TBD

- And more to come . . .

### *Our Mission*

~

Hope for Miracles is a non-profit organization bringing hope to families of children with Neuroblastoma by funding research for life saving trials and cures.

### How Can You Help This Year?

It's as easy as sharing our posts, events and messages. Invite your Facebook friends to like HFM and remember us for your Facebook Birthday Fundraisers.

If you are interested in sponsorships, donating an item or service, making a cash donation, or in purchasing tickets for any of this year's events, please reach out to us. If you know of someone else who might be, please share!

### Want Your Own HFM Swag?

We have many HFM items for purchase: short-sleeved shirts, long-sleeved shirts, sweatshirts, baseball caps and beanies. Reach out for pricing; we are happy to meet to deliver or to ship.



### *Our Vision*

~

Hope for Miracles envisions a world where no family ever has to witness a child suffer from Neuroblastoma.

# Together, We CAN Make Miracles Happen!

From our family to yours, we wish you all the best of health and happiness in 2021.

With Love and Gratitude,

**Karson Hull**

Neuroblastoma Warrior, Hope for Miracles Poster Child & Hero Extraordinaire

**Holly LaBombard-Hull**

Founder, CEO & Proud Mother of a Neuroblastoma Warrior



## Hope for Miracles, Inc.

183 Ridge Top Lane  
Jay, NY 12941  
(518) 572-0695

**Email:**

[info@hopeformiracles.org](mailto:info@hopeformiracles.org)

**Website:**

[www.hopeformiracles.org](http://www.hopeformiracles.org)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/hopeformiracles.org](https://www.facebook.com/hopeformiracles.org)

**Instagram:**

[www.instagram.com/hopeformiracles1](https://www.instagram.com/hopeformiracles1)

Hope for Miracles, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Your donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Hope for Miracles, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation duly incorporated under the laws of the State of New York and can be found on the NYS Charities Bureau.

**“Small things done with great love will change the world.”**

**~ Mother Teresa**