

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report

Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Research



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**Holly LaBombard-Hull**

Founder/CEO, Director of  
Advertising/Communications/Social  
Media, Director of Grants

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Co-Director of Fundraising

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Secretary

**Roger Roumpf**

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**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

### Karson's Message:

As you all know, I choose the word of the year for Hope for Miracles. Our 1st word of the year (in 2019) was heal ~ exactly what HFM wants for every sick kid. Faith was our word for 2020 ~ faith in my healing and faith that HFM can and will make a difference. 2021 was a time to be thankful ~ thankful for my healing and good health as well as all of you, and super thankful that you all helped us reach over \$100,000!

And now, for 2022 ~ I choose the word Happiness. Happiness is defined as the state of being happy. Webster's definition of happy is - feeling or showing pleasure or contentment; or fortunate and convenient. I am happy that I am healthy and I am fortunate to have all of you who support Hope for Miracles.

I wish you all healing, faith to get you through the rough times, a sense of thanks for the good that comes your way, good health and much happiness through this year.

I'd like to leave you with a quote - I'll call this the quote of the year, "Be happy not because everything is good but because you can see the good in everything." ~ Unknown

"To every thing there is a season" ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

2019 was a time to Heal; 2020 was a time for Faith;  
2021 was a time to be Thankful; and 2022 is the time for Happiness.

## A Message from our Founder/CEO

This last year was extremely momentous for Hope for Miracles... We sent out our first check to Memorial Sloan Kettering to fund our first trial ~ \$100,000! To say we were excited and proud is an understatement. We couldn't have done it without you... Do you want to know how much of your donation went to the cause? Of every \$1 you donated, \$0.99 went to this trial. Isn't it great to know that 99% of your money went directly to an actual medical trial/research?

***\*Every year since our inception, 99% of proceeds raised through HFM have 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 here we are, ensuring our operating costs are below 1%! ~ Not many (if any) nonprofits can say the same! \****

Would you like to know exactly what your donations funded? Let me tell you... Our \$100,000 funding is being used to test a neuroblastoma vaccine that can not only treat neuroblastoma but can be used across multiple adult and pediatric solid tumor cancers (MSK). However, it is first and foremost being used to treat neuroblastoma. Per MSK, "Scientists are using the vaccine in combination with  $\beta$ -glucan in a phase I study to identify side effects and the optimal dose in patients with NB. This is the only pediatric tumor vaccine in existence, it has been shown to be safe and increase survival rates in children with NB."

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. Together, we ARE making a difference. God bless.

**Holly LaBombard-Hull**  
**Founder/CEO Hope for Miracles**



## A Message from Memorial Sloan Kettering

"Myself, and the Neuroblastoma team at MSK Kids are deeply grateful to Hope for Miracles for inspiring philanthropy amongst their community and choosing us as the beneficiary of their support. This gift will allow us to research the latest treatments to help kids with cancer live longer, healthier, and happier lives."

**~ Stephen S. Roberts, MD**  
**Pediatric Hematologic Oncologist**



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?

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 surpass all of our previous years. 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. Finally, last year we raised a total of \$44,400! While \$400 might not seem like a lot, with all of the factors stopping most of our fundraising, it’s really miraculous.

1. Our Events are where the majority of funds raised came from with just over \$28,800 – 67% of total funds raised. For our Logger Shows, of which there were three ~ Wilmington and Ellenburg, NY as well as Royalton, VT ~ we raised a total of \$23,500. This was followed by a fundraiser that the Jay Volunteer Fire Department put on for HFM which raised just over \$3,000 and our Annual Summer Fling at 20 Main which raised just over \$2,200.

2. General Donations and Facebook Fundraisers were tied for next highest funds raised at 15% of funds raised each:

\*Facebook Fundraisers raised \$6,500 – 15% of total funds raised. These fundraisers are donations made through our Facebook posts, general donations through our Facebook page or doing a Facebook Birthday Fundraiser for HFM. 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! 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. 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.

\*General Donations raised \$6,200 – 15% of total funds raised. General donations are donations sent by mail or through Donorbox, our online donation platform.

3. Apparel Sales and Craft Fairs raised just under \$1,100 – 3% of total funds raised.



We Want to Thank All of Our Sponsors & Donors

## A Book in Karson's Honor

*I was very little,  
When we first found out,  
A lump in my tummy,  
Had to come out.*

*Don't really remember,  
Just pictures I see,  
Giving Dad the thumbs up.  
After my surgery.*

*I was so bewildered,  
I watched them all cry,  
My family's heart breaking,  
I wasn't sure why.*

*I found out later on,  
It was so hard for her,  
But I needed to know,  
That I had cancer.*

*It hit kinda hard,  
I felt kinda sick,  
That word's terrifying,  
No one wants to say it.*

*But facing our fears,  
Each and every one,  
Finding peace in the knowledge,  
Is what must be done.  
Then as I got older,  
The cancer came back,  
My body again,  
Was under attack.*

*The diagnosis was scary,  
The prognosis unsure,  
We wanted to know,  
Who's researching a cure?*

**NO ONE!**

*My mommy said, NO!"  
This just isn't right,  
We need to raise money,  
We need to fight!*

*The workload was tremendous,  
A new team was formed,  
The outcome was stupendous,  
Hope For Miracles was born!*

*The fundraising began,  
The clinking of glasses,  
Galas and parties,  
Educating the masses.*

*Then one day the phone rang,  
Giving Mama the blues,  
And all I could think was,  
It's never good news.*

*Neuroblastoma again,  
More nurses, more meds,  
More poking, more prodding,  
More hospital beds.*

*I was so far from home,  
All the endless X-rays,  
I missed all my friends,  
Over long hotel stays.*

*It was overwhelming,  
All the anger and fear,  
Why me I would wonder,  
Why must I be here?*

*But wishes come true,  
And things feel so right,  
When Mom cuddles me,  
In my warm bed at night.*

*Yes, life is a mystery,  
It's OK to dream,  
And with our 100 grand,  
Sloan's got a vaccine!  
And sure there are check-ups,  
And doctors and tests,  
But God's always with me,  
Helping me be my best.*

*'Cause I am a warrior,  
It's my destiny,  
The poster child they say,  
For other children like me.*

*So, if you can relate,  
Feeling under attack,  
Never fear Dude,  
'Cause I got your back.*

*Now grab onto your faith,  
And never let go,  
Be strong and be brave,  
You are a hero!*

*And when it's all over,  
And you know you are well,  
Let's celebrate together,  
When you ring that bell!*



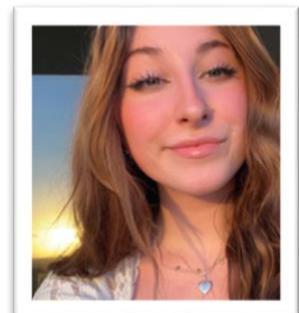
**Written by our very own...  
Donna LaFountain  
Director of Junior Hope for Miracles  
Co-Director of Events**

## A Message from our Junior HFM President

*"Junior Hope for Miracles has been a little silent this last year, but we have still been active! Last year we successfully helped out with Hope for Miracle's End of Summer Fling at 20 Main and at our Rusty Mac Truck Tours, by setting up silent auctions, selling tickets, and selling apparel. We were also able to do our annual packaging and delivering of care packages to the Vermont Children's Hospital. Due to COVID, we haven't been able to be as involved as we would have hoped, but things are changing now and we have big plans for this coming year. We are hoping to help out with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gala in the fall, our annual End of Summer Fling at 20 Main, and hopefully hold our own big event sometime this summer.*

*The Junior board will get together (finally, after over a year!) and discuss this further, more details to come! Thank you all for all of your support and we can't wait to see what the upcoming year has to hold."*

**Kaitlyn Hull  
Junior HFM President**



## What's Coming Up in 2022?

### Save the Date

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- **End of Summer Fling at 20**  
Main in Au Sable on August 13<sup>th</sup>
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gala of Miracles at**  
Hotel Saranac on November 5<sup>th</sup>
- 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?

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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?

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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*

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

H O P E F O R M I R A C L E S , I N C .

# 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



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[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**