



An Impact Report

for

**The Stuart and Sonefeld
Support for Families Fund**

December 2008

For more information, please contact:

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In Gratitude

On behalf of our patients, families and staff, thank you for your support of Children's Memorial Hospital, in particular the Stuart and Sonefeld Support for Families Fund. Children's Memorial caregivers strive to go above and beyond the call of duty when caring for those who turn to us for help, healing and hope. This means caring for the whole patient – mind, body and spirit – and oftentimes for the patient's family, as well.

However, without the support of our loyal donors like you, your family and friends, we could not provide this extra measure of compassionate care. As you know so well, a medical crisis is a colossal burden to a family, and the high cost of medical treatment adds additional emotional and financial stress at the worst possible time.

Now, more than ever before, in these times of economic uncertainty, families are facing new financial pressures. In recognition and deep appreciation of your generosity, we are pleased to provide you with this report of how the Patient Emergency Fund has made a difference for our patients and their families in the past year.



Financial Update

Amount donated to Stuart and Sonefeld Support for Families Fund in 2008 (ytd)*	\$24,229
<u>Amount donated by other donors in 2008 (ytd)*</u>	<u>\$116,160</u>
Total amount donated in 2008 (ytd)*	\$140,389
Total amount expended in 2008 (ytd)	\$124,767

**Gifts through the Stuart and Sonefeld Support for Families Fund join in our financial ledger with gifts from other donors to the Emergency Support for Families Fund. All of these gifts are utilized by our administrators to support the needs of patient families at Children's Memorial.*

You Make a Difference for Families

While the patient emergency fund was able to help about 500 families last year, Family Services has experienced a great increase in requests for assistance. These are just a few stories of those whose lives have been touched by your generosity.

(Please note that all names have been changed to protect patient privacy.)

The Billings Family

The Billings family lives in the western suburbs of Chicago. Mr. Billings had a successful financial career and Mrs. Billings, a stay-at-home mother, had not worked since giving birth to her son Brian. Shortly after Brian was diagnosed with kidney cancer, Mr. Billings unexpectedly lost his job. The young family had no savings. They were in immediate need of financial assistance to cover the cost of their COBRA insurance and other necessities such as food, mortgage and utility bills. The family was in a state of shock that in just a month's time they had gone from living a comfortable middle-class life to finding themselves suddenly near-destitute and in need of support.

Over the course of several months, the Stuart and Sonefeld Support for Families Fund provided the Billings family with funds for food, as well as for help in paying their utility bills and mortgage. The hospital social workers also provided them with multiple community resources where they could find assistance.



Tania's Story

Tania grew up in foster care. When she turned 18 she left the foster care system and began living independently. About a year later, she was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, an aggressive, malignant childhood brain cancer. Every day for six weeks, she came to the hospital alone for chemotherapy and radiation treatments. In the words of her Children's Memorial social worker, "This delightful young woman is living on her own and coming to appointments by herself. I have yet to witness a patient going through this ordeal with out family support." After six weeks of outpatient treatment, Tania was admitted to the hospital for an extended period of chemotherapy and isolation.

Due to the intensity of her treatment, Tania was unable to work. Though she did receive a foster care subsidy from the state, she was having a difficult time finding affordable housing. Her social worker helped her to identify community resources to find an apartment and several resources to find rental assistance. The Stuart and Sonefeld Support for Families Fund provided Tania with funds for rent and living expenses. The social worker also helped Tania set up a savings plan with her state funds so that she could save for future rent payments.

Thank You

Through your philanthropy, we have been able to provide a family-centered environment where our patients can access the most advanced treatments through the leadership of some of the best minds in pediatric medicine and research. We remain extraordinarily grateful for your understanding of the small financial gestures that can make hospitalization and a child's illness a bit easier for families in need. As we enter this economic downturn, families with limited means are becoming a more frequent occurrence in our hospital. We hope you will stand with us in continuing to help children and families weather this storm. Thank you again.



STUART & SONEFELD SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES FUND

SUPPORTING FAMILIES RECEIVING CARE FROM:



Children's[®] Memorial Hospital Where kids come first.[™]

***August 2nd, 1991...** Our lives were changed forever with the discovery of a very rare cancer in our 5-year-old daughter, Laura. In the year of chemotherapy that followed at Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital, we experienced the miracle of life, the fragility of illness, and the reality of possible death...not only through our own daughter, but in all the children we encountered. We saw that cancer plays no favorites to age, income, ethnicity, or geography. We met brilliant doctors, caring nurses, and dedicated staff throughout Children's Memorial. The care, and ultimate cure, of our Laura was a team effort between the Children's Memorial staff, her family, her unwavering courage, and God.*

While we were blessed with steady income, good health insurance, and supportive family, we met many families that were not as fortunate. Not only were they dealing with the uncertainty and fear of what was happening to their child, they were also struggling with the added expenses of a major change in life. How to pay for gas & car repairs for commuting 100 miles or more a day for their child's treatment or where to find the money to repair a refrigerator to store life sustaining medications for their child at home are just a couple of examples. In opening up conversations with the social workers and parent volunteers at CMH, we were humbled by the stories of financial struggle and learned that many families are stretched to meet the cost of (what we saw as) basic daily needs.

Hearing about the needs of others, we felt moved to utilize our strengths and resources to raise money for these special situations. In 1992/93 we created the "For the Children...Kids Fighting Cancer" fundraiser with all money raised given to the Emergency Social Work Fund for Hematology/Oncology patients at Children's Memorial Hospital. Because these families had not asked the Hospital for financial support, the social workers at CMH were of great assistance to us in identifying families that needed help. Although this was a great beginning, the need for support continued and always will.

After our move to Texas in 1994, David R. & JoAnn Stuart, Laura's grandparents, chose to continue these fund raising efforts by securing private donations through philanthropic organizations and individuals. Through their efforts, and generous personal donations, more than \$150,000 has been raised and a "Stuart Family Quiet Room" has been created on the Hematology/Oncology floor at CMH. Over the past 12 years David & JoAnn's involvement with the Children's Memorial Foundation and their unwavering commitment to continue the funding for emergency needs of families with children fighting cancer has prompted our extended family to create the "Stuart & Sonefeld Support For Families Fund" with 100% of all donations being given directly to the families. If you'd like to join our families in our continued interest in making a difference we welcome you to donate to the address provided.

*Thank you for your interest,
Deanna Stuart-Sonefeld & Dave Sonefeld*

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

*"Children's Memorial Foundation"
(Please write "SSSFFF" in the Memo section)*

ADDRESS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE SENT:

*Children's Memorial Foundation - SSSFFF
75 Remittance Drive, Suite 75587
Chicago, IL 60675-5587*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

*John Stuart
Phone: 630-388-8635
Email: john@benefits411.com*

LEARN MORE ABOUT CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AT:

www.childrensmemorial.org