



THE HOPE REPORT

LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SOFIA'S HOPE

SPRING 2024 EDITION

Wine & Cheese 11 Years STRONG

Sofia's Hope began its journey with the Wine & Cheese event, originally hosted at the home of Marta & Carlos Blanco as an intimate fundraiser in honor of the childhood cancer community. Over the past 11 years, the dollars raised from this event have fueled our meaningful work, creating positive change in the lives of warriors, siblings, and families.

Join us for this year's event:

Date: Thursday, April 25th

Time: 6:30-10pm

Location: UM Newman Alumni Center, Coral Gables

With an anticipated 200 guests, we'll indulge in a varied mix of cocktails, delicious food, live entertainment, silent auction, and more. Whether you've been touched by childhood cancer or simply want to make a difference, the Wine & Cheese event is the perfect opportunity to show your support.

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 enchanted evening, please call our office at (786) 730-4545.

Here's to continuing the tradition of fighting childhood cancer with HOPE!



Roaring Surprises at Zoo Miami

During Sofia's treatment, Zoo Miami became a cherished favorite for the Blanco family—Sofia adored visiting the animals, and Marta found solace in the vast outdoor spaces that allowed them to be around people without worrying about germs. These beautiful experiences inspired Sofia's Hope to offer field trips, Adopt an Animal care packs, and family memberships to families for years.

Recently, our families received an extra special treat thanks to an anonymous donor who generously underwrote the Adopt an Animal care packs distributed during a field trip, and even arranged for Zoo Squad mascot, Kaz the Rhino, to make a surprise appearance! Kaz posed for photos and danced with families, creating a roaring good time for all.

A heartfelt thank you to Zoo Miami Foundation and the anonymous donor for spreading cheer and creating lasting memories for our families!



Letter from the President

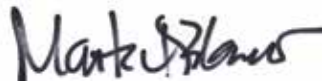
Dear Friend,

As you may know, I started the year by joining the Board of Directors for the International Cardio-Oncology Society (IC-OS) to advocate for pediatric patients. Sofia's Hope and IC-OS have worked together for several years as our missions align beautifully around cardio-oncology, and our voices together are that much more powerful. I now serve as a director alongside my duties on the Advocacy and Pediatric committees. It's a big commitment and one I take seriously as the sole voice at the table for our children.

This role comes at an opportune moment as Sofia's Hope is investing more than ever in pediatric cardio-oncology research. This year marks the Second International Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Conference on November 8-9 in Cincinnati. We continue to underwrite webinars to supplement the latest information available. Our research grant partially funds a medical editor, who produces ongoing education and outreach, the Cardio-Oncology research journal and more. And later this year, we will be funding the first of its kind, Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Scholar at University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. This scholar will learn from world renowned expert, Dr. Steven Lipshultz, MD and his team and have the opportunity to concentrate in the growing sub-specialty of pediatric cardio-oncology.

We are trailblazing an important road and one that I know is saving warriors lives all over the world. This has only been possible due to the trust and faith that our village has in us to complete this vitally important work. Your support means everything to us.

Onward,



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 Bruno, M.D.
Board Director

Sandra Berenguer
Board Director

Jorge Martinez
Board Director


Linda Martinez
Board Director


Silvia Stazio
Board Director




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Make a DAF Donation Today

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) are the fastest-growing giving method and tax-efficient way to manage charitable donations, because they allow donors to make a charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants from the fund over time.

Grants made to Sofia's Hope through DAFs can be designated for Sofia's Hope to use wherever the need is greatest or aligned with areas of interest such as Research, College Scholarships, or Treasured Moments.

Plus, clients of Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, and BNY Mellon can easily make a designation through the DAF Direct window located on our webpage: <https://www.sofiashope.org/donor-advised-funds>.



Surpassed **\$1.5 Million** in Support to the Childhood Cancer Community!!!

18,784

Children/Families Served



101

TREASURED MOMENTS

Patient Wishes Granted



PROVIDED:

6,937
ART PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



188

American Girl

+
72



203
FAMILIES

Attended in person and virtual visits to
ZOO MIAMI

274

RIDERS
at Horse Camp



424

KITS
for Newly Diagnosed Families



\$73,980

IN GIFT CARDS



639

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

SCHOLARSHIPS:

44 RECIPIENTS

\$57,500
AWARDED



ENGAGED:

7,968

FOLLOWERS

 2,682  5,164  122



\$137,900

IN TOTAL SUPPORT

174

MEMBERS



THANK YOU!



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Introducing...Brave Styles

Second-year FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine students Marthena Phan and Sakhi Shah recently approached Sofia's Hope to use their passion for fashion to make a difference in the lives of children with cancer. We are proud to present a pilot program called Brave Styles!

The goal is to reinforce warriors' identity beyond their diagnosis using fashion and empower them with a sense of hope. We will work with nominated children in cancer treatment to curate an outfit for them based on their likes or dislikes. The program also includes a celebratory event at Macy's where they can show off their outfits, get make-overs, interact with family and friends and MORE!



2nd International Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Conference

It's hard to believe it has been almost two years since the First International Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Conference was held in October 2022, but the Steering Committee has been diligently at work making preparations for this year's effort. Not only did we retain most of the original committee, but new members have joined around the table resulting in a robust agenda of which we are all proud and excited to share.

"This will be an amazing meeting...lots of knowledge and enthusiasm will be shared and I am excited to be a part of it!"

Louis S. Constine, MD, FASTRO, FACR | University of Rochester Medical Center

The Second International Pediatric Cardio-Oncology Conference presented by Sofia's Hope with the Cardio-Oncology Program at Cincinnati Children's, IC-OS and the Pediatric Cardiomyopathy Registry will be held on November 8th and 9th in Cincinnati. For more details, please visit <https://www.cincyhearteducationseries.org/cardio-onc>.



Heroes for the Holidays Breakfast

This is the second year that Sofia's Hope participates in the Adopt a Family 4 the Holidays initiative between BBX Capital and Neighbors4Neighbors. Sofia's Hope nominated 22 families with a child facing cancer who were then invited to an exclusive event held on Saturday, December 2nd at the Galleria Mall, Ft. Lauderdale.

Besides a breakfast buffet, children decorated Christmas wreaths, chatted, and took pictures with Santa, enjoyed time with face painters, balloon artists, their favorite superheroes and therapy dogs. Each child received a gift from their Wish List and the family was gifted a \$200 Amazon gift card. It was a beautiful event and a great way to kick off the Holiday Season!



Sofia's Hope Unsung Heroes: Child Life Specialists and Social Workers

It is important for us to acknowledge the invaluable help we receive from the social workers and child life specialists with which we work alongside daily. Without them, none of our programs would be possible. The limitations placed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) do not allow us to contact families directly, so these amazing women are our conduit to the patients and families we support. Our heartfelt gratitude to each one of you ♥♥♥

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|---|--|--|
| MCI – Baptist Health Laurie Sargent Vanessa Barquin Karla Roman | Nicklaus Children's Hospital Griselle Canizales Tiffany Gallart Yanara Del Valle | UM/Holtz Children's Hospital Alyssa Conrad Adriana Lopez Ida Rodriguez |
| Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Samantha Utter Delilah Rigg Christin James | Salah Foundation Children's Hospital at Broward Health Melissa Stachowiak | Palm Beach Children's Hospital Lisa Barron |

2024-2025 College Scholarships

This is the sixth year of our college scholarship program and will herald the total of 44 scholarships awarded, plus several Honorable Mentions to childhood cancer patients/survivors and siblings. Recipients receive a \$2,000 allowance for tuition/room and board, plus a laptop.

The program grows as the word spreads and this year we had over 400 applicants! This year's recipients will be announced later this month. Thanks to the Review Committee who welcomed new member, Michelle Gonzalez, for their time and effort and to R2UnifiedTechnologies for always providing the laptops.



A Stronger Partnership Every Year

Since 2018, the Miami Cancer Institute at Baptist Health (MCI) and Sofia's Hope have worked together to bring our childhood cancer community special field trips to Zoo Miami and Whispering Manes. This partnership has enriched the lives of more than 1,100 families and continues to grow every year.

In addition to these terrific offerings, we have expanded our collective reach through the Treasured Moments Food Security Program. MCI has awarded \$25,000 to provide gift cards for groceries and food outlets for warriors and families. We work with the social work and child life teams to provide gift cards for local grocers and big box retailers, so families can get the basics and maintain a sense of normalcy. This year-round program ensures that families grappling with childhood cancer have a safety net to keep their children and families fed and nourished.

Thank you, MCI, for fortifying this all-important work and building a stronger partnership together.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Mix and Mingle for the Cause

Sofia's Hope Board Directors Andres Hidalgo and Mariana De Michele recently held intimate get-togethers, or mix and mingles, at their homes to share their passion and excitement about Sofia's Hope with their friends and family. This provided the perfect backdrop for informal yet deeply personal conversations about childhood cancer, and our vision to fight childhood cancer with HOPE. Thanks to you both for opening your hearts and homes to Sofia's Hope!

If you would like to host a mix and mingle for Sofia's Hope, let's talk! Please contact Marta Blanco at info@sofiashope.org.



3rd Annual Childhood Cancer Awareness Parade

On Friday, March 22nd our President Marta Blanco attended the Early Childhood Center (ECC) in Coral Gables for the 3rd Annual Sofia's Hope Childhood Cancer Parade led by former student and survivor, Parker Oskin, and her family. We were first introduced to ECC by Sofia Morales, an ECC mom and one of Parker's oncology nurses. Along with the annual parade, the ECC community raises funds in support of our programs. This year in appreciation of their generosity and donations, families were entered to win 4 Heat tickets to the Sunday, April 14th game or an autographed Tyler Herro Heat jersey. Thanks to the Oskin family and Parker for picking the winners: Sarah Clementi and Ilara Grillo. Congratulations and Let's Go HEAT!



HomeGoods for Sofia's Hope

Last fall, Sofia's Hope was chosen by the Doral HomeGoods team to receive a \$10,000 grant in support of our programs. The Grand Opening celebration was held on Thursday, October 12th and Marta Blanco, our Founder and President, and Cecilia Leary, Program Coordinator, were on-hand to accept the gift and meet the associates. TJX supports associate-nominated charities because it makes their philanthropic efforts more meaningful to their associates and adds value in their local communities. We are grateful and humbled to have been chosen!



RSM's Power of Love Campaign and MORE

Sofia's Hope was chosen as the charity of choice for RSM's Power of Love campaign last fall when the local office fund raised through RSM Foundation. All dollars were then matched by 50% by the foundation, resulting in a donation of almost \$25,000!!! Plus, through their employee volunteer program and RSM's Culture and Diversity Initiative (CDI) they raised an additional \$3,000.

THANKYOU to everyone at RSM, friends new (Theresa Ramos and Kevin Montiel) and old (Sergio De la Fe and Jack Martinez), who were involved in this initiative. Looking forward to years of fighting childhood cancer with HOPE, together!



Barbie's 65th Year Anniversary!

Barbie has helped girls imagine what they might be when they grow up for 65 years!! So, to honor her anniversary and to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8th, Sofia's Hope gave away 5 amazing collectors' Barbies (in original packaging) generously donated by the Garbee family. Winners were announced LIVE on our IG account on March 9th:

- Anabella Cano – Political Candidate Barbie
- Maria Fernandez – Flamingo Barbie
- Brenda Hilsberg – Wonder Woman Barbie
- Grace King – 35th Anniversary Midge
- Abby Wetzel – Working Woman Barbie

Thanks to all who bought tickets and CONGRATULATIONS to the winners!



Shout Out to Schools and Clubs for their Support

As in years past, Sofia's Hope has been fortunate to receive the support of local schools and college clubs. And 2024 has been no different. We started the year with donations of dum dums, gift cards, and more from the HOSA Club at Riviera, followed by gift bags from the FIU Women in Medicine Club. The Canes Fight Cancer Club donated almost 50 Valentine's Day gift bags and their members volunteer at our field trips and hose camps. And Valentine's Day grams were sold at Ransome Everglades Middle School, resulting in an \$800 donation towards our program. And the NJHS at St. Thomas the Apostle lead their annual drive through Valentine's Day and their families donated items for our Newly Diagnosed Family kits as well as treasure chest toys, Lego sets, band-aids, tissue boxes, playdoh, squishy toys, squishmallows, and MORE. THANK YOU!



**BECOME A HERO OF HOPE
And fight childhood cancer
with HOPE, all year!**





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Amazon Wish List

As you shop on Amazon, please consider taking a moment and adding a few needed items to your cart for our kiddos and families facing childhood cancer. Just search for Sofia's Hope Wish List under Your Lists > Your Friends. Purchased items will be delivered directly to our doorstep!

Prefer to shop locally? Here are other much needed items:

- Publix, Winn-Dixie, Target, Uber, Shell, Amazon gift cards
- DumDum Lollipops
- Fun band-aids
- Tissue boxes
- Kids Stickers
- Travel size toiletries
- Squishy toys and Pop Its
- Small toys

Please reach out to info@sofiashope.org to coordinate drop off.
Thank you so much!

