



Julia's Wings Foundation

'Be the Change You Wish To See in the World' Gandhi

Happy 1st Anniversary!

It's hard to believe it's been a year since we founded Julia's Wings Foundation (JWF). Throughout Julia's battle against Aplastic Anemia she developed an appreciation for all the help and support we received from our community and the incredible medical staff. She also felt gratitude that she always had a family member with her during her hospital stays and was keenly aware that other children were not as fortunate. In honor of Julia's amazing empathy for others and her hard fought battle, we have made **Julia's Wish** the goal and mission of the JWF.



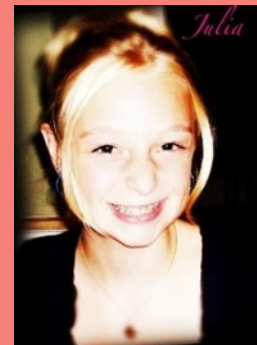
Heather & Mike Malsin at our inaugural 'Evening of Hope', June 2014

What A Year For JWF!

- ∞ \$62,000 raised!
- ∞ Three Families assisted...so far!
- ∞ 140 pints of Blood donated
- ∞ 30+ Bone Marrow Donors registered!
- ∞ Official 501(c)(3) designation granted!

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JWF Giving Hope....

Julia was hospitalized for over a year, spending as much as 6-8 weeks at a time in both Hartford and Boston. While battling her illness, what upset her more than the pain and physical limitations she was experiencing, was seeing other young children, fighting for their lives, without a parent or family member by their side at all times. The thought of this seems unfathomable to many people, but it is the unfortunate reality of many families. These families must make the gut-wrenching decision to work in order to afford the medical care and other travel and living expenses.



Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters and sponsors, JWF is happy to announce that we have been able to help our first THREE families; the Denesha, Provost and Buscemi families.

Grey Denesha, was only 20 months old when he was diagnosed aplastic anemia in January of 2014. He is currently receiving treatment at Children's Hospital Boston and his family makes weekly trips from upstate NY. Grey's mom had to stop working to be by her infant son's side. JWF was able to pay their mortgage for 3 months, elevating a huge burden for this family of 6, because of the generosity of so many!

16 year old, Dimitri Provost is also receiving treatment at Boston Children's for aplastic anemia. He has just undergone his ATG/cyclosporine treatment and is waiting for a response. Ms. Provost, a single mom, also had to stop working to care for her son, as they make biweekly trips to the hospital for transfusions and he has been hospitalized 5 times in 3 months with infections. We are also paying their mortgage for 3 months.

15 year old Sam is currently in the ICU after complications from her bone marrow transplant in May. Like the Provosts, Ms. Buscemi is a single parent and had to stop working to care for her daughter. We are paying her electric bill as she has received a shut off notice. This is the reality...no one should have to go through what these families are going through and also worry about the mortgage or electrical bills, etc. We know Julia would be very happy to know that she was able to help keep these families together and Grey, Dimitri and Sam's Moms by their side.

Ps - Heather spoke with the social worker today and she is not doing well, so please if you could keep Sam and all of these families in your prayers.

JWF has been busy...

We are so pleased to share the successes of our very busy year. In August of 2013, we hosted a **Memorial Blood Drive** to help replenish the American Red Cross's supply.



In October of 2013, over 250 runners/walkers joined **Team Julia's Wings at the Kent Pumpkin Run** where we raised **\$42,000!!!**



In January 2014, we fulfilled another one of Julia's Wishes by hosting another **Memorial Blood Drive and Bone Marrow Registry Drive**. She felt so grateful to be given that second chance of life by a generous bone marrow donation, she wanted to organize a drive in our home town. We are thrilled that over 30 new potential donors were added to the **Be The Match** registry!

We are still reeling from the success of our **"Evening of Hope" gala** at the White Silo Winery in June 2014. It was an incredible and inspiring evening and Julia's physician assistant, Tara Barlow, who cared for her during her illness, was our guest speaker. Together we raised **\$15,000** at this event.

'The Julia Effect'

We also want to share what we are now calling **"The Julia Effect"**. We are rendered speechless at the amazing offshoots that have transpired in Julia's honor and memory. It makes us incredibly humble to know these selfless acts of kindness and generosity are being done by children for children.

- ∞ **Bryce Schopfer, Sloan Gubner, and Elijah Ayers** collected donations for the Julia's Wings Foundation in lieu of birthday gifts.
- ∞ The **New Milford High School Greenwave Dance Team** performed their 1st event in April 2014 in loving memory of Julia. All of the proceeds from the recital were donated to Julia's Wings Foundation.
- ∞ **Cami Long**, Julia's hockey teammate, worked on a school project at Washington Montessori since September 2013. It was called a Hero's Journey. The assignment required each child to pick something that they want to change or work on. Cami chose a way to mix her art skills and raise money for Julia's Wings Foundation!
- ∞ Julia's friend, **Tori Seiden**, cut 9" off of her hair and donated it to Pantene beautiful lengths in memory of Julia.



Sloan Gubner & Bryce Shopfer, Elijah Ayers
NMHS Greenwave Dance Team & Tori Seiden

Back to Boston

Julia looked forward to the prospect of going to Boston with her 8th grade class to sightsee and not just go to the hospital. She wasn't able to attain this goal, but an idea was born. This spring, Julia's Wings Foundation worked with the 8th grade Language Arts teacher, Mrs. Barry, at the Sherman School and created "Julia's Project". This effort provided much needed supplies for the Resource Room on the hematology/oncology floor at Boston Children's Hospital in loving memory of Julia.

The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of Sherman also contributed to this project. The Sherman School 8th Graders were recognized by the Connecticut State Department of Education today and received The Challenge To Citizenship Award at the State's Capitol for their overwhelming success with "Julia's Project".

On June 5th, the 8th Grade students delivered the donations. Many thanks to their teacher Mrs. Barry for working together with our foundation and making a difference! ‘

The Julia Effect' continues and it warms our hearts deeply. These acts of kindness carry on Julia's memory and are an incredible tribute to her life and character. Julia's soul embodies all that is good in this world. We strive every day to live by her example. We are so grateful and appreciative of all the support we receive for our foundation. Without you, we wouldn't be able to fulfill Julia's Wishes and our Wish that a child's life may be saved one day through much needed research.



Just a few of the many boxes and boxes of art & craft supplies, games, and other supplies the Sherman 8th Grade students worked hard to get for the Children in Boston

JWF is doing more...

On **Saturday, August 9th**, Julia's Wings Foundation is sponsoring an **American Red Cross Memorial Blood Drive** from 8:00am-12:45pm at Holy Trinity Church in Sherman, CT. To make an appointment, [click here](#). Please come out and give the gift of life for all those that are fighting for theirs.

We hope you will be able to join **Team Julia's Wings at the Kent Pumpkin Run** on **October 26, 2014**. Last year we had 250 runners /walkers and we are hoping to increase that number this year! Please visit our [website](#) for more information

With endless gratitude for your continued support!
The Malsin Family and the JWF Board of Directors

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