

# THE PURPLE PULSE



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER "Be IZspired" December 2020

## THE PANDEMIC HAS NOT STOPPED US!



This year has been one we will all collectively never forget! As a worldwide pandemic was thrust upon us, The Izzy Foundation would not be deterred. In fact, it fueled us with an energy to continue to provide to all the families especially those we service through the Izzy Family Room at Hasbro Children's Hospital. As 2021 approaches, this passion will not fade and

we are full steam ahead to do our part to help families *Live*, *Love*, *Laugh* and *Play* during and

after their medical journey.





The Izzy Foundation is a national nonprofit located in Providence, Rhode Island whose mission is to design, fund and IZspire creative projects and programs for families whose children have cancer or other life altering medical conditions to **LIVE**, **LOVE**, **LAUGH** and **PLAY**.



## **IZSPIRATIONAL JOURNEY**





The inspiration for The Izzy Foundation came from Isabelle Marie Wohlrab (Izzy), who was diagnosed with Stage 4 rhabdomyosarcoma two weeks after her first birthday. Over the next 2½ years, Izzy maintained an incredible spirit and spread joy and happiness to everyone who met her. Through her grace and determination, she showed everyone a glimpse of just how beautiful life can be. Even after Izzy earned her angel wings, she has inspired her parents, family, friends and countless others to continue with her philosophy to **LIVE**, **LOVE**, **LAUGH** and **PLAY** through The Izzy Foundation. Initially created to defray the costs of Izzy's stem-cell transplant in Germany, the Foundation invested in designing spaces and providing services to support children with cancer and their families. The implementation of inpatient and outpatient services for pediatric patients has taken place at Hasbro Children's Hospital, in Providence, Rhode Island and nationwide.

Since 2011, when the IZspirational journey began, over **\$2 million** has been raised through fundraisers, donations, merchandise sales and various other initiatives.

Together, The Izzy Foundation has made it possible to provide many services for the families whose children have pediatric cancer and other life altering medical conditions. Your contributions help with many projects including the building, design and creation of three Izzy spaces, as well as continuing the many programs and activities, support groups, scholarships and Angel Family Giving during the holidays.



## MEET OUR TEAM



#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

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#### **SENTIMENTS FROM THE WOHLRAB FAMILY:**



As we come to the end of 2020, our family is humbled by all that The Izzy Foundation continues to do, even during the COVID-19 pandemic to help children with cancer and their families. Though we had to forego our annual Izzy Gala, we were able to have a socially-distanced Izzy Golf tournament as well as our new "Starry, Starry Night" Newport event, and our IZspirational Junior Advisory Board put on a wonderful virtual "Light of our Lives" event. We cannot thank you all enough for the continued donations, support and creative ways to help The Izzy Foundation to continue to help children with cancer or other life altering medical conditions and their families to *Live*, *Love*, *Laugh* and *Play*.

Thank you all for helping us keep Izzy's inspiration alive!

~ The Wohlrab Family



#### A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

What a difference a year can make! This has been a challenging year for us all, and our hearts go out to everyone who has been affected by COVID-19.

One thing that 2020 has taught us is that no organization's plans are safe from the impact of Coronavirus. The Izzy Foundation is no exception, as the impact of the pandemic has forced us to restructure our events and programs. However, unique times require a unique response, and we remain focused, passionate and determined to provide the same quality of support we have always delivered.

We have experienced many "firsts" this year. For the first time, we ran the Izzy Family Room programs and events without our beloved in-house volunteers and interns. Nonetheless, we continued to provide meals, coffee, snacks and hygiene items to our inpatient pediatric families who have been more isolated, scared and alone than ever before - especially with only one parent allowed in the patient's room. Additionally, the 5<sup>th</sup> floor looked different with adult oncology patients joining us to create a diverse group to care for and the opportunity to share our resources to others in need - including our dedicated and hard-working front line medical staff! We ran our first virtual support groups, virtual story times and bingo nights for inpatient families. We also changed with the times and hosted our first outdoor event in Newport and our annual Izzy Gala turned into our first virtual online auction.

Although 2021 may look uncertain, you can count on The Izzy Foundation to remain IZspired and operational. We will continue to provide meals, programs, scholarships, blessing boxes for Angel families, our support groups virtually and other necessary resources to aid families through their child's complex medical journey. Nevertheless, these are unprecedented times, and we need your partnership to support families in their greatest time of need. We all know how difficult these times have been, imagine what it must feel like to have a sick "immune compromised" child during a pandemic fearful and extremely lonely.

Finally, I am so grateful for the many individuals, organizations and businesses who have stepped up to provide us with volunteer hours, in-kind support and donations during this on-going crisis. You are an amazingly generous community and together we WILL get through this and be stronger for it in the end.





Erin Scott, LCSW, OSW-C

#### **WAYS TO CONTACT US**



The Izzy Foundation P.O. Box 2326 Providence, RI 02906

401-331-IZZY (4999)

**E-mail us at -** hello@theizzyfoundation.org **Visit us at -** www.theizzyfoundation.org

#### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA









Facebook: The Izzy Foundation and Izzy Family Room

Instagram: The Izzy Foundation
Twitter: @IzzyFoundation

Please use our hashtags!

#theizzyfoundation ... #belZspired ... #izzyfamilyroom



## IZZY FAMILY ROOM



The Izzy Family Room is a beloved inpatient family room located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Hasbro Children's Hospital. Since opening in April of 2014, the Izzy Family Room has become an integral part of an inpatient family's medical journey.

Even through a world-wide pandemic, the Izzy Family Room remains open and we continue to assure that resources are available to all patients and their families. Seeing the increased need, we expanded our meal service to not only feed the inpatient pediatric families on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor but also inpatient adult oncology patients, pediatric ICU patients, families in our newly remodeled surgical waiting room, pediatric oncology patients in the outpatient clinic and our frontline workers - nurses, doctors, housekeeping, etc. During these difficult times, we have witnessed food insecurities and knew our assets could and should be shared. This year alone, we have served over 12,000 meals while continuing to provide tea, coffee, snacks, hygiene items and a variety of activities.

Do you have any resources that you would like to share? Could you sponsor a meal, donate supplies, or have other ideas on how you can be a part of this crucial and invaluable work? If so, please contact Erin Scott at **erin@theizzyfoundation.org** or call her at **401-331-IZZY (4999)**.



### SENTIMENTS FROM THE IZZY ROOM FAMILIES ...







## IZZY FAMILY ROOM PARTNERS



Alex & Ani Allison Chatowsky Amica Andrea Dewhirst Andrea Mellor Bacco Restaurant Bank of America Bear Hugs Book Beautycounter Big Tony's Pizza Binkeez for Comfort Blackie's Brad & Mary Artery Brilliant Dahlia Flower Farm Bring Your Own Improv Britney Dyer Catering Gourmet Chelo's Hometown Bar & Grill Chomp Restaurant Christiana Gondreau Confetti Foundation CVS Health Dave's Marketplace

Defying Gravity

Derek Vecoli

Dunkin' Elizabeth Blom **Empower Change Nutrition** For Kids Sake Foundation Gansett Wraps Gator's Pub Girl Scouts **Granny Squibb** Gym Hutt Gymnastics I Heart My City IGT Jen Wheeler less Simone Braza Ioel Moreno John & Kathleen Perry John McElroy & Brian Webb Junior Girl Scout Troop 1127 Karen Blodgett Kay's Restaurant Kyle & Tina Wohlrab Lilly Thompson Livi's Pockets Love Your Melon Lumber Jack Pizza Macera's Italian Restaurant

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The Feinstein Foundation The Howe Family The Partnership to Reduce Cancer in RI Thirsty Beaver Thirty One Gifts Trap RI Travis Family Farm William & Jennifer Collins



## THE IZZY FOUNDATION PROGRAMS



C.A.R.E. SUPPORT GROUP
'TIME TO HEAL' - GRIEF GROUP

ROUP ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS
GROUP ANGEL FAMILY GIVING
BACK TO SCHOOL



For details on any of our programs, please visit www.theizzyfoundation.org





## **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2021**

"FORE" IZZY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

**LIGHT OF OUR LIVES** 

Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>

**NIGHT IN NEWPORT** 

Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>

**IZZY GALA** 

Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

Event details and tickets are available on our website at www.theizzyfoundation.org/events





## **ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS**



The Izzy Foundation offers academic scholarships to children with cancer and their siblings. Since 2014, we have given over \$155,000 to 168 cancer survivors and their siblings.

In 2020, we received over 187 applications nationwide! While we are so thankful to have awarded **25 scholarships** during such a trying year, we are hopeful to be able to support even more students in this upcoming year.

The **NEED IS GREAT** and we cannot do it without you. Please consider making a donation to our scholarship program so that we can continue to support the academic needs of children all across the country.

To request additional information, please contact us at <u>scholarships@theizzyfoundation.org</u> or to make your direct donation, visit us at ...

<u>www.theizzyfoundation.org/donate</u> and then select **Scholarships**.

#### **OUR 2020-2021 RECIPIENTS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY!**



To complete an application for a 2021-2022 Izzy Foundation Scholarship, please visit our website at ...

www.theizzyfoundation.org/scholarships

Applications are being accepted from March 1, 2021 to May 1, 2021.



## **IZSPIRING EVENTS OF 2020**

#### "WINTERFEST"



Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Winterfest was held February 8<sup>th</sup> at Skyline at Waterplace. Everyone had a fantastic night of tasting a wide variety of specialty spirits including wine and whiskey, trying their hand at a multitude of casino games, raffles, a wine wall and so much more, all while benefiting The Izzy Foundation!



#### "FORE" IZZY GOLF

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual "FORE" Izzy Golf Tournament took place once again at Wannamoisett Country Club on July 6<sup>th</sup>. It was a great day of golf, food, drinks, silent auctions, raffles and fun outdoors during the pandemic. Thanks to all our loyal supporters and golfers as the funds raised from this event help The Izzy Foundation's Family Room and programs continue to flourish!

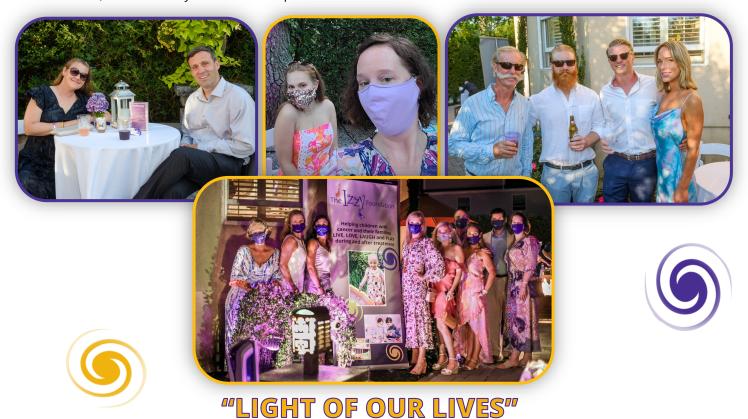




### "STARRY, STARRY NIGHT"



Our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Starry, Starry Night event took place on Bellevue Avenue in Newport, RI on August 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a unique and intimate evening in breathtaking surroundings with personalized catered gourmet food and drinks that paired with each course, all while remaining conscious of pandemic guidelines. Thanks to all who attended, we are pleased to announce that we raised \$40,000 for The Izzy Foundation - IZspirational!



## Junior Advisory Board Event

In September, to honor Childhood Cancer Awareness month, The Izzy Foundation's Junior Advisory Board hosted their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 'Light of our Lives' socially distanced event. This amazing and brave group of kids was determined to spread their awareness and did so beautifully by streaming the event live on all The Izzy Foundation's social media platforms.



www.theizzyfoundation.org



## 9<sup>TH</sup> GALA Virtual Izzy Auction





September 13, 2020 10:00 am - September 26, 2020 9:00 pm

Our 9th Annual Izzy Gala looked much different this year. Although we were not able to meet in person, COVID-19 did not stop us from putting our best foot forward to continue to raise the important funds needed to support our mission. Even though this was a substantial shortfall to the normal funds raised each year at our annual gala, we were able to raise a little over \$45,000! Special thanks to all our faithful financial and in-kind sponsors, supporters, gala committee members and volunteers who continue to IZspire us despite the current times.

## ~ LOOKING AHEAD TO BETTER TIMES ~ 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL IZZY GALA © SEPTEMBER 18, 2021



Although it is unclear what next year will bring, we have already begun planning. We cannot wait until we can all meet together again to celebrate our 10-year milestone!!

Would you like to help by bringing your talents, thoughts and creativity to next year's Gala? Can you assist by donating an auction item? Please consider joining our Gala committee and/or providing an item to our auction to help in creating the best Gala yet!

For more information or details, please visit our website at <a href="https://www.theizzyfoundation.org">www.theizzyfoundation.org</a> or email us at <a href="https://hello@theizzyfoundation.org">hello@theizzyfoundation.org</a>.



## New England Tech Game Jam

Armed with new video game ideas from three lucky kids, teachers and students from New England Tech completed the 2020 "Game Jam", two marathon sessions of game development. One of the amazing results was entitled Turnip Knight, an action adventure game starring a royal vegetable. The kids learned about game design from the programmers while providing feedback throughout the development process, resulting in a fun and collaborative experience as well as a new and exciting game! Special thanks to Bill Culbertson from New England Tech for coordinating the event and to Kendal, Taylor & KJ for your creativity and participation!









## How You Can Help



The Izzy Foundation needs your help in order to sustain and grow the necessary programs! We could not do it without your support.

Below are some fun and unique ways to get involved ...

#### WANT TO VOLUNTEER OR INTERN?

In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, our volunteers gave over 500 hours of their time. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic and the safety precautions in the hospital, our volunteer/intern hours were drastically cut as we were unable to allow our volunteers in the Izzy Family Room. However, our amazing volunteers shifted how they helped and utilized whatever ways possible to lend a hand. They delivered meals to the hospital circle, provided story time via video chat, gathered hygiene products, organized snack drives and coordinated fun activities that could be safely dropped off to the hospital for the patients and families. There is still room for your help! You can volunteer with the pick-up and delivery of meals from local restaurants, put together your own drives of canned goods, water bottles, travel size hygiene products, etc. Check out our website for ways you can help today.

We truly want to THANK all of our volunteers and interns for their dedication and IZspiration!

If you are interested in volunteering for The Izzy Foundation, please e-mail us at hello@theizzyfoundation.org or by visiting us at www.theizzyfoundation.org/volunteer.



#### **WAYS TO HELP...**







Shop Amazon Smile at smile.amazon.com

Select THE IZZY FOUNDATION

as your charity of choice and Amazon will send us a percentage of each sale!





Thank you to everyone who chose The Izzy Foundation as an online fundraiser on Facebook. You helped to raise \$11,197.62 in 2020! By partnering with us, you are directly impacting the lives of a number of families affected by childhood cancer and other life altering medical conditions.

#### COMPANY INVOLVEMENT

- **EVENT SPONSORSHIP**
- COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING
- **SNACK DRIVE**
- **MEAL SPONSORSHIP**
- **COMPANY MATCH PROGRAM**
- DRESS DOWN DAY
- IN-KIND DONATION

To learn more, please e-mail us at hello@theizzyfoundation.org

#### **WISH LIST**

- \* Non-perishable snacks
- \* Paper plates & bowls
- \* Paper towels
- \* Water bottles
- \* Silverware
- \* Plastic cups

- \* Condiments
- \* Pens/permanent markers
- \* Dry erase markers
- \* Shipping labels
- \* Hygiene products
- \* Trash bags



## SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR 2020 IN-KIND & FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

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SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND Healthcare for Women









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## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**



A special thank you to our community, patients and families who have organized and contributed to The Izzy Foundation through snack drives, book drives, dress down days and other unique ways.

Together we are making a difference for the many families we serve!



The Izzy Foundation P.O. Box 2326 Providence, RI 02906 CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST NON PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID PROVIDENCE, RI PERMIT NO. 1289

#### www.theizzyfoundation.org

Can be found on our website at

Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> Rhode Island Convention Center

#### AJAÐ YZZI JAUNNA HTOP

Saturday, August <sup>7th</sup> Newport, Rl

#### MIGHT IN MEWPORT

Monday, الله الم<sup>th</sup> كالله الم<sup>th</sup> كالله الم

"FORE" IZZY GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2021

LIVE, LOVE, LAUGH and PLAY.

The Izzy Foundation is a national nonprofit located in Providence, Rhode Island whose mission is to design, fund and IZspire creative projects and programs for families whose children have cancer or other life altering medical conditions to

