



## Project Ladybug

The Project Ladybug Fund at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital was established in 2007 to provide services similar to the "Make a Wish" foundation to patients being treated for pediatric cancer and blood disorders, and has become an important resource to seriously ill pediatric patients and their families as they face lengthy treatment regimens. Through improving quality of life for these children and their families during treatment, the Project Ladybug Fund at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital strives to improve outcomes for these patients.

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### Ongoing Project Ladybug Funding



- Send patients and their families on "wish" trips to Sesame Place, Madison Square Garden, Medieval Times, Giants, Devils, and Mets games, and special holiday trips;
- Purchase gifts and gift cards for patients to provide holiday cheer
- Assist with the funding of birthday and holiday parties to celebrate these special days while the patient is being treated at the hospital;
- Fund household expenses in extraordinary circumstances when the child's health was at risk (i.e. purchase of a winter coat; purchase of warm clothing and shoes; help with a PSE&G bill; help with rent and food; help after home fires);
- Purchase wigs for young patients who lost their hair due to chemotherapy treatments;
- Purchase laptop computers to be used in the hospital by patients to keep in touch with family and friends while undergoing treatment;
- Provide life-saving medication to young patients who are ineligible for other government programs;
- Fund supplies for various arts and crafts for therapeutic play activities for patients to use during clinic visits and hospital stays. Other supplies include accessories for dress up play, comfort food to help brighten hospital stays, school supplies for patients who are returning to school after treatment, supplies for camp trips, prints of photographs taken during treatment, and playroom supplies such as game controllers, games, paint, glitter, glue, model magic and stickers;
- Purchase incentive gifts such as iPods, electronic guitars, Playstations, etc. to encourage treatment compliance.

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### Ongoing & Future Projects:



Creation of a dedicated Pediatric Hem/Onc treatment room that is child friendly and relaxing. Construction is underway and all cabinetry has been donated. The room will be decorated in a fashion that reduces the clinical, "sterile" feeling, with a more home-like feeling, furnished with a large television with capabilities to play video games, watch DVDs and utilize the Internet. The project will include the purchase of new monitoring equipment, such as a cardiac monitor to

track the child while s/he is under sedation, and will require renovations such as cabinetry, plumbing work, fresh paint, wallpaper, electrical work, and redecoration, all to be provided by Project Ladybug.

- Renovation of the Pediatric Hem/Onc floor to brighten the area and provide a more pleasant, child-friendly atmosphere. Wall design will include an "art gallery" with patient art to be revolved quarterly and celebrated by "opening" parties.
- Construction of an outdoor playground for our young patients to allow them to get fresh air and sunshine as part of their hospital visit. An enclosed pavilion will be constructed, to be located on our seventh floor down the hall from the Pediatric Hem/Onc floor, and will contain playground equipment and attractive plantings and allow our patients and their siblings an outdoor area to enjoy in any weather conditions, year-round.

### **Additional Projects**

- In April 2009, members of Project Ladybug and their friends and relatives provided the first "Spa Day" to pamper the mothers of children being treated at SJCH. Services included a nail salon, massage therapy, make-up, hair styling, and a professional photographer to take portraits of the mothers. Children were treated to a craft room staffed by volunteers who helped the children make special Mother's Day presents while their moms were being pampered. Lunch, beverages and a special gift for both moms and children completed this very special day. Future events are planned to moms and patients.

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### **Project LadyBug Fund In the News**

[Dina Manzo, Founder of The Project Ladybug Fund at SJCH, Kicks off Ladybug Month](#)

['Project LadyBug' Supports SJCH Through Fundraising Efforts](#)