

Receiving a diagnosis of cancer is devastating news for any patient and family, but it is particularly heartbreaking when the cancer patient is a child. One's entire life is turned upside down. Medical treatments may be long and difficult. These children and their families require a great deal of support to help them through this difficult time.

The P.U.N.T. Foundation has been an incredible resource for our pediatric patients and their families. Families of newly diagnosed patients receive a hospitality bag from "Brian's Locker" during their first visit at the hospital, immediately letting them know that they are not alone on this journey. Additional assistance through Brian's Locker may include hospital parking and cafeteria vouchers as well as gas and grocery cards. These families are often financially stressed; facing missed work time, babysitting needs for their other children, medical copays, and other expenses. P.U.N.T.'s *Helping Hands Program* provides financial assistance for both daily needs and to help meet emergency needs that may arise, including rent assistance, home disinfection, etc. The *Adopt a Family* program allows needy families to have a Christmas celebration with their kids.

In addition to providing financial assistance to those in need, the P.U.N.T. Foundation has afforded social opportunities that make our patients feel special and valued. Many of our patients are unable to participate in their usual social activities with their friends, which is such a critical part of childhood and adolescence. *Brian's Game Day* provides tickets for these kids to attend a Buffalo Bills home game in a private suite, so there is less risk of exposure to infection. The *Field of Dreams* program grants special wishes to children who are going through a particularly rough period. Through these programs, PUNT helps to create a sense of normalcy as these families experience such an incredible disruption in their lives. These are the kind of experiences that create memories for a lifetime.

I have seen the P.U.N.T. Foundation make a real difference in the lives of so many of our kids and families, by helping to make an incredibly difficult situation a little bit easier. The families have been effusive in expressing their appreciation for the support they have received. We can't thank them enough for all that they do.

Sincerely,



Martin Brecher, MD
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