

THE EUGENE ZITWER FOUNDATION, INC.



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EugeneZitwerFoundation.org

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Dear Friends,

More than two decades ago, the Eugene Zitwer Foundation was established by Edith Zitwer, her three daughters, a niece, and a family friend to honor Eugene's memory with the goal of supporting the needs of seriously ill children in the New York area. Over our past 25 years of work, we have refurbished pediatric playrooms, funded medical procedures and equipment, funded countless child-life programs and weekend child-life staffing needs, and made birthdays and holidays more festive for pediatric patients and their families. This past year alone, we did everything from providing laptops for the children in the inpatient pediatric and intensive care units at Mount Sinai's Kravis Children's Center, to developing cutting-edge art therapy programs for the children at New York Presbyterian.

It is because of your generosity that we can look back on these 25 years and honor the immense amounts of love, laughter and emotional support we have been able to bring to the lives of these children and their families. While we can say that we have made differences to hospital programs, we are far more proud to know that we have truly changed people's lives by harnessing the powerful gifts of laughter and love.

Thus, it is with both pride and sadness that we announce that 2016 will be the Eugene Zitwer Foundation's last year, and that we will be closing our proverbial doors on December 31, 2016. The non-profit landscape has undergone significant changes over the past several years, while our partnering hospitals have concurrently seen shifts of their own. It is no longer feasible for us to continue our work in a truly sustainable manner.

However, our work is not done, and we are seeking your support one last time. We have pledged to support the hospitals we fund through the end of 2016. While we will be able to fund some programs, we cannot meet our final goal to fund the programs requested without contributions from our donors.

We hope you will make one more contribution to the Eugene Zitwer Foundation. As always, contributions may be made through our website (eugenezitwerfoundation.org) or by mailing your contributions to our office no later than December 15.



While we will cease operations on December 31st, our mission is as strong as ever. The modern poet Seamus Heaney famously wrote, "Since when.../ are the first and last line of any poem / where the

poem begins and ends?” Like a poem, the work of the Eugene Zitwer Foundation is to touch the hearts and minds of humans.

Just as there is no “right” approach for writing or reading a poem, there is no single way to offer support for seriously ill children, like those whose lives we changed at Bellevue Hospital Center, Beth Israel Medical Center, Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Maimonides Medical Center, Montefiore Medical Center, Mount Sinai Beth Israel, Mount Sinai Kravis Children’s Hospital, New York Hospital of Queens, New York Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital, New York University Medical Center – Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University Medical Center - Stephen D. Hassenfeld Children’s Center, New York University Medical Center – Tisch Hospital, New York Weill Cornell Medical Center, The Brooklyn Hospital, Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, St. Francis Hospital and Wyckoff Hospital. As Heaney points out, official beginnings and endings may preclude us from seeing that any journey—emotional, intellectual, poetic, philanthropic, professional—is always ongoing.

With that, we want you to know that this is not an ending. We sincerely hope that during 2017 and thereafter you will elect to make direct contributions to the hospitals that we have collaborated with over the years. You may contact any of these hospitals directly. As always, we will be funding Brookdale Hospital’s end of year party this December. We invite you to join us and see first-hand how your contributions have affected the lives of children.

Additionally, Bellevue Hospital Center is continuing our Zitwer Playroom Program after we close our doors. If a donor wants to participate in that program, donations can be made by check or online. Checks can be made to Children of Bellevue, with the program title “Zitwer Playroom Program” in the comment section. Contributions can be made on the Children of Bellevue website (www.childrenofbellevue.org) by choosing “Child Life” on the drop-down menu, and indicating Zitwer Playroom Program in the space available.

Thank you to our donors for supporting us through the past 25 years. Please know that you have helped bring smiles to countless seriously ill children and families in need.

With gratitude,

Mary, Lori, Wade, Terry and Sharon