

# Beth Israel Medical Center



A Member of the  
Mount Sinai Health System

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December 6, 2013

Ms. Mary Zitwer Millman  
President  
The Eugene Zitwer Foundation  
50 Court Street, Suite 702  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

RE: Status Report

Dear Ms. Millman:

On behalf of Beth Israel Medical Center, we thank you for The Eugene Zitwer Foundation's June 2013 grant of \$1,513 to our Pediatric Child Life Program in support of two projects – holiday staffing and the purchase of new CD players for patient rooms. We are pleased to report that we made good use of these funds in 2013 to enhance the experience hospital experience for our young patients.

The Foundation's vital support of holiday staffing in our Pediatric Intensive Care Unit's playroom during the second half of 2013 enabled us to keep the Unit's playroom open over four holidays: Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the upcoming Christmas 2013 holiday. This special staff coverage has made a real difference in the lives of our young patients by enabling the playroom to be open 365 days a year so that patients can leave their rooms and utilize the space. We are pleased to enclose a recent photo of a patient having fun in our playroom. This young girl was recovering from appendicitis surgery, and at first was hesitant to leave her room because she was scared of the pain she would experience from moving around. As you can see in the attached picture, once our Child Life staff convinced her to try out the playroom, she had a great time and this helped distract her from the physical aspects of her recovery.

We also purchased and installed ten CD players at patient bedsides, replacing those that were broken and no longer usable. These CD players are being enjoyed by our young patients who can now listen to recorded books or music while in their rooms. We are also able to play lullaby CDs for infant patients. This helps to make the hospital experience more pleasant for patients when they are in their rooms and unable to use the playroom, either for medical reasons, or after hours when the playroom is closed.

We are also grateful for the Zitwer Foundation's additional gift of 30 Mets tickets this year. We've attached a photograph from one Mets game that a patient enjoyed. The attached photograph includes Marcia Graham, our Child Life Specialist (far left), a patient named Eduardo (far right), and his family. Eduardo spent a couple of weeks on our Pediatric Unit at the end of this summer. This was the first fun outing he had after being discharged from the hospital, and a motivational factor in his recovery –

Marcia encouraged him to work on getting his strength back while in the hospital so that he would be able to attend the game!

This is an exciting period in Beth Israel's history. In September 2013, the hospital became part of the newly formed Mount Sinai Health System, which now encompasses seven member campuses and is the largest private health system in the greater New York metropolitan area. Our Child Life Program remains an invaluable resource for our pediatric patients, and following the recent departure of Honey Shields as Child Life Director after over 15 good years at Beth Israel, our longtime Child Life Specialist Marcia Graham is now overseeing the program.

Our Pediatric Unit remains committed to providing Child Life Services to over 2,000 children per year. The Eugene Zitwer Foundation's support allows us to create spaces that allow our patients an escape from the hospital experience, relax and just be a "kid" – easing the anxiety and stress that is often associated with hospital visits and contributing to a more positive experience.

Thank you again for all that you do for our pediatric patients.

Sincerely,



Edward E. Conway, Jr., MD  
Chairman  
Milton and Bernice Stern Dept. of Pediatrics



Marcia Graham, CCLS  
Certified Child Life Specialist  
Coordinator, Child Life Program

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Attachment:  
Photos