

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marc E. Bothwell, *President*

Mary Ann Chiasson, Dr PH
Michelle R. Clayman
Y. Daphne Coelho-Adam, Esq.
Tom Colicchio
Stacey Cook
Kelly Crisp
Tiffany Edwards, PhD
Karen Hopkins, MD
Lydie Hudson Bowes
Brian Hulse
Judith A. Keating
Ron Longe
Kevin Martyn
Jeffrey A. Meckler
Maureen Mooney
Kevin M. O'Leary
Cheryl Reich
Nicole Robbins
Kassandra Savicki, Esq.
Nicole Shearman
Helen Stephan, MBBS, FRACR
John C. Wobensmith

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Mrs. Stanley Arkin
Mrs. Stephen Bassock
James A. Beha, II
Mrs. William J. Benedict
Cathryn Burchill Block
Letitia Buckley
Mrs. Stewart B. Clifford
Sean T. Collins
Mary Elliott
Stuart M. Goode
Elizabeth Dater Jennings
Elizabeth Martin
Judith Murray
Deborah D. O'Kain
Mrs. Randolph H. Post
Mary A. Susnjara

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. James R. Borynack
Mrs. John C. Burton
Mrs. Walter J. P. Curley
Mrs. John W. Embry
Mrs. Bruce A. Gimbel
Mrs. Winthrop Rutherford, Jr.
Mrs. Norton Stevens

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr. Peter Catapano, Jr.
Dr. Benard P. Dreyer
Dr. Lewis Goldfrank
Dr. Jennifer Havens
Dr. Eric D. Manheimer
Dr. Amr M. Moursi

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Jean L. Folsom

The Eugene Zitwer Foundation



Since 1998 **The Eugene Zitwer Foundation** has donated nearly \$60,000 to Children of Bellevue so that hospitalized children have a place to play and relax on weekends. "Without the support of the Zitwer Foundation, children and their families would be stuck in their rooms all weekend, with nothing to do for distraction and stimulation," said Gloria Mattera, Director of Child Life and Developmental Services.

Adriana Chung, child life specialist, keeps the place humming on the weekend, engaging the children in age appropriate play and creative activities. Thanks to the playroom's weekend hours, Adriana can invite children and their families to the friendly space and take games and toys to children too ill to leave their rooms.

The playroom is not only enjoyed by pediatric patients but also by their families. In April, an 18-month-old patient, "Melissa", and her family including four of her siblings, her parents and an uncle, spent the afternoon together in the playroom. Melissa explored the toys and played with pegs, dolls, and especially loved the play kitchen. Her siblings and family were invited to sit around the activity table and paint their interpretation of "family". With ages ranging between 4 and 13 years old, and including adults, the drawings were of various levels but still shared the common theme of togetherness. An afternoon of painting and creative expression not only took the family's mind off little Melissa's illness but gave them the rare chance to be together and participate in a typical family activity despite being in the hospital.

The Zitwer Foundation is run solely by volunteers and was established to keep Eugene Zitwer's memory alive by perpetuating the love and laughter he generously gave during his lifetime. Eugene Zitwer, also known as "Uncle Yuddy," brought love and cheer to everyone he met, especially children. Without their support, the playroom on the 8th floor would not be available on the weekend for patients and their families to enjoy a game and a smile.

The Zitwer Foundation's mission is to help seriously ill children and their families during their times of need in the New York area. "Our commitment to the patients at Bellevue and other venues throughout the New York City area is unwavering. The Uncle Yuddy Saturday program was conceived of by one of our founders, the late Edith Zitwer, Eugene Zitwer's wife. Edith was committed to having our programs reach as many patients as possible. We are honored to bring outstanding programming, play and creative activities to seriously ill children and their families at Bellevue, indeed. A smile, a hug, a relaxing time on a Saturday can go a long way!", said Ms. Mary Zitwer Millman.