

2021 Gratitude Report



Table of Contents

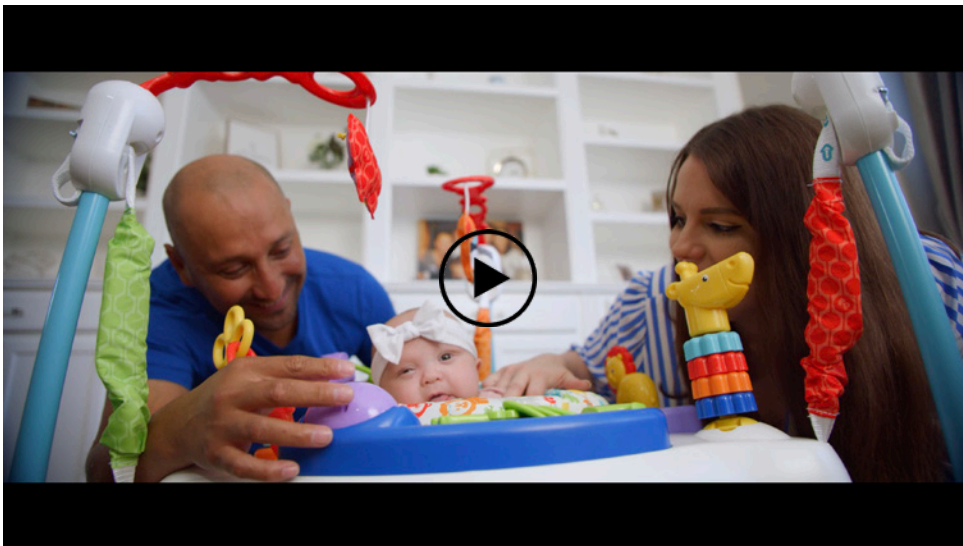
3	Message from the Executive Director	12	Program Highlights
4	The Fred's Team	13	Partner Spotlights
5	A Year in Numbers	14	Donor Spotlights
7	Family Spotlight	15	Fred's Footsteps Champion
8	What did 2021 look like for our families?	16	Volunteer Spotlights
9	Party in the Box	17	Thanksgiving Partnership
10	Golf Fun Day	18	Making Headlines
11	Young Professionals Golf Classic	19	Our Donors

Our Vision

A child's health is a parent's only worry.

Our Mission

Fred's Footsteps provides a bridge of financial support for working families in the greater Philadelphia region who find themselves in crisis due to the costs associated with caring for a seriously ill, injured, or disabled child.



2021 Family Video

We were lucky to spend the day with the Montes Family recently. We are honored to bring you their story, which is representative of what so many of our families have endured in 2021.

A message from our Executive Director

*“We make a living by what we get,
but we make a LIFE by what we give.”*

—Winston Churchill



Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the end of 2021. This year, many of our hopes and expectations have been repeatedly challenged, but we have come together time and time again as a community to support families who are suffering while caring for a medically complex child amidst the background of a global pandemic.

The pandemic has brought the type of crisis our families go through on a regular basis to the forefront of everyone's lives in heartbreaking yet tangible ways. It introduced fear, job loss, and housing insecurities into the lives of many; and it made the reality of a health crisis, followed quickly by a financial crisis, something that people could connect with. While we would have never hoped for so many people to intimately understand what our families have endured, the reality of the last 18+ months brought the need for Fred's Footsteps into the forefront.

In March, we were grateful to be featured by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in a multi-page Sunday spread. Kevin Riordan's extensive article highlighted how Fred's Footsteps was quick to expand our help to families during the height of the pandemic, providing immediate support for necessary household items, as well as temporary mortgage and rent assistance so families in crisis could stay in their homes. He spoke to several families impacted by the program, in addition to a few of our dedicated volunteers, staff, and board members. The resulting piece is one that shows how this incredible network—often referred to as the Fred's Footsteps family—is truly changing families lives.

We are proud of the work we did in 2021 through our COVID-19 Relief Funds and remain dedicated to our core program, providing more substantial, impactful support to families. We are on track to help more families in 2021 than in any previous year. The requests for our core support have only increased as the pandemic rages on, **but because of the incredible support we have received in 2021, we are honored to continue to say “yes” to these families.**

Our community of supporters has expanded, and you show up for our families time and time again whenever asked. We've been inspired by the discovery of new, mutually beneficial partnerships with businesses and organizations over the last year, and the creative and enthusiastic engagement from people we approach never ceases to amaze me. I am enormously grateful that you trust the Fred's Footsteps team with this necessary mission because our work truly allows families to focus wholeheartedly on their child's wellbeing.

I wish you and your families and loved ones great health and happiness as we close out 2021, and I look forward to opportunities to gather safely in person in the New Year.

Gratefully,

Christine DiBona Lobley
Executive Director

The Fred's Team



Change the life of a Fred's Footsteps family this holiday

Join us in providing a joyous holiday season for one of our families. Consider donating to our holiday campaign to provide:

- Holiday gifts for a family in need
- A self-care gift card to a caregiver
- Or even a gas card or help with meals on the go for a family travelling to and from medical appointments.

You can donate directly on our page or better yet, create a page of your own and reach out to your friends, family members, and colleagues to join you in supporting families who need it most. This is an excellent opportunity for your company to support families in need this holiday season.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY!](#)

Questions? E-mail Marie Vacca, Director of Development, at marie@fredsfootsteps.org.

Board of Directors

Sylvia DiBona
Board Chair, Fred's Footsteps

Christine DiBona Lobley
Executive Director, Fred's Footsteps

Michael A. Bova
Managing Director, Accenture

Jonathan Brassington
Head, Capgemini Invent NA, Capgemini

Chris Curcio
Manager Medicare Appeals and Grievances, Medicare Operations, Independence Blue Cross

G. Fred DiBona III
Principal, DiBona Associates, LLC

Teresa DiBona
Board Member, Fred's Footsteps

John J. Dougherty
Business Manager, IBEW Local Union 98, Philadelphia Building & Construction Trades Council

Patrick Gillespie
Business Manager, Philadelphia Building & Construction Trades Council (Retired)

Sheila Hess
City Representative, City of Philadelphia

Daniel J. Hilferty
President & CEO, Independence Blue Cross

Brian Lobley
Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and President, Health Markets, Independence Blue Cross

Kate Masino
General Manager, Patina

William Sasso, ESQ
Chairman, Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP

William Sautter
President & CEO, Elliott-Lewis Corporation

Tamara Scott
Social Media Marketing Manager, Comcast

Molly Watson
Founder & Principal, Evolution Engine

Matt Webb
Senior Vice President, Marketing Strategy, AmerisourceBergen Corporation

Advisory Committee

M. Walter D'Alessio
Vice Chairman, NorthMarq Capital

Nicholas DeBenedictis
Chairman President & CEO, Aqua America (Retired)

Joseph Frick
Former President & CEO, Independence Blue Cross

Rosemarie Greco
Founding Principal, GRECOVentures Ltd

Grant Advisory Committee

Angela M. Allevi, MD
Pediatrician, Division of External Specialty Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics Nemours Children's Health System

Eileen DeBenedictis
Wellness & Fitness Professional, Independent Health

Gregory D. Garber, MSW, LCSW
Director of Oncology Support Services, Department of Medical Oncology, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

Dr. Reetika Kumar
Vice President- Strategic Clinical Solutions, Independence Blue Cross

Fred's Footsteps Staff

Christine DiBona Lobley
Executive Director

Laura Billet Beauchamp
Director of Strategy & Marketing

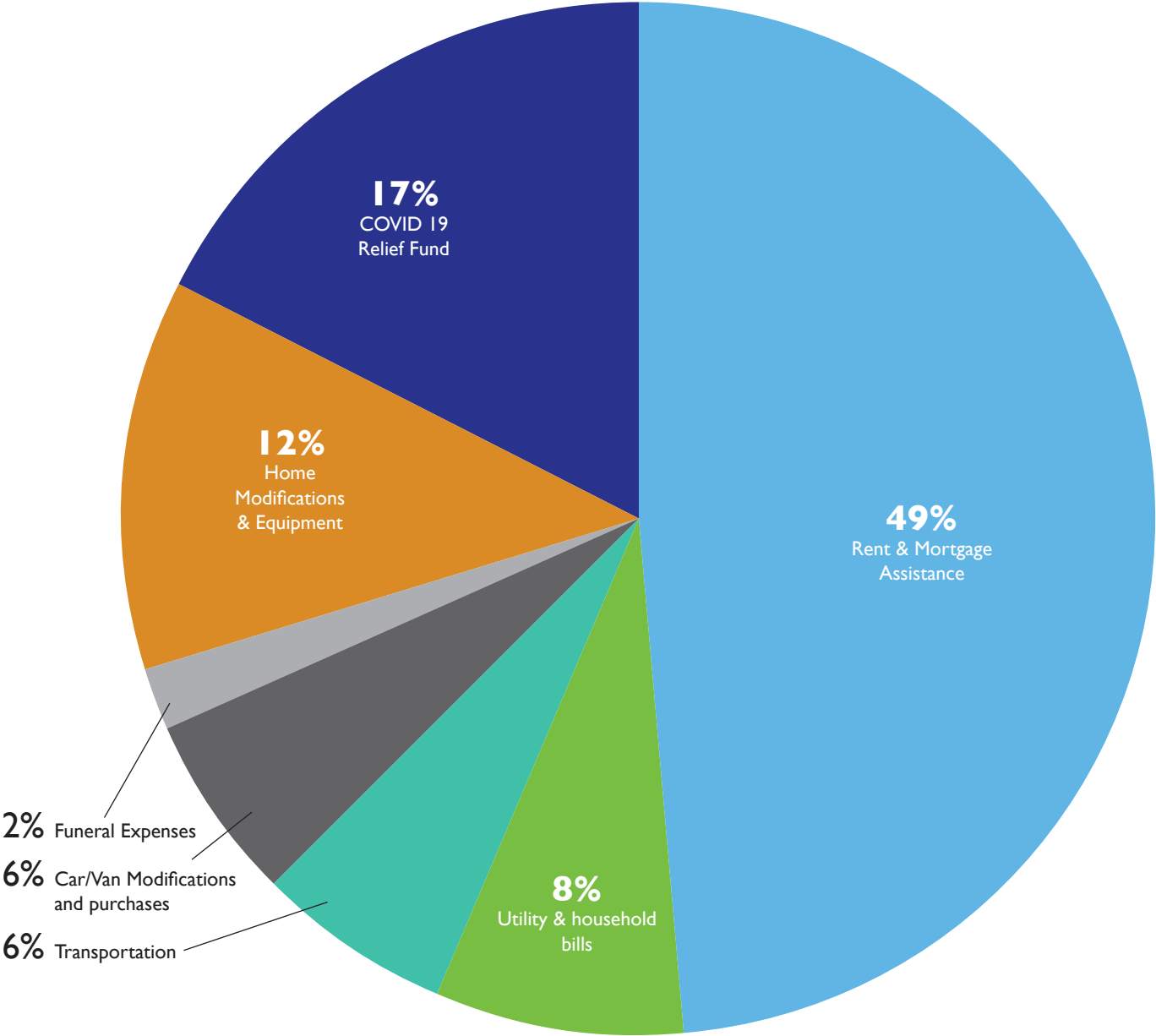
Emily Cheramie-Walz
Director of Communications & Events

Diane Smith-Hoban, MSW, LSW
Program Manager

Marie Vacca, MBA, CFRE
Director of Development

2021: A Year in Numbers

How We Support Families



ETHAN 9/27/2019 – 3/20/2020

“We are so blessed to have been introduced to your organization and the wonderful things you do. At a time where we had to take time off to be in the hospital with our son in the NICU, I did not think we would qualify for any assistance because of our income. But our wonderful social worker gave me the nudge I needed to just try and apply and sure enough we were approved and we are forever grateful.”

Although we are celebrating the holidays without our son Ethan, we are reminded everyday of the lessons he’s taught us and we are surrounded by all the people he’s brought into our lives. Ethan made a great impact on a lot of people and brought a lot of people together. We hope our donation today in honor of our son Ethan will help a family just as we have been helped by your organization.”

\$6,500
AVERAGE GRANT
per family

72%
OF THE FAMILIES
WE WORKED WITH
IN 2021
have one or both caregivers as
ESSENTIAL WORKERS

\$7.2M
invested in the
COMMUNITY
SINCE 2005

645
FAMILIES
served since the
PANDEMIC STARTED
(MARCH 2020)

PARTNERED WITH
OVER 250
SOCIAL WORKERS
AT MORE THAN 30
REGIONAL HOSPITALS
and organizations since 2005

\$700,000
invested in the
COMMUNITY
in 2021

27%
OF THE CHILDREN
IN OUR PROGRAM
have come from a
SINGLE PARENT
HOUSEHOLD

WHERE OUR FAMILIES LIVE

63% **31%** **6%**
PENNSYLVANIA NEW JERSEY DELAWARE

PARTY IN THE BOX
240 participants in our
online program



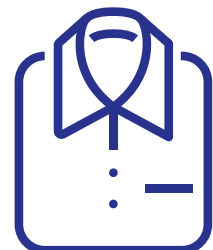
RAISED \$360,000

GOLF FUN DAY
240 golfers at two
golf courses



RAISED \$432,000

**YOUNG PROFESSIONAL'S
GOLF CLASSIC**
33 foursomes



RAISED \$17,000

Family Spotlight



Sweet little Liam was diagnosed in utero with biliary atresia and heterotaxy syndrome, both rare childhood conditions that involve the kidney, heart, and other organs. His mother was under the watchful eye of medical experts at CHOP during her pregnancy, and she delivered in their Special Delivery Unit, full-term on January 5, 2020.

It was known that Liam would eventually need surgery to repair his heart defect, but the family was able to bring him home after minimal time in the hospital. Despite the onset of the covid pandemic, they quickly adjusted to life as a family of four with their older son, Luca, proudly assuming the role of big brother.

Through 2020 and the start of 2021, they were extremely cautious, as Liam was medically fragile. Liam's mom, Jenna and dad, Mike are both Philadelphia high school teachers so managing COVID and juggling schedules was especially stressful. When Liam was about a year and a half old, he was doing well, and it was finally time for his planned heart surgery. The family checked into the hospital, expecting to be there for a few days and soon be on their way to a quick recovery and a planned family beach vacation.

Unfortunately, that was not the case. The surgery was successful but less than 24 hours later, **Liam went into cardiac arrest.** He was placed on life support for nine days so his tiny heart could rest and heal. Once weaned, his recovery was slow, and eventually a pacemaker was placed to help regulate his heart's rhythm. After

so much time critically ill, Liam was then moved to inpatient rehab for physical, occupational, and speech/feeding therapy, to relearn everything including walking, eating, and his precocious, 18-month-old vocabulary.

Liam's surgery and major post-op trauma, followed by unexpected time in the rehab hospital left, Mike and Jenna struggling. It was a wonderful day when Liam was discharged home, but there was a long road ahead for all of them. In addition to needing continued intensive therapies, little Liam was very medically vulnerable and would be unable to attend daycare. Jenna took leave from her teaching job.

That's when the family found Fred's Footsteps. We were able to support them with three months of their mortgage and car payments to give them some much needed financial relief from the near-constant stress of their situation. As their little boy healed, they too were able to breathe easier.

Liam is making wonderful progress in all areas – he is a happy little boy who loves trains, ice cream, chattering the day away, and most especially, playing with his big brother. While Liam will always require ongoing care for his complex medical needs, his parents are thrilled to report he is growing and thriving. **The support from Fred's Footsteps has helped this sweet young family be there for their son during their hardest of times.**

What did 2021 look like for our families?

The families that we serve have been pushed to the limits during this pandemic. On top of the uncertainty we have all faced, our families have been dealing with the roller coaster of their child's health crisis, while also trying to pay the bills, provide a safe home for their family, and keep their medically fragile child protected from a virus that could be completely devastating.

Yet through it all, because of supporters like YOU, Fred's Footsteps was able to give our families some much needed relief. We provided our families with a sense of community and comfort; we gave them hope, restored independence and dignity; and we showered them with joy in small, surprise ways throughout the year.

"You know when there is a drought and you pray for rain? That is what it was like when we got your package today." —Fred's Footsteps family

HOPE

We made sure our families had a home to be together in by making over 177 months of rent and mortgage payments (and counting!)

COMFORT

When the unthinkable happens and a child passes away, our support continues. Over our history we have paid the expenses for dozens of funerals, including three this past year.

INDEPENDENCE

This year, we proudly purchased three specially-adapted tricycles and an all-terrain wheelchair to help children join their siblings and peers in safe play and fun. We also assisted with funding eight wheelchair accessible vans in the past 12 months, ensuring safe family transport for a wheelchair-using child.

COMMUNITY

As fall approached, we knew the transition to in-person learning would be even more difficult after such a tough year. We increased our Back-to-School funding and sent nearly \$20,000 in gift cards to over 200 children to help with school supplies and necessities.

DIGNITY

In 2021, we invested \$84,000 in 17 family bathroom/home accessibility projects, each ensuring a disabled child would be able to safely access and navigate their home.

JOY

A grocery cart full of the fixings for a beautiful Thanksgiving meal. A pile of gifts under the tree and special treats for seasonal celebrations. With our annual holiday funding, these additional supports are gifted to our families. In 2021, over 100 families will receive support at the holidays—that's over 300 generous gift cards!

A Virtual Party in the Yard Celebration



FRED'S FOOTSTEPS

Party IN THE BOX

Missed the 2021 live program?

[WATCH IT HERE](#)

Despite being virtual in 2021, our annual spring fundraising event exceeded expectations and raised over \$360,000 to support our work with families in the region.

With the help of an incredible Event Committee and additional volunteers, we delivered multi-course meals, catered by 12th Street Catering, cocktails and décor to over 250 guests who joined us for a fun and engaging 45-minute program. Hosted by NBC10's Rosemary Connors, the program featured a cocktail class by Aaron Gordon of 13th Street Cocktails, surprise celebrity guest appearances, the stories of families supported by the program, a musical performance by Geron Hoy, and a unique post-event networking experience.

EVENT HOST COMMITTEE

David & Rhonda Cohen
Stefanie & Jeff Dill
Maud & Brian Tierney
Mary Grace & Jack Tighe
Renee & Mike Vennera

EVENT COMMITTEE

Kathy Albanese
Janine Baschoff
Morgan Bedore
Veronica Blum
Teresa DiBona
Tracy Fauls
Marie Gillespie
Ann Grady
Meghan McIntrye
Lisa Oswald
Melissa Reed
Danielle Sinclair
Olivia Witt

PRESENTING "HOPE" SPONSOR



KINDNESS SPONSORS



[Click here for a full list of our 2021 Party in the Box Sponsors.](#)

SAVE THE DATE | SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022

Save the date for our IN PERSON 2022 Party in the Yard event! We can't wait to welcome everyone back to Urban Outfitters, Inc. in the Philadelphia Navy Yard for our 16th Annual event. As we approach planning the event, we will of course take into account the latest safety regulations and precautions. We are excited to incorporate some innovations into the event you know and love!

17th Annual Golf Fun Day



EVENT COMMITTEE

Andrew Addis
Fred DiBona III
John Dougherty, Jr.
Fran Grady
Patrick Gillespie, Jr.
Greg Kozlowski
Alan Krigstein
Brian Lobley
Ted Piotrowicz
Michael Shulof

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our 17th Annual Golf Fun Day on Monday, September 20, 2021, at Philadelphia Country Club and Gulph Mills Golf Club.

We were grateful to be joined once again by Presenting Sponsor Independence Blue Cross and Title Sponsor Accenture for another **SOLD OUT** year that raised \$420,000 to further our work with families in the region. We moved back to our traditional shotgun start this year, and our new outdoor, casual reception was incredibly well received! It was wonderful to all be together after a year and a half of great unknowns.

Special additions to this year's event included some pampering courtesy of the Blind Barber and chair massages by Be Swell LLC Founder and LMT Jeannette Sweeney; plus, our 2021 Technology Sponsor, CapTech, provided a fun Swing Challenge at both courses this year showcasing how technology is changing the game of golf (read more on page 13!).

PRESENTING SPONSOR



TITLE SPONSOR



TECHNOLOGY SPONSOR



DINNER SPONSORS



RAFFLE SPONSORS



THE OSWALD FAMILY

GIVEAWAY SPONSORS



[Click here for a complete list of our 2021 Golf Fun Day Sponsors.](#)

SAVE THE DATE | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

This annual event continues to be a favorite, and so we are excited to return to both courses in 2022! Because the response to this year's event was so tremendous, we will likely follow a similar format next year.

2nd Annual Young Professionals Golf Classic



Building off the tremendous success of our inaugural event, our committed group of volunteers took on the planning and execution of the 2nd Annual Young Professionals Golf class at the 1912 Club on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. The weather gods were in our favor and the clouds parted just before the shotgun start, and we welcomed 33 foursomes for a beautiful day of golf, complete with a raffle, chance auction, and reception in the evening—a nice addition to last year’s more simplified event.

Steamfitters Local 420 joined us again as the event’s Presenting Sponsor, and we were thrilled to welcome Havas Health & You as this year’s Title Sponsor. Thanks to all of the 2021 Sponsors who made this year’s event another **SOLD OUT** success!

GOLF CLASSIC EVENT COMMITTEE

- Regina Heffernan
- Kristen Easton
- Mike Conaboy
- Chris Rehmann
- Sonnedria Miller
- Dan Whitzer
- Kevin Longo

PRESENTING SPONSOR



TITLE SPONSOR



RECEPTION SPONSORS



LUNCH SPONSORS



GIVEAWAY SPONSORS



RAFFLE SPONSORS

CHRISTINE &
BRIAN LOBLEY



BEER SPONSORS

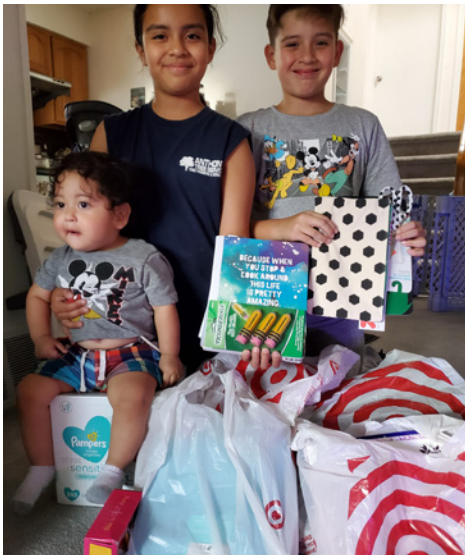


Program Highlights

When a family is accepted into the Fred's Footsteps program, they receive a call immediately from their social worker informing them of the status of their application, quickly followed by a connection to Fred's Footsteps Program Manager, Diane Smith-Hoban. The relief is immediate, and the Fred's staff quickly takes the burden of their debt and bills off their shoulders, allowing them to catch their breath and focus on their child.

What they may not realize right away is the incredible support that is provided, unexpectedly, throughout the remainder of the year, in addition to this immediate relief. Families receive warm check-ins from Diane throughout the year offering emotional support as well as connections to other opportunities, and surprise treats in the form of three—or more—packages in the mail!

“When someone’s going through a tough time, little gifts they send are wonderful. You know that [Fred’s Footsteps] is on the path with you. You know you’re not going through this super tough time alone.” —Fred's Footsteps Family



BACK TO SCHOOL

August brings Back-to-School stress. This year, Fred's Footsteps was so pleased to support our children learning both remotely and in-person, as well as our littlest children, with a \$200 gift card to help them get ready for the year ahead. Nearly \$20,000 of additional funding was distributed to our families through this program.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a time of togetherness and gratitude, but it can also be a tremendously stressful season. Our Thanksgiving program continues in earnest this year, and we have provided supermarket gift cards to all families in the program with a note that Thanksgiving is courtesy of The GIANT Company. (See page 17 for complete details!)

WINTER HOLIDAYS

Providing a robust winter holiday celebration for their families may be off the table during their heightened time of need. Fred's Footsteps distributes gift cards to each family so that they can purchase items for their children, plus we surprise the parents/caregivers with a little something just to treat themselves. These gifts bring so much astonishment, hope, and joy to the families who receive them.

Partner Spotlights

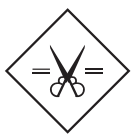
There are SO MANY ways to give to Fred's Footsteps, and every contribution makes a lasting impact on the life of a deserving family. Here are just a few partner highlights from 2021 to show the incredible creative engagement of our community.

CapTech.

We were thrilled to welcome CapTech as our first Golf Fun Day Technology Sponsor! As part of their sponsorship this



year, the IT and Management Consulting company provided an exciting new experience showcasing how technology is evolving in the game of golf. Using a radar-based launch monitor called the Mevo FlightScope, CapTech measured tee shots on the course. The monitor captured metrics including club speed, ball spin rate, carry distance and shot trajectory, and recorded a video of each participant's shot, which was sent directly to the golfer via e-mail. It was a great enhancement to the event this year!



BLIND BARBER



Guests of September's Golf Fun Day enjoyed a "Complimentary Clean Up & Style" from the Blind Barber, a neighborhood barbershop and lounge born in NYC with locations now in Philadelphia and around the country. Barber Alex Brenard provided a refreshing combination of quality hair trimming and signature grooming products to golfers who took advantage of the amenity. The pampering was elevated with an essential oil infused hot or cold towel. It was a special treat to our golfers this year, and the start of what we hope will be a long-lasting partnership with Blind Barber!



A big thank you to the newly formed affinity group, Families@Amazon for donating an Oculus Quest 2 Advanced All -in-One



Virtual Reality Gaming Headset for our Golf Fun Day Mega Raffle. Did you know that in-kind donations such as this help to save on Fred's Footsteps' expenses, thereby allowing more event revenue to go directly to families in our community? Find out more about how you can play a part in this meaningful work on [our website](#).



PORSCHE
Porsche of The Main Line



Since Fred's Footsteps was created in 2005, Bob Distanislaio, owner of RDS Automotive Group has been a huge part of our work, showing up year after year with their gorgeous cars for our hole-in-one competition during the Golf Fun Day. They have also given generously to nearly every silent auction we have had over our near 17 years of operation. Bob was a dear friend of Fred's, and his generosity has made such a difference in our mission.

Donor Spotlights

Ever wonder how you can get further involved in supporting Fred's Footsteps? Here are some ways our donors have increased their support around a cause they are passionate about.

FOUNDATION GIVING

The Legacy Foundation supported Fred's Footsteps with a grant of \$18,670. These funds made it possible for Fred's Footsteps to subsidize the purchase of a van with modifications for one family to transport their child safely; purchase a specialized tricycle for a little girl to be able to do her physical therapy and join her peers on bike rides; and it helped relieve some financial stress from another family by covering three months mortgage and utility payments.

We are so grateful for The Legacy Foundation's continued support!

"The Legacy Foundation is excited to support Fred's Footsteps in the unbelievable assistance they provide to families in need. Legacy Foundation and Fred's Footsteps are completely aligned and we are thrilled to partner with them again.

—Ted Piotrowicz, Trustee

HOLIDAY CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN



At the end of last year, the Johnson & Johnson Women's Leadership & Inclusion of West Chester participated in our Holiday Crowdfunding Campaign and raised more than \$6,400 to support our families during the holiday season. Over 38 employees donated personally to the fundraising campaign, and through their generous match program, Johnson & Johnson matched the final donation with a 2:1 contribution. A big shout out to Melissa McCullough for spearheading this effort!

"As employees of Johnson & Johnson, we believe in supporting our neighbors, communities, and charities in need. We were happy to partner with Fred's Footsteps in making a direct impact on the lives of our community."

—DePuy Synthes WLI Chapter

MONTHLY DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Chris Rehmann, left, with volunteers and former Fred's Footsteps Fellows: Sonnonedria Miller, Kristen Easton and Regina Heffernan.

We recently launched a monthly-giving program and have been thrilled with the response. In addition to benefitting Fred's Footsteps because it is a source of reliable financial support, many donors find it's a tremendously easy way to give over the course of the year, with donations of a specific amount being automatically deducted each month. Why not redirect your weekly \$5 latte treat to benefit our families? Chris Rehmann did!

"I was introduced to Fred's Footsteps three years ago, and since that time I have been looking for more and more ways get involved with the organization. The team at Fred's does amazing things for families in need, which is evident to me each and every time I am able to volunteer with them. And after learning how far a monthly financial contribution can go to helping a family feel a little less stress during tough times, I made the easy decision to donate. It is the least I can do to help Fred's Footsteps continue its mission."

Fred's Footsteps Champion



For 17 years, **Dick Vermeil** has been a pillar of the Fred's Footsteps Golf Fun Day as our live auctioneer. For anyone who has attended, you will recall the audience being captivated as Coach starts off by analyzing the Eagles game on the previous day and giving his predictions for the season. Then, in his unique fashion he starts the bidding, often bidding on items himself. Through the auction, he has helped raised over \$600K on trips, wine experiences, sports tickets, memorabilia and much more. Not only has he given his time and talent, but along with his wife, Carol, he has given generously through their personal foundation.

This year, Coach Vermeil was selected as a Hall of Fame finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Please join Fred's Footsteps in thanking him for his commitment to our mission and congratulating him on this incredible honor. Good luck, Coach!



Volunteer Spotlight



Board Member Sheila Hess with John C. Butts at Golf Fun Day.

JOHN C. BUTTS

Recognized by communities across Philadelphia for his incredible passion and commitment, John Butts has a long history of activism and volunteerism for area nonprofits. At Fred's Footsteps, we have been blessed with John's time and energy since our start in 2005. John was one of four founding associates to help launch The Blue Crew at Independence Blue Cross, and he has given tirelessly over the many years to the benefit of our families.



From left to right, our founding Friends of Fred's Board: Tamara Scott, Chris Curcio, Ekta Butala, and Regina Heffernan at the kick-off event at SPIN in May 2019.

EKTA BUTALA & TAMARA SCOTT

Fred's Footsteps is excited to welcome a new leadership team to the Friends of Fred's! The group was started in 2019 to engage emerging professionals in meaningful and fun activities to raise awareness and support Fred's Footsteps mission. Ekta and Tamara were founding board members and worked tirelessly to create a vision and goals for the group that would be not only attainable, but highly successful as well. The group is planning several exciting events for 2022. Stay tuned!

Thanksgiving Partnership



Fred's Footsteps was honored to partner with **The GIANT Company** and the **Please Touch Museum** for our Thanksgiving program this year. Thanks to the generosity of these two organizations, families currently enrolled in our program received a **\$250 Giant gift card, plus a three-month membership for their entire family to the children's museum.**

The partnership was celebrated on **Sunday, November 14** at the Museum, when Fred's Footsteps families joined us for exploration and fun to kick off the holiday season. The Museum closed early so our guests could have the entire space to themselves. In addition to families currently enrolled in the program, we were joined by Board Members, friends, and staff of the organization. At the conclusion of the event, everyone was surprised with their Thanksgiving packages and rides on the famous carousel.

“This beautiful gift will ensure that our families will be able to share a meal with their loved ones this Thanksgiving, and that they will have some enriching fun to look forward to with their children as well. We hope that this is the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership.

GIANT's core message is that the world is a better place when families come together at their table and connect over a meal, and their generosity is allowing our families to do just that this year. The party at the Please Touch Museum was a joyous way to celebrate together and be thankful for our blessings.” —Christine DiBona Loble



Making Headlines



Local news coverage of nonprofit activities remains elusive as the ongoing result of shrinking newsrooms, budgets, and attention to positive stories; but the community got a little boost in 2019 when journalist Ronnie Polaneczky started “The Upside” in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, a four-page Sunday section of stories that “celebrate the best of us – and the best in us.”

The Philadelphia Inquirer

We were thrilled when we caught the interest of writer Kevin Riordan, who was intrigued by the way Fred's Footsteps had been able to quickly respond to the growing needs of our community during the COVID-19 crisis.

The resulting piece was a true win: an article that expertly summarized the work of Fred's Footsteps to alleviate worry and stress to families in the Greater Philadelphia Region who are struggling while caring for a medically complex child, while also focusing in on our COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund and the timeliness of those distribution activities.

Like many nonprofits, we wear many hats and are multi-faceted. The *Inquirer* article touched on a number of our activities, from the operations of our Grant Advisory Committee, to the fundraising efforts of the Friends of Fred's, and most importantly to our daily inspiration and the reason for our work: the legacy of G. Fred DiBona, Jr.

Enormous appreciation to the Wallace, Scattolino, and Hines families for inviting us into their homes; and to Greg Garber and Tamara Scott for not only contributing endlessly to our work, but for speaking about it so eloquently.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Our Donors

Thank You

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donors for their generosity and support of Fred's Footsteps. The following list reflects all gifts and pledges received during the 2021 calendar year.*

Over \$25,000

Accenture
Sylvia DiBona & Family
Jennifer & Chris Gavigan
Dan & Joan Hilferty
HM Insurance Group
Independence Blue Cross

\$15,000 – \$24,999

Jonathan & Linda Brassington
The College Tuition Benefit
HM Health Solutions
IBEW Local 98
The Legacy Foundation
Leverage Health Solutions, LLC
Jane Scaccetti
Socius
Tandigm Health
Vynamic

\$10,000 – \$14,999

The Abele Family Foundation
AmeriHealth Caritas
AmeriHealth NJ
Anonymous
Debra & Van Billet
David Caddick
John & Mary Jean Dougherty
Pat & Arlene Gillespie
Pat & Shannon Gillespie
Guardian Life Insurance
Johnson Kendall & Johnson
Greg & Patty Kozlowski
Christine & Brian Loble
Frank & Bettina Lomanno
Sue & Tom McGrath
McKinsey & Company
Old Glory Asset Management, LLC.
Relay Network
Steamfitters Local 420
Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young LLP
Mike Sullivan & Carrie Coghil
Jack & Mary Grace Tighe
United Concordia

\$7,500 – \$9,999

Advanced Provider Solutions
Brian Communications
Capgemini
Elliott-Lewis Corporation
EY
Modera Wealth Management, LLC
New Ocean Health Solutions
NorthMarq Advisors
The Oswald Family
Prime Therapeutics



EDWARD



EMMA

“Our family greatly thanks Fred’s Footsteps and their tremendous support throughout this past year. Along with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, our family was faced with a lot of uncertainty when it came to our son, Eddie’s health issues. Having to spend 4 months from birth in the CHOP NICU was no easy thing. It affected our family in indescribable ways, but with support from the NICU team and Fred’s Footsteps we were able to push through those trying times and appreciate being in the moment.”

“This is Emma! Emma was born at 25 weeks, [and weighed just] 1 lb 1 oz. She was in the hospital from birth until 13-months-old. Fred’s Footsteps helped us enormously during this time. Juggling time between our four boys and our little girl at a hospital two hours away was stressful, but the added stress of keeping up with finances and trying to work enough made it far worse. Fred’s Footsteps eased this burden for us, allowing me to spend the most time with Emma and care for my boys without the added worry. Thank you Fred’s Footsteps!”

\$5,000 – \$7,499

a2c IT Consulting
AmerisourceBergen
Bank of America
Beacon Healthcare Systems
BlackRock
Michael Bova & Rachel Rosen
Yvette & Robert Bright
CapTech
The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Comcast NBCUniversal
Contemporary Staffing Solutions
Crumdale Partners
Nick & Eileen DeBenedictis
The Robert N. DeBenedictis Foundation
Deloitte & Touche, LLP
Fred & Teresa DiBona
Emerson Reid, LLC
John & Trisha Fistner
FluidEdge Consulting
The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
Malik Jackson
Alan & Karen Krigstein
Laborers’ District Council of Philadelphia & Vicinity
Legacy Advisors
Magic Hat Consulting
MDLIVE
NewSpring Capital
NFP
Nicole & Nathaniel Nucci
Paul Olson
One Digital/Kistler-Tiffany Benefits Company
Pennoni

The Philadelphia Phillies
Tom & Deb Quirk
Raffaele & Puppio, LLP
SDLC
Simkiss & Block
Jack & Alisha Slye
Rich & Kori Snyder
Sterling Benefits
Paula Sunshine & Bob Kagan
Tierney
Dick & Carol Vermeil

\$2,500 – \$4,999

Barksdale Investment Management
Cabot-Kjellerup Foundation
Christopher & Marianne Cashman
Christenson Investment Partners
David & Rhonda Cohen
Tony & Karen Coletta
Chris & Sophia Curcio
Drucker & Scaccetti
Flexible Benefit Plans
Joe & Amy Frick
Global Tax Management
Fran & Anne Grady
Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller
Hardman Johnston Global Advisors
David & Jessica Hayne
Holy Redeemer Health System
Johnson & Johnson Matching Gifts Program
Michael Laign
Anthony Maleno
Mike & Stacey Murphy

Oliver Wyman
Peter Panageas
The Philadelphia Eagles
Jim & Linda Pizzi
Christopher Rehmann
Jen & Mickey Sala
Sheet Metal Workers Local #19
Suga & Jared Smith
Mike & Renee Vennera
Vybe Urgent Care

\$1,000 – \$2,499

365 Health Services
James Aleo
Aqua
Kathy Albanese
Julie & Kyle Bartl
Chris & Marianne Cashman
Mac Casey
The Dale Reese Foundation
Jim & Lynn Dever
Brian Dolan
Theresa & Joe Dowd
Kristen & Sean Easton
Christine Funkhouser
GlobalFit
Nicole Gold
Kelly & Mike Gregor
AJ Healy
IntePros Consulting
Donald Keim
James & Susan Kelly
Tom & Fran Kelly
Kendra Scott, LLC
Reetika Kumar & Bobby Ma



TANNER

“Here is Tanner! ...She absolutely loves her bike! It has been such a blessing to our family. It is so nice Tanner has something that allows her to just be with all the other kids. She also gets so many compliments on her bike which is super cute! Thank you again from [our] family!! Your organization has been such a blessing!”



LUCY

“We are doing well, and Lucy is doing great! She has really caught up developmentally and is happy and healthy! We feel so grateful for all the support we received from you and everyone at Fred’s Footsteps! We are 100% certain that she would not be where she is today without us being able to focus on her care and not worry so much about bills and expenses while she was in the hospital.”

\$1,000 – \$2,499 CONT.

James Lasher
Charisse Lillie
Juan & Melania Lopez
Richard & Pamela Lungen
Brett Mayfield
Joe & Kris Mattera
Debra Meislich
Ernest Menold
Deepa Mischler
Multiplan, Inc.
Ken Norton
Jen & Pat Padden
Tara & Jason Parr
Jill Pawlenko
The PHIA Group
Ted Piotrowicz
Eric Raymond
Margaret Russell
The John F. Scarpa Foundation
Phil & Sasha Schrode
David Silverstein
Mark Sobieski
Steve & Andria Tremblay
Megan Vesely
Tom Whitworth

We offer a special thanks to the following individuals and businesses who have given significant in-kind goods and services in 2021.

1912 Club
12th Street Catering
13th Street Cocktails
Amazon
Joe Barker
Blue Monkey Catering
Veronica & Daniel Blum
Bombas Socks
Brainbridge LTD
Burlington
Circle Liquors, Somers Point
Diamante Roja
Joe & Theresa Dowd
Elkins Park Family Medicine,
Dr. Rachel Rosen
Bob and Rosella English
ESF camps, Michael Rouse
Five Iron Golf

Independence Blue Cross
IntePros Consulting
Jtwo Films-Projects that Matter
Joseph Anthony Retreat Spa and Salon
Kendra Scott, King of Prussia
Kenwood Original
Greg & Patty Kozlowski
La Colombe
Newman Wine
Penn Plastic Surgery
The Philadelphia Phillies
The Philadelphia Eagles
RDS Automotive Group
Savona Restaurant
Synergetic
Triangle Roasters
Marc Vetri
Brian Walters

*Please note that gifts listed were received before November 18, 2021. Pledges from employee contribution campaigns that will be received in 2022 are not included in this report. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy and we apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions.

THANK YOU EMILY!



We cannot conclude the 2021 Gratitude Report without thanking someone truly special to the Fred's Footsteps family: **EMILY CHERAMIE-WALZ**. Emily has been a tremendous part of our success and growth over the past seven years. She has been integral in so many facets of this organization including events, marketing, social media, development, and beyond. From helping transform Party in the Yard into the event you know and love, to introducing people to the heart of our mission through our online presence, Emily has left a lasting impact on Fred's Footsteps and the families we serve.

Please join us in wishing Emily all the best in her next venture!