



Fred's Footsteps

2022 Gratitude Report



Dear Friends,

We are on course to assist more families in 2022 than ever before in our 17-year history. We can continue to meet this growing need and say 'yes' to families thanks to this **amazing community**. Our donors and partners showed up in a big way this year.

You came out enthusiastically for Party in the Yard where we returned in person, and raised a record amount.

We teed up some big drives and funds at Golf Fun Day.

And most importantly, we made local families feel seen and not alone—and changed the trajectory of so many lives.

From the bottom of our hearts, **thank you.**



Christine DiBona Lobley
Executive Director

VISION

**So a child's care
can be a parent's
only worry.**

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.

Special thanks
to our dedicated
staff



Fred's Footsteps Staff Marie Vacca, Laura Bilette-Beauchamp, Christine DiBona Lobley, Diane Smith-Hoban, Kate Slider

Thank you to our Board of Directors for their tireless support and expert shepherding of this organization.

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IN MEMORIAM

Patrick B. Gillespie, Sr.



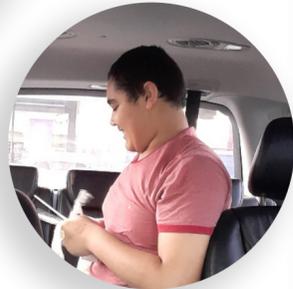
Fred's Footsteps continues to mourn the loss of our beloved **Patrick B. Gillespie, Sr.**, founding member of the Fred's Footsteps Board of Directors. Pat served for over 17 years until his death on August 29, 2022. He was Fred DiBona's dearest and most cherished friend who, together with his wife, Arlene, and kids, became one of our organization's most dedicated supporters – and we are forever grateful.

To honor his memory and his legacy as the business manager for the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council, we have started **Pat's Projects**, a dedicated fund for home renovation and accessibility projects that provide safety and independence for children in our program.



[LEARN MORE](#)





With everything our families are managing, to receive their heartfelt gratitude for our assistance is heartwarming and humbling. Our families are truly incredible, and always bursting with gratitude for all of you.



A letter to the Fred's Footsteps Community

First and foremost, I would like to send my blessings on behalf of my whole family to the whole Fred's Footsteps family, for **your organization has not only truly changed my son, Gilbert's, life, but our family's as well.** We were able to purchase a van with your funding, and we also received a gift card to help with his school supplies. We no longer have to worry about getting reliable transportation to and from school or his appointments. **He can experience the outside world and know he too is a part of it!**

Gilbert's new life begins all thanks to your organization for hearing our pleas and seeing Gilbert as a valuable part of society. For so long I felt alone, holding Gilbert's hand through his challenging path, and felt I had nowhere to turn. I lost hope and began to believe this was just the way living with Autism in a family was like. **My social workers, and the whole Fred's Footsteps organization, have restored my faith in humanity.** I now know that people see Gilbert and understand the struggles and challenges that come along with Autism. I am so grateful for all of you! Gilbert has been smiling and squealing in his new van. I was able to drive him to the park and let him slide and swing, and the joy in his heart I felt with all in me. I cried with happiness and disbelief that this was really possible.

There are no words to express how deeply I feel about this blessing. You are forever in our prayers and hearts. **Please know that what you all do is change lives and make such an impact in people's hearts.** You all are blessings and thank you so much for being my son's guardian angels. May God always continue granting you all blessings. Thank you so much!

Carmen

Single mom and full-time health care worker, Carmen, leads a busy life with her son, 15-year-old Gilbert and his older sister, Malejha. Gilbert, who loves playgrounds and his family, lives with Autism, a seizure disorder, and has global developmental delays.

As he has grown, these challenges have made it increasingly difficult for Carmen to take Gilbert out of their Oxford Circle home in Northeast Philadelphia. Except for when at school or with his aides, Gilbert relies solely on his mom who often must miss days from work to manage his intensive needs.

Gilbert has been a patient at St. Christopher's his entire life. Even through times of difficulty, Carmen never asked for financial help, and instead quietly struggled on her own.

As their social worker told us: "Gilbert's family has been coming to our clinic for 12 years and I only recently became aware of his escalating difficulties. Mom was doing everything herself and never asked anyone for assistance. Gilbert is having trouble managing on the bus and at school because of his intensive needs and is spending many days at home, isolated from the community and missing out on so much. His mother would like to be able to take him out in the world."

Gilbert was recently fitted for a specially-equipped stroller that can safely be used for travel. **And, with financial support from Fred's Footsteps, Carmen was finally able to purchase a safe and reliable van to make her dream of access for Gilbert a reality.**



18th Annual Fred's Footsteps Golf Fun Day

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the **sold out** 18th Annual Golf Fun Day on Monday, September 19, 2022. Attendees enjoyed a day of golf, tailgate themed reception and lively auction. The evening was capped off with an Eagles Monday Night Football win! A special thanks to our incredible event committee and sponsors.



Party in the Yard

The return of the in-person Party in the Yard was a roaring success! On May 14, 2022 over 400 attendees joined us at Urban Outfitters, Inc. in the Navy Yard for an evening of 1920s-themed cocktails, delicious food, music and more. Special thanks to our incredible event committee and all the sponsors and attendees!

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The Oswald Family

Save the Date! Party in the Yard will return to Urban Outfitters, Inc. on March 4, 2023.



It takes a village! Community engagement and collaboration is critical to our success at Fred's Footsteps. We are so appreciative of our team of volunteers, partners, and supporters whose initiatives over the past year helped us make an even greater impact for families this year.

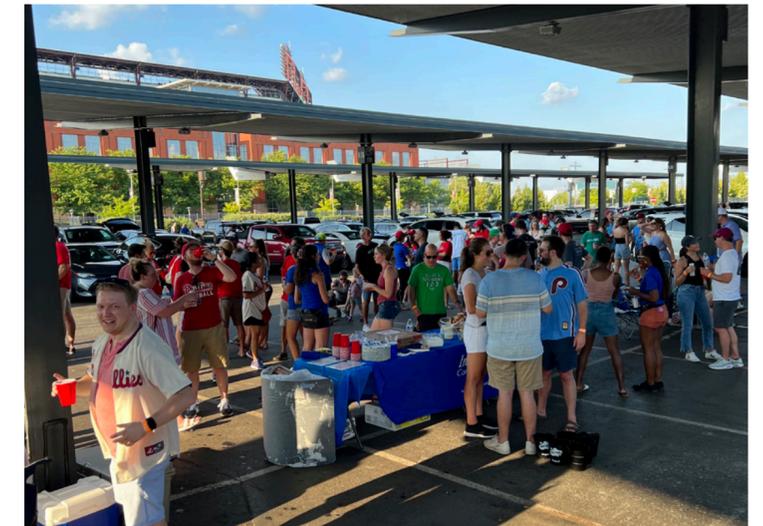
To get involved or host your own event, contact Marie Vacca.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GOLF CLASSIC



GIVE T/E



FRIENDS OF FRED'S PHILLIES TAILGATE

This year's 3rd Annual Young Professionals Golf Classic raised more than \$22,000 in support of Fred's Footsteps' mission, bringing its fundraising total to over \$50,000 since the event's inception in 2020. Congratulations to our dedicated event committee on this incredible success, and thank you!

Fred's Footsteps was honored to be selected as the Give T/E fall recipient! Give T/E is a charitable initiative made up of women from the Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships who gather twice a year with the goal of making a positive impact on their community by giving \$15,000 to a local charity. We could not be more thrilled to invest this money right back into Chester County to help families who are struggling to make ends meet while caring for a sick, disabled, or injured child. Thank you!

Special thanks to our Friends of Fred's Board, for hosting such a fun night at the Phillies on August 4, 2022 and for raising money and awareness for Fred's Footsteps. The Phillies brought home an incredible win and one of our attendees even caught a foul ball!

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