Children’s Cancer & Blood Foundation
RESEARCH. CARE. CURE.

50 Years of Leadership in Research & Treatment
Dear Friends:

For 57 years, the Children’s Cancer & Blood Foundation (CCBF) has set the standard for patient care for children with cancer and blood diseases. The CCBF supports the pioneering and lifesaving work of the Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Each year we treat thousands of children with a wide range of congenital and acquired pediatric blood diseases from cancers to sickle cell to HIV/AIDS. We support a truly incredible group of doctors, scientists and staff committed to finding cures, as well as new and better treatments for these youngsters regardless of their ability to pay.

We have made great advances in many of these diseases in recent years. Our programs treat young patients from all over the world with state-of-the-art protocols, and conduct cutting-edge research to find new treatments and cures for young people dealing with a range of cancers and blood diseases.

Winning the battle against childhood diseases truly depends upon improving access to quality healthcare. Thanks to the CCBF’s support, no child is ever turned away. Our Fund for Critical After-Care also provides patients and their families with support for those needs outside their medical treatment, such as transportation, medications and home care.

To continue our mission to provide funding to treat the thousands of young patients who visit our clinic, and continue to support groundbreaking research each year, we need the help of individuals and institutions who are committed to our shared mission.

Thank you for your support.

Les J. Lieberman, Chairman of the Board
Ron Iervolino, President
From Bedside to Bench

The CCBF, through its support of the Division of Hematology and Oncology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, has helped revolutionize the treatment of children suffering from cancers and childhood blood disorders. As a result, children are able to live longer, healthier lives. The Division is internationally recognized for its clinical faculty, scientists and specialized team of talented doctors, nurses and child life specialists.

CCBF is committed to supporting the innovative research that has led to many award-winning breakthroughs, and the clinical work that provides comfort and hope for our young patients and their families. Each day we are a little closer to developing new treatments and cures for children with these diseases, as advances can quickly be translated into treatment.

Even as children and their families receive the most advanced, comprehensive care from a team of pediatric specialists in an atmosphere of compassion, hope and wellness, our internationally recognized doctors and scientists are developing breakthrough cures in our 6,000 square-foot state-of-the-art laboratory.

Genetic screening, counseling and prenatal diagnostic services complement the medical care program, and support groups help the patients and their families adjust to the stress and complications which often accompany living with a chronic illness.
Treatment

Today, the Division of Hematology and Oncology sponsors the nation’s largest thalassemia clinic, the most extensive hemophilia center in metropolitan New York and the country’s largest center for research and care for Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura, or ITP, a platelet disorder.

At our clinic, 38% of our total pediatric visits are for the treatment of childhood cancer. Seventy-five percent of children and teenagers with cancer can be cured with current treatments. For ALL, the most common type of childhood leukemia, the success rate is over 80%. Long-term survival rate of children with leukemia, previously 1%, has dramatically increased to 70% today and is rising. Approximately 1,000 new childhood cancers are diagnosed in the U.S. each month. It is the number one cause of non-accidental (disease-related) death in children. The cancer survival rate for children has dramatically improved over time, especially in the last 30 years. Curative therapies have improved and overall mortality has declined in the past 20 years, still one out of five patients are not cured.

Our world-renowned thalassemia clinic treats hundreds of patients yearly. Children with thalassemia, an inherited form of anemia, who rarely survived past age twelve, now live long, productive lives with hope for a cure on the horizon. Thalassemia is prevalent in children of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern descent, Asians and Southeast Asians. Our comprehensive Thalassemia Center is one of only ten centers in the country supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Our sickle cell clinic provides comprehensive care. Sickle cell affects one of every 1,300 infants and one of every 400 infants of African descent. Over 300,000 children each year are born with sickle cell disease.

Approximately 200,000 adults in the United States currently suffer from ITP, with 1 in every 10,000 people being diagnosed with the disease each year. ITP is a rare blood disorder characterized by an abnormally low platelet count. Patients often experience episodes of spontaneous bruising, bleeding and, in severe cases, brain hemorrhage.

Our clinic houses one of the largest hemophilia treatment centers in the United States, providing comprehensive medical care to over 300 children and adults with bleeding disorders. Our clinical research trials have resulted in new and more effective treatments for hemophilia patients worldwide.

Quality comprehensive medical services as well as psychological and social work support with genetic counseling are provided for each child and family regardless of their ability to pay or inadequacy of their insurance coverage.
Treating patients, clockwise from top:
Alexander Aledo, M.D.
Suchitra Acharya, M.D.
James Bussel, M.D.
World Renowned Research and Innovation

The Children’s Cancer & Blood Foundation is the oldest and largest organization in the United States dedicated to the care of children suffering from cancer and blood diseases.

Among the many breakthroughs at CCBF have been state-of-the-art treatments for hemophilia and iron chelation therapy to alleviate iron toxicity in thalassemia patients.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently approved the CCBF Gene Therapy Laboratory to move ahead to clinical trials for gene transfer therapy that will hopefully lead to a cure for sickle cell anemia, thalassemia and other genetic blood disorders.

Our lab has already cured a mouse model with this new research and we now believe a cure is close at hand.

We are conducting breakthrough research that will impact both childhood as well as adult cancers that may lead to better treatments and cures. Our doctors are leading a clinical study involving hundreds of pediatric and adult cancer patients to identify how bone marrow stem cells spread cancer, in order to better understand and target tumor growth and metastases. The researchers are looking at childhood leukemia, lymphomas, breast, colon and lung cancer.

The New England Journal of Medicine published the results of two separate clinical research studies that demonstrated that new drug treatments developed in studies led by CCBF doctors successfully increased platelets and decreased bleeding in patients with Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP). Our patients have had great results with this drug treatment.

Our Cellular Immunology Laboratory is studying how enhancing the body’s natural immune response can provide a first defense against opportunistic infections that frequently occur in children with chronic blood disorders or cancer.

Susanna Cunningham-Rundles, Ph.D. in lab
CCBF research team members: David Lyden, M.D., Ph.D.; Stefano Rivella, Ph.D.; Patricia Giardina, M.D.; Rosandra Kaplan, M.D.; Robert Grady, Ph.D.
Giving Back

The CCBF may be dedicated to helping people, but we find it remarkable how often people help us fulfill our mission, sometimes in the most unexpected ways.

Toys for Tots
Each year the Masonic Toys for Tots Foundation celebrates the holidays with gifts for children and financial support for the CCBF. Our young patients receive truckloads of holiday gifts and our clinicians and scientists receive funding to continue their breakthrough research and treatment of children’s diseases.

Hats for Hope
When Lauren Nadan was visiting the clinic for her own medical treatment, she saw children battling serious illnesses that required chemotherapy. One of the side effects that affected Lauren enormously was seeing the loss of hair on these children. She wanted to help them in a way that would be tremendously uplifting by providing these children with very stylish and trendy designer hats.

With the help of friends as well as nurses, doctors and administrators associated with CCBF, “Hats for Hope” was born. “Hats for Hope” has received donations from top designers and well-known clothing stores.

Wheels for Kids
When he was five years old, Evan Stanton Reeves was diagnosed with a rare and chronic blood disease, Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP). As a patient at the CCBF clinic, Evan was struck by what the other kids were going through. Swollen from steroids and other medications, “when they walked around they seemed to be supporting themselves with their intravenous stands rather than pulling them along,” says Evan. He never forgot the other children he saw at the Children’s Cancer & Blood Foundation who were battling illnesses that were even more debilitating than his.

So he decided to do something for them. Evan raised money by bicyling up the famous Natchez Trace to Nashville in four days – a 444-mile trip – to benefit the Children’s Cancer & Blood Foundation.
Clockwise from top: Hats for Hope with James Bussel, M.D. and Lauren Nadan; Big Apple Circus clowns visiting clinic; Evan Stanton Reeves on his bicycle
There are five designated areas that we have targeted for increased support. They include:

**Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Program**
We have the most comprehensive program in the U.S., treating children with thalassemia and sickle cell disease, both genetic diseases where red cells are rapidly destroyed. Transfusions are lifesaving but result in excess iron that requires chelation. Our sickle cell program provides comprehensive medical care and genetic and prenatal counseling that has improved life expectancy for patients with sickle cell disease. Life expectancy with thalassemia has been doubled, but treatments can cost up to $100,000 per year.

**Oncology Program**
A large amount of support is required to provide the best quality comprehensive medical care, psychosocial support and genetic counseling to our children with cancer. For example, comprehensive treatment of ALL lasts 2-3 years, can cost up to $70,000 per patient, and nearly 30% of our patients have Medicaid or are uninsured.

**ITP and Hemophilia Program**
Ours is one of the largest hemophilia treatment centers in the United States providing comprehensive medical care to over 300 children and adults with bleeding disorders. Approximately 200,000 adults in the United States currently suffer from Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), with 1 in every 10,000 people being diagnosed with the disease each year. Three times more women than men have ITP. Our clinic is the leading center in the world for treating ITP.

**Children’s Fund for Critical After-Care**
All patients – regardless of their ability to pay – receive quality care even after they are discharged from the hospital. The fund assists patients with basic needs often not covered by health insurance such as social work services, transportation, medications or home health care.

**CCBF Fellowship Program**
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center is internationally known as a leader in the training and education of young physicians pursuing a practice in pediatric hematology and oncology. CCBF co-sponsors a three-year fellowship-training program with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. To date, more than 165 fellows from around the world have completed the program, and many of these physicians have become leaders in pediatric hematology and oncology within the United States and throughout the world.

Join the Children’s Cancer & Blood Foundation — Your support can save a life!
People just like you have already helped us make these tremendous strides, but we don’t want to slow down – please consider a tax-deductible gift to CCBF and help us keep this promising momentum going.

None of our work would be possible without the generous help of people like you.

Your charitable gift will help CCBF continue to offer quality care and remain a pioneer in pediatric hematology and oncology research.

You can choose a specific clinical program or area of research to support through your donation.

Memorial and Tribute Gifts
These gifts allow you to make a donation in the name of a loved one.

Volunteer!
The Children’s Cancer & Blood Foundation is always looking for dedicated people to help at our clinic and to assist in our fundraising efforts. Share in this rewarding experience.

Other Ways to Help CCBF
There are other ways to be part of CCBF such as planned giving, gifts of stock and employer matching gift programs.

CCBF Website
Visit us online at www.childrensCBF.org to find out more about the CCBF and to access useful resources. You can also donate online and sign up for e-mail updates.