

Amanda Filippazzo, BA
Supervisor of Patient and
Family Centered Care

Dear Little Saint Nick Foundation,

On behalf of the children, families, and staff of Cohen Children's Medical Center of NY, please accept our heartfelt appreciation for your donation of activity bags for our Pediatric Emergency Department (PED) throughout 2018. We truly appreciate all of the hard work and generosity you put forth to sustain this incredible foundation and touch the lives of children and their families.

As you may know, hospital experiences for children are often filled with fear and anxiety. Your continued donation of 300+ activity bags each month goes a long way to alleviate that stress. When children receive your activity bag their entire temperament changes for the better. They get excited to open the bag and see what's inside. These children can then be seen coloring in their new coloring book and holding on tightly to their new stuffed animal "friend". These activities help to distract the patient by allowing them have fun and work on a creative project while they await tests, blood draws, or results. For parents and caregivers, they feel relief in seeing their child smiling and without fear as they enjoy their activity bags.

In our Pediatric Emergency Department, our Concierge, Child Life Specialists, Nurse Manager and staff nurses and receptionist staff all distribute the activity bags to patients. The power of these activity bags does not go unnoticed by our staff and executive leadership. Cohen Children's Director of Patient and Family Centered Care and Patient Experience, Mary Beth Higgins, MS, RN, stated "One of the greatest challenges we face in our Emergency Department is providing parents and children with items that can distract them from the frightening experience of being there. Your activity bags have helped us fill that gap and brought smiles to countless faces. Our sincere thanks for the work you do".

Working with the Little Saint Nick Foundation has been an incredible experience. During flu season we often see an uptick in the number of pediatric patients seen in our Emergency Department. The second week of December 2018, we experienced a surge and had 50 patients in our waiting room alone, not including the patients actively being treated in the PED. Throughout that day and night we used up the last of that month's supply. I reached out to Little Saint Nick Chapter Leader Jake Young, and explained that we had ran out of activity bags due to a surge. The very next day, who pulled up to the main entrance at Cohen Children's but the Young family with a supplementary supply of activity bags! My team and I were so grateful and immediately put those activity bags to work. It is the generosity and dedication to impacting patients' lives that makes the Little Saint Nick Foundation so special.

Once more thank you so much for your continued donations and partnership. Your philanthropy and kindness has helped to put smiles on our patient's faces and brighten their hospital stay. We look forward to impacting more lives through your generous donations.

Sincerely,



Amanda Filippazzo