

# TESTIMONIALS

From Hospitals We've Had the  
Honor of Working With



*little saint nick foundation*  
"Kids helping and inspiring other kids"

To Whom It May Concern:

Our hospital has been privileged to work with the caring, compassionate team behind Little Saint Nick to support children entering care at our hospital with tremendous success. My involvement with the organization began about a year before we launched a partnership through my own personal experience with my son. Our son Dillon was born with medical issues and unfortunately needed to have several surgeries in his young life. Each time we entered the children's hospital for an emergency visit or surgery, one of the gift bags from Little Saint Nick was provided to us. It meant the world to us, someone else cares about our son enough to send gifts that distracted him and a beautiful card from another child. It brought tears to our eyes and meant so much to us as parents and to Dillon, and as a healthcare leader I thought - how can this get to our kids at the hospital? I was fortunate enough to get in touch with Ray who was tremendous and made everything easy from there.

We worked closely together to introduce this to our teams at the hospital who became, and remain, excited about this project. Ray and his team were incredibly helpful in identifying gifts that would be safe for our psychiatric units and organized a bag-packing event that allowed our ambulatory patients the opportunity to participate – they loved it.


Below is a message from one of our psychologists:

*The Little St. Nicks kickoff event was such a HUGE success! We have already raised enough money to provide over 600 gift bags and were able to put together 300 of them today with the amazing help of the APHP adolescents. Thank you all for making this kick off so impactful. Following the event gift bags were distributed on the units. The kids were SO EXCITED about receiving these gifts and it was clear that it helped them to feel cared for. Here is some feedback from the patients; "This is so nice," "thank you so much," "OMG I love my card," "This made my day," "wow someone cares about my mental health," "this is so cool." The materials in the bag were immediately opened and everyone was smiling and playing with the gifts they were provided.*

*Thanks again to the Little Saint Nick team for your efforts in the success of this initiative and giving our children and adolescents the message that they are cared for and we are here to help them heal.*

We wanted the children entering our care, as a behavioral health hospital, to feel valued and welcomed – Little Saint Nick has been a big part of that process. We have been consistently impressed with Little Saint Nick's dedication to the patient experience, their flexibility, and kindness. We have an influx of staff, family members, community leaders, and others who look for ways to support and participate in this wonderful program. I am more than happy to be contacted for any questions about our experiences with their team, implementation, or anything else that you might like to discuss further ([631-317-9448/bpritchard@northwell.edu](mailto:631-317-9448/bpritchard@northwell.edu)) and could not recommend Little Saint Nick enough.

Sincerely,



Brian Pritchard  
Associate Executive Director  
South Oaks & Zucker Hillside Hospitals  
Northwell Health

**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

**CHILD LIFE AND CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES DEPARTMENT**

August 28, 2020

Little Saint Nick Foundation  
Attention: Raymond Mohler Jr.  
131 Main Street  
East Rockaway, NY 11518

Dear Raymond and Friends:

I would like to thank you for your thoughtful donation to the Child Life and Creative Arts Therapies Program at Cohen Children's Medical Center. Our team of Child Life Specialists and Creative Arts Therapists strive to help children of all ages cope with serious illness and hospitalization through the use of education and therapeutic activities and create a sense of normalcy. Your generous contribution of toys, dolls, games, arts and crafts, and stuffed animals will help us to bring fun and relaxation to our patients.

Your donation helps our patients to continue to play while they are in the hospital. Some of the items you provided may be used for Birthday gifts, Bingo prizes and to keep our playrooms well-stocked with a variety of toys and activities. The children are delighted to find many favorite and familiar activities to enjoy with their peers in our playrooms or at the bedside. Your gifts will brighten the days for many children.

I am grateful to you for taking the time to collect these items for our patients. The Child Life and Creative Arts Therapies Program is able to provide fun and enrichment for our patients because of your generosity. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cindy Rodriguez, CCLS, MSEd  
Director, Child Life and Creative Arts Therapies Department

CR/kg

2/19/21

To Whom It May Concern,

The Little St. Nick Foundation's bags have been extremely helpful in making our pediatric patients feel more at ease when they come to our Emergency Department. Often times, kids are frightened when they walk through our doors & providing them with a St. Nick Bag helps them to instantly relax. The coloring books/crayons in the bags are a necessary diversion from the new and potentially scary environment. These bags help to make their experience more positive by engaging in something that is familiar & normal for them...play.

This program is a necessary supplement to our current pediatric programming & provides us with resources needed to enhance our patient's experience. Additionally, we have been able to expand upon this program within our hospital and provide bags to siblings & our inpatient pediatric patients. Our patients will continue to benefit from this amazing organization & we would love to keep receiving these!

Thank you again Ray for all that you and your organization do! Any volunteer events that you might have available for children in the near future, please let me know. I would love to have my son participate.

Have a great day!

Leslie A. Dempsey, BS, CCLS III  
Senior Child Life Specialist  
St. Joseph's Children's Hospital at Mease Countryside  
3231 McMullen Booth Rd.  
Safety Harbor, FL 34695  
727-250-4326  
Stjosephschildrens.com



Child Life Program  
Pediatrics B2  
One Healthy Way  
Oceanside, NY 11572  
T 516-632-4779  
Email: [ChildLife@snch.org](mailto:ChildLife@snch.org)  
[mountsinai.org/southnassau](http://mountsinai.org/southnassau)

January 25, 2021

Mr. Raymond Mohler  
Little Saint Nick Foundation  
131 Main Street  
East Rockaway, 11518

Dear Ray and Friends,

On behalf of the children, families and staff at Mount Sinai South Nassau, please accept our heartfelt appreciation for your recent donation to the Child Life Program. All the games, toys, crafts, books, dolls and puzzles were wonderful additions to our program. Your generosity enables us to provide our pediatric patients with access to developmentally appropriate therapeutic and recreational play during their stay.

Therapeutic and recreational toys and crafts help to normalize the hospital experience. These special activities make it easier for the children and families to adjust to the unfamiliar environment where they are receiving care. The children truly enjoy having something special during their stay, which helps take their mind off their pain and isolation.

As you can imagine, when children are hospitalized for any length of time it be challenging, particularly during the holidays. Thanks to your kindness, our patients can choose a game or activity to play with in our playroom and at their bedside. Your support allows us to provide each patient with a toy during their stay. Our patients had smiles on their faces--because of you!

Mount Sinai South Nassau is the Long Island flagship hospital of the Mount Sinai Health System. We are a designated Magnet® hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for outstanding nursing care and are nationally recognized by Healthgrades as the only hospital in New York and New Jersey to be recognized by Healthgrades as a five-star recipient in all four Women's Care ratings for 3 years in a row (2018-2020). Mount Sinai South Nassau is one of the region's largest hospitals, with 455 beds, more than 900 physicians and 3,500 employees. Pediatric services at Mount Sinai South Nassau are growing quickly and providing care to an increasing number of pediatric patients each year. Our pediatric floor and Level II NICU provide inpatients with the best of care while our Pediatric Emergency Room is an important resource for the communities we serve. Last year also marked a rapid expansion of outpatient services provided by both primary care and specialist pediatricians.

We value your continued support and look forward to partnering with you again in the future. Best wishes to all of you and your families for a happy and healthy New Year!

Kind Regards,

  
AnnMarie DiFrancesca, MS, CCLS  
Director, Child Life Program

  
Dana Sanneman  
Executive Director, External Affairs/Development

*Thank you!*

*Thanks again. We'll reach out to arrange another delivery in February.*  
*Jim Murphy*



8/20/21

To Whom It May Concern,

The gift bags we continue to get from the Little St. Nick Foundation have been wonderful! The staff enjoy having something to not only bring a smile to their patients' face but also to help make it easier with long waiting times in our Emergency Department. Our patients continue to say that the bags help to make a scary experience a little less frightening while also making it fun too!

Over the years these bags have become staples for our ED and both our staff and families that we work with continue to be forever grateful for the partnership we have been able to create with the Little St. Nick Foundation.

Thank you,

Nicole Almeida MS, CCLS  
Director, Child Life Program  
NYU Langone Hospital- Long Island  
259 First Street  
Mineola, New York 11501  
T-516-663-2761  
Email: [Nicole.Almeida@nyulangone.org](mailto:Nicole.Almeida@nyulangone.org)