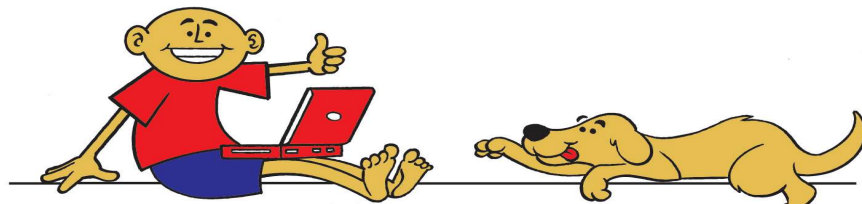


2023 Annual Report



GRAHAMTASTIC
CONNECTION

www.grahamtastic.org



Celebrating 25
Years of
Connecting Kids!

ANNUAL LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF CONNECTING KIDS”

Grahamtastic Connection proudly celebrated our 25th year anniversary in 2023. Throughout this year, I found myself often reflecting on the many wonderful children we have been able to provide for since the onset of our program in April of 1998.

Over these past 25 years, we have been blessed with meeting and supporting over 2,800 inspirational children and their families, an extraordinary number that I could have never imagined when Grahamtastic Connection first began.



Each of these 2,800 children have had their own stories, their own battles and their own successes with some sadly earning their angel wings too soon. A special pause for these angels in our Grahamtastic Family. To this day, I am aware that the work I do at Grahamtastic Connection is my grief transformed and my way to honor my dear son Graham's life. I thank each and every child in our Grahamtastic Family for allowing me and our team to be a part of your caring circle.

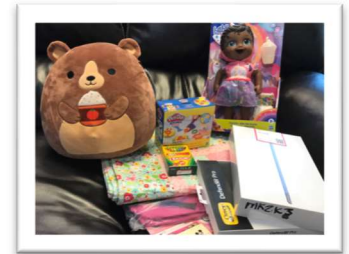
Commemorating 25 Years also has me reflecting on the ever-changing technology that we've provided over these years. It seems the only thing that has remained constant is change. We always strive to provide the latest cutting-edge technology to our children. We understand that seriously ill children facing isolation need the most powerful connection tools available.

In 1998, our first donation was a Macintosh desktop computer with dial-up internet. We soon started providing laptops to the children, also with dial-up internet. As I reminisce of our early years, I recall when we would deliver a laptop to the hospital and had to unplug their room phone and plug in their modem in order to connect to the internet. Over time, laptops evolved to encompass built-in modems and then wireless capabilities. In 2023, 112 laptops were provided to children in our program.

In 2010, we provided an iPad 1 (first generation) to a child, a technological device that has remained extremely popular with our Superstars. In 2023, 137 iPads were provided to children in our program.

In 2012, we purchased our first Tele-presence robot. In 2023, 7 children attended school remotely via robot, attending class from their hospital beds or homes. We also placed a robot in a popular Maine summer camp for medically fragile children to attend.

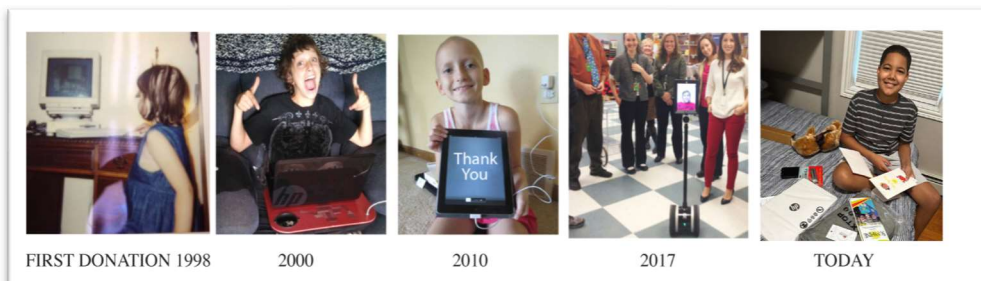
Today, on our application form, we include a request for a child to list their favorite things. We now assemble a "Backpack Full of Joy" for each child



that is specially designed for them. We include items like their favorite stuffed animals, toys, games, and books in themes they enjoy. We also are fortunate to have many sewers and knitters crafting beautiful handmade quilts, backpacks, pillows or hats for our Superstars.

I humbly thank our Board of Directors, volunteers, foundations, businesses, donors and supporters of all ages, for believing in our work and partnering with us. In 2023, together we supported 255 children, keeping them connected to their worlds. We simply could not do this much needed work without all of you. I'd also like to thank Kathy Tranchemontagne, our Program Director, for keeping our operations running smoothly. Kathy's dedication and skills are a large part of the success we achieve.

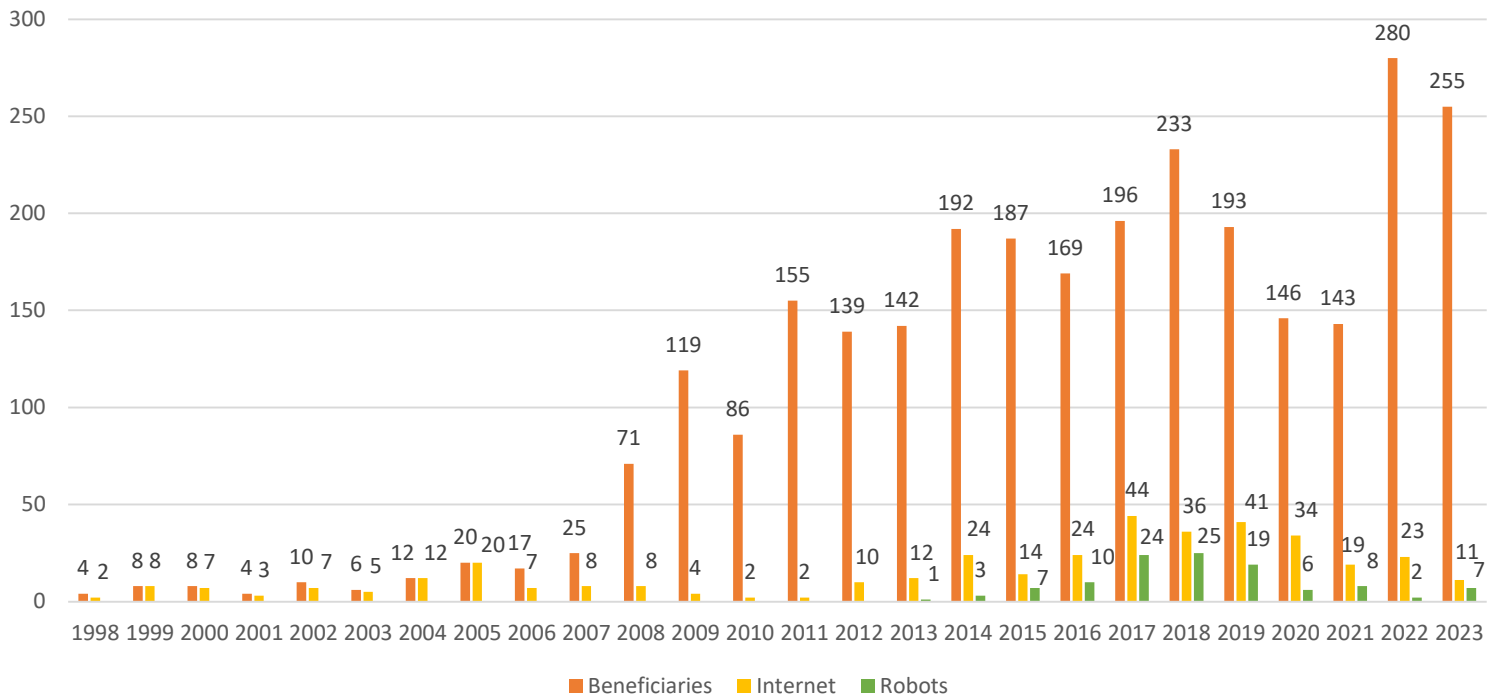
Time will tell where technology takes us in 2024, but know that, wherever it does, as long as children are in need, Grahamtastic Connection will continue to adapt to change and continue to provide the latest technology as we enter our 26th year of connecting kids.



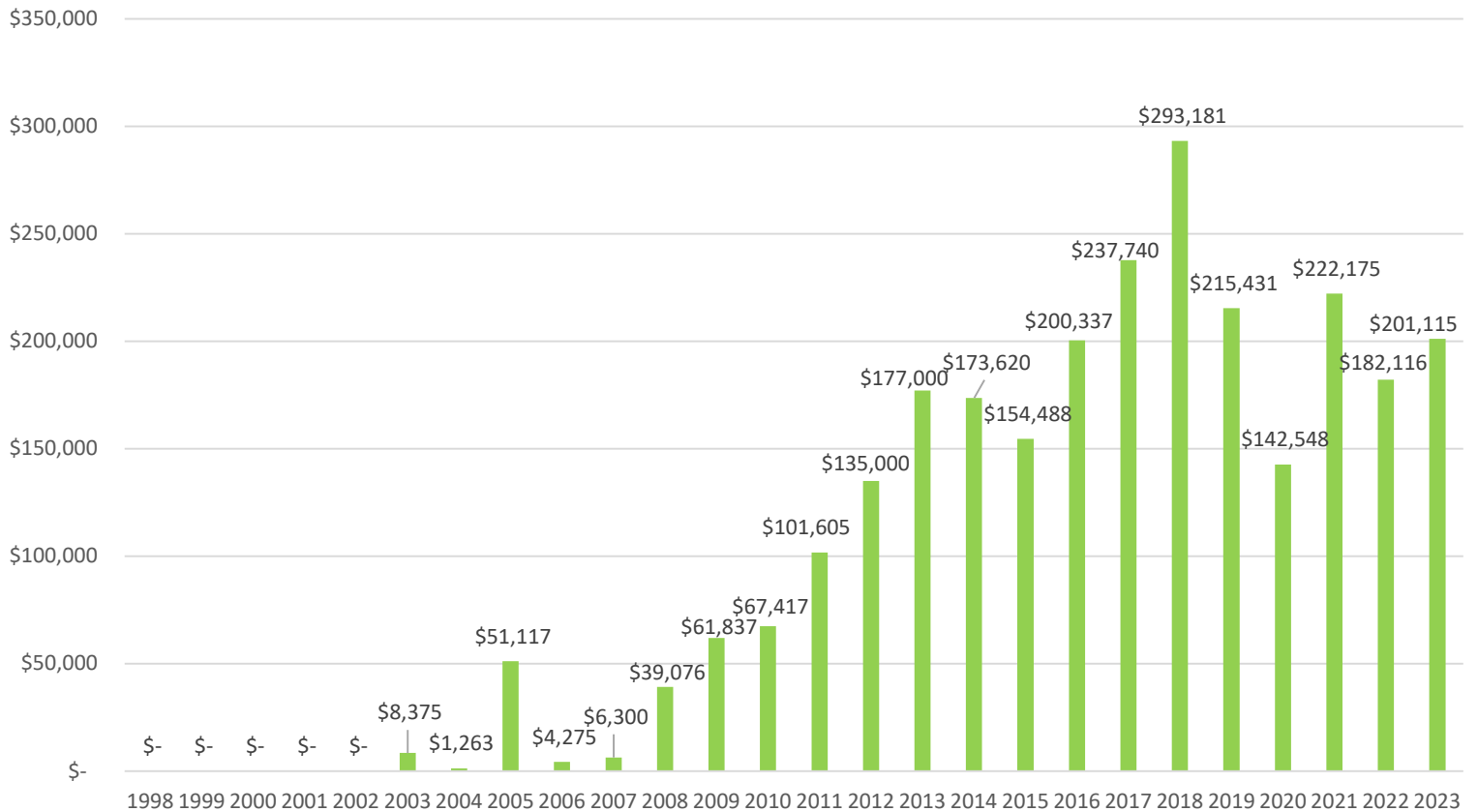
Leslie Morissette

Leslie Morissette,
Founder/Executive Director

Beneficiaries, Internet & Robots Delivered



Revenue



ABOUT GRAHAMTASTIC CONNECTION

Our mission is to provide free technology to children with cancer and other serious illnesses to support their education, as well as their social and emotional well-being. Technology, including iPads, laptops, robots, and internet access, enables our children to continue their education during treatment while also remaining connected to family, friends and medical providers. This technology is virtually bringing them to the places they want to be and connecting them when their world is out of reach.

During this year, we supported 255 children. Each child supported receives a Backpack Full of Joy containing a laptop or iPad with OtterBox case and wonderful accessories such as stuffed animal, a homemade quilt, toy, art supplies and a book.

This year marks our 11th year that we have provided free tele-presence robots for hospitalized or homebound children with 7 children utilizing our robots this year. Of these tele-presence robots, 4 were placed in Maine, 2 were placed in Massachusetts and the remaining tele-presence robot was placed in a New York school. We have had a total of 73 children using our robots since our first acquisition. We continue to be an important resource in providing this service to sick children.

The organization was founded in 1998 by Leslie Morissette in honor of her son, Graham, who sadly lost his battle to cancer in 1997 at the age of 8. Leslie learned first-hand what it was like to spend months at a time in the hospital while her son was in cancer treatment at Maine Children's Cancer

Program and Boston Children's Hospital. One of the key needs during such times, and the inspiration behind Grahamtastic Connection, is for a child to remain connected to school, family and to friends during extended periods of isolation. Often this access is out of reach due to medical and financial limitations.

The program started by supporting six qualified children in 1998, providing them with computers and internet access. This enabled them to continue their education while being treated and to communicate with family members and friends. Today, we are proud to have supported 2,881 children with cancer and other serious illnesses, with 386 children receiving internet access as well. Additionally, thousands of ill children have utilized our computers placed in shared areas of hospitals and clinics.

MEET SUPERSTAR JACKSON, OUR 2023 FEATURED CHILD!

When 6-year-old Jackson fell this summer and fractured his leg, his family was shocked to learn he had a tumor on his fibula which was caused by Ewing Sarcoma. Jackson currently receives cancer treatment at Barbara Bush Children's Hospital and at Boston Children's Hospital. His treatment includes aggressive chemotherapy followed by extensive surgery to remove the tumor on his leg.

Jackson is a silly boy who likes all sports, Legos, Spiderman, Pokémon, Nintendo Switch and playing on his iPad. He is so adored by his sister Sofia, as you can see in our Annual Report cover photo. Sofia and her

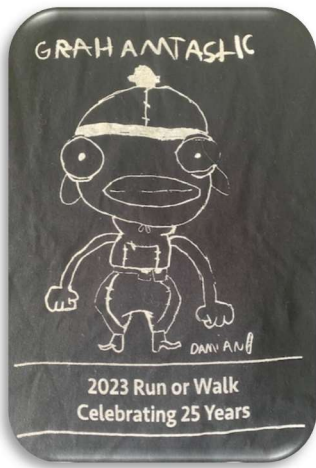
parents Martine and Kyle are doing their best to keep his spirits up as he navigates through his difficult cancer treatments.

We feel very fortunate to be in Jackson's caring circle, placing a telepresence robot in his first-grade classroom. The robot allows him to be in school virtually whenever he's feeling well enough to log on. His classmates have been known to hug the robot and also make a heart shape with their hands, showing Jackson their love.



Martine, Jackson's mom states, "Having the robot in his class has allowed Jackson to stay connected to his classmates and friends from his hospital bed. It's amazing as a parent to see a classroom full of 6-year-olds cheer when the robot comes on and they can see him. We are so grateful to Grahamtastic Connection and all their supporters for being able to provide a tool to keep him engaged with his class and teacher when he can't physically be there."

OUR CURRENT PRIMARY ACTIVITIES



- Providing laptops or iPads to individual patients for contact with clinics and interactive learning with schools.
- Placing computers in medical facilities where they are accessible to hundreds of children.
- Providing high-speed Internet access to families with seriously ill children.
- Supplying robotic technology in patients' schools, allowing seriously ill children to move around their classroom, walk up and down the school hallways, attend assemblies and field trips and interact with their teachers and peers from their hospital room or home in real time.
- Sponsoring our "Kids Helping Kids" Program, in which children of all ages support Grahamtastic Connection while learning valuable skills and the importance of helping those who are less fortunate.
- Advocating, proactively, at the local, state and federal level for critical measures and action plans focused on closing the Digital Divide and ending Digital Inequality for all children across our country.

DAMIEN, OUR 5K T-SHIRT ARTIST, CHATTING WITH "MICHELANGELO" OF THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

Our 2023 5K t-shirt was designed by 7-year-old Damien who was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia when he was 5 years-old. Damien continues to be in active treatment at Connecticut's Children's Medical Center. Damien loves to draw, cook and play video games. He wants to be an illustrator when he grows up and shared images of his awesome sketches with us. We reached out to our friend, famous artist Steve Lavigne, aka "Michelangelo," illustrator of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (TMNT), to inquire if he would be willing to FaceTime chat with Damien. As you can see in the photo below, Steve readily agreed to our request and had a great time providing encouragement and chatting art for a whole hour with Damien! Steve is a longtime friend of Graham and Grahamtastic, having been Graham's art teacher until Graham sadly lost his battle with Leukemia in 1997. After Graham's passing and Grahamtastic being founded in his honor, Steve designed our logo which is a depiction of his young friend Graham and his dog Finely.

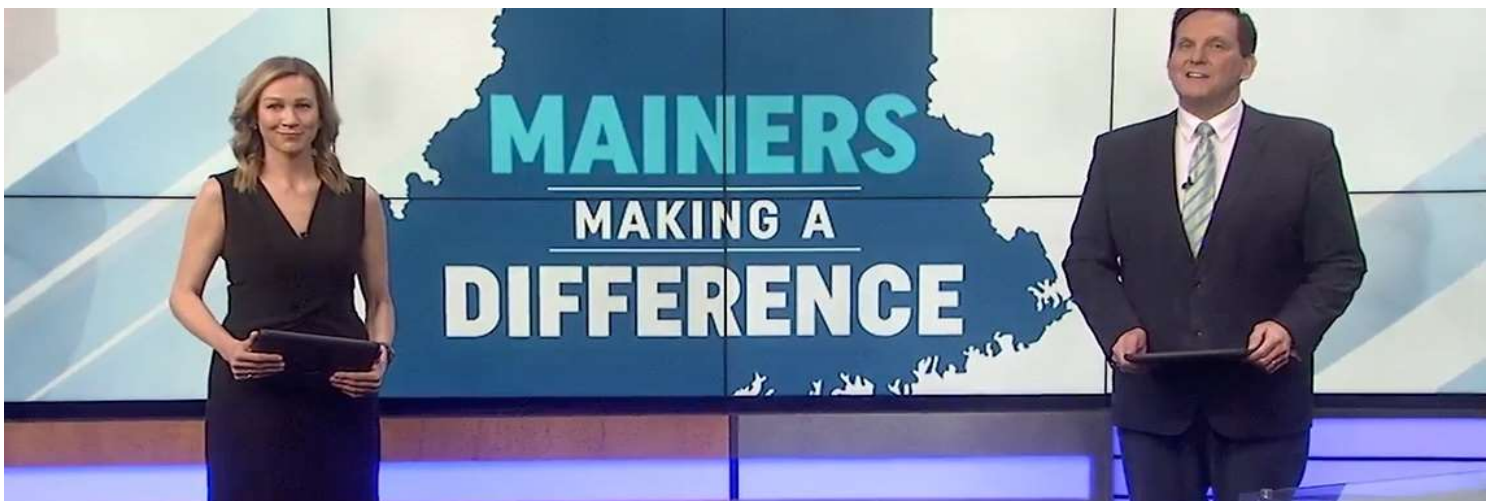


RECOGNITION

- 2023: Nourish Award, Northeast Credit Union’s award for enriching and nourishing the lives of others
- 2023: WGME Featured News Story, “Mainers Making a Difference”
- 2020: FCC Digital Opportunity Equity Recognition (DOER) Award
- 2019: Down East Magazine Giving Back Issue featured Non-profit
- 2019: On the Marsh Golf Course Charity Give-back Month of June
- 2019: Turbocam Laptop Drive & Charity Spotlight Month of July
- 2019: Marc Motors Charity Spotlight Month of August
- 2019: Prime Motor Group Charity Spotlight Month of October
- 2018: Today Show Mother’s Day Special featured guest
- 2018: Tourist & Town “Local Heroes” featured story
- 2018: Woman’s World, Redbook, Good Housekeeping & Woman’s Day articles published
- 2017: Top 10 CNN Hero
- 2017: Huffington Post, “5 Innovators Creating Human Connection Through Technology”
- 2017: Maine’s 20 Outstanding Women, Maine’s Coast 93.1 and Hannaford Supermarkets
- 2014: Town and Country Federal Credit Union “Good Neighbor Award.”
- 2012: Toyota 100 Cars for Good. Winner of a Toyota Highlander.
- 2011: Parent’s Magazine, August issue “Power of Parents.”
- 2009: John Baldacci, Maine Governor “Exemplary Service Award.”
- 2008: Guest on CNBC’s “The Big Idea” with Danny Deutsch
- 2006: WCSH, United Way and TD Bank’s “Six Who Care Award.”



Leslie & Kathy receiving the Nourish Award from Northeast Credit Union Representatives



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

GABBY FAVOLISE

This is Gabby's 9th year volunteering for us. We first met Gabby when she was just 7 years old. Gabby had watched a news story about Grahamtastic, featuring a tele-presence robot being used at a local school while the child was in the hospital. Gabby was so moved that she wrote a letter to her principal asking if the school could have a pajama day to raise money for our program. Of course the principal agreed and the next week dozens of children dressed in their PJ's for Grahamtastic Connection.

At 8 years old, Gabby encouraged her Girl Scout troop to make us their charity that year, which they did, raising hundreds of dollars. After that, Gabby was hooked. When Gabby was 9, she and her mom Annette volunteered at our 5K. They face painted and also supervised the Kids Fun Run. When Gabby showed up wearing a cast at the 5K, we inquired why

and were shocked to hear what her mom shared, "Gabby was born with Multiple Heredity Osteochondromatosis, which is Reoccurring Bone Tumors. Gabby has endured much pain throughout her life as various bones throughout her body (including her hips) need major surgery. She has spent a great deal of her life at doctor's appointments and hospital rooms at Boston Children's Hospital. Gabby also has multiple screws and plates replacing damaged bones throughout her body." We were in disbelief. We



had seen Gabby run around at our events, tumble in gymnastics and spike the ball hard on her volleyball team. She always has a big smile on her face and seldom mentions her upcoming operations and doctor's appointments unless they interfere with her volunteering for our program.

When Gabby was 12 years old, we asked her if she would like an iPad to have with her at an upcoming long hospital stay at Boston Children's. In true form, we had to convince her that another child

would not go without if she accepted our offer. We were so pleased when she agreed to accept one so we could help keep our young volunteer connected to her family and friends.

Gabby is now 16 years old. She has come into our office on Wednesdays after school to help out, often bringing her friends with her to double up the job. It's such a delight to see Gabby teach her friends our process. She has become a true and confident leader. How we once taught her how to execute a particular task, she now teaches other teens. In one afternoon after school, it isn't unusual for Gabby and her crew to assemble 8 Backpacks Full of Joy for our Superstars. We feel her volunteerism and personal commitment to our program has really helped her build self-confidence. It's been such a delight to watch her grow up into such a mature, strong young lady.



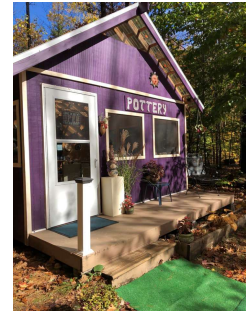
2023 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

December – Prelude for Kids

Event held by former Board Member Gwen Genest of Portside Real Estate Group
\$1,191 was raised



December – Kathleen King of Kat's Ketch Pottery held a fundraiser in honor of her granddaughter Emily, a 2023 Grahamtastic Connection recipient
\$1,270 was raised



November – Northeast Credit Union Nourish Network 5K Race at Rock Row
\$5,000 awarded

October – 5K Race Event

Live and in-person after 4 years!
\$43,271 was raised



August – Partners Bank Dunk Tank with employee Cheryl Patstone graciously taking some dunks for Grahamtastic Connection
\$1,500 was raised

August –the Saco Bay Rotary Club with President Jeff Slaton
\$1,000 donation was made



June – Sanford Mainers for Grahamtastic with Home Runs sponsored by Partners Bank
\$202 was raised with an additional \$700 donated by Partners Bank, "HomeRuns That Count!"



April – Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive
\$1,000 was raised



March – Maine Maple Sunday - Mike McMahon and Friends at the Irish Maple House
\$588 was raised

STAFF AND SUPPORT

Staff:

Leslie Morissette, Founder and Executive Director
 Kathy Tranchemontagne, Program Director

Volunteer Board of Directors:

Executive Committee:

William Frank, MD, President, Director
 Lien Fajardo, Treasurer, Director
 Denise Pepin, Secretary, Director



William Frank, MD, President with his wife Mary Frances preparing Backpacks Full of Joy for shipment



Leslie Morissette, Founder/Executive Director, (Center L) with Kathy Tranchemontagne, Program Director (Center R) with SRTC students creating our 5K t-shirt

Directors:

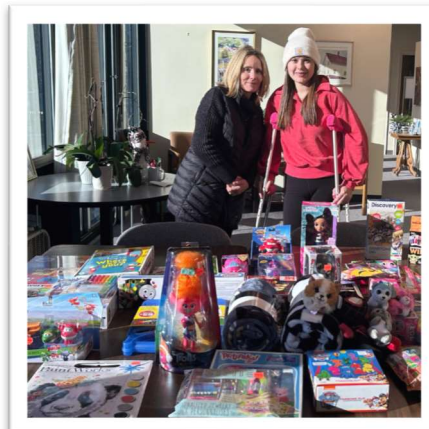
Jennifer Clarke-Burke
 Jennifer Dolloff
 Susan Roberts
 Margaret Trefethen
 Adam Quinlan



Mary Frances Frank, volunteer, with Susan Roberts, Director, preparing Backpacks Full of Joy for shipment

Advisory Board:

Robert Caron
 Dan Cummings
 Melody Martin-Robie
 Vanessa Nason
 Bruce Wooding
 Lawrence O'Bryan



Gabby Favolise and mom, Annette with toy donation

Additional Volunteers:

Heather Thomas
 Mary Frances Frank
 Darlene Burns
 Favolise Family
 Morissette Family
 Sew E-Z Quilters
 Massabesic & Camden Leo Clubs
 Sanford Regional Technical Center (SRTC)
 Comcast/Infinity Employees (Team Up)
 Turbocam Employees
 Pratt & Whitney Employees
 Northeast Credit Union (NECU) Employees



Burns Quilting donation



NECU Team at our 5K



Pratt & Whitney Team at our 5K



Comcast's Team Up creating the blankets and cards for our Superstarts to accompany the iPads and laptops donated



Turbocam Team with their donated toys and laptops for our Superstars