

# Friend to Friend

## 25th Anniversary Fashion Show- All Glitz and Glamor!

Lights, Action, and Smiles set the tone in the Ritz Carlton Ballroom on November 9th when our 25th Anniversary Fashion Show opened with a parade of special memories. A survivor model from each of the previous twenty-four fashion shows (1993 – 2016) proudly walked the runway. Their ages ranged from eleven to thirty-five with various occupations including a nurse, pediatrician, social worker, plumber, contractor, pharmacist, art therapist, teacher, students and more. Each of them fought hard to overcome their late effects affiliated with cancer treatment; and happily shared a special memory of how Friends of Kids with Cancer helped them along their journey.

The excitement in the room was non-stop. Next on the stage was

**Elizabeth Weidner**, current patient, who performed an emotional dance to the "Fight" song. There was not a dry eye in the room, but that quickly changed as **Dr. Bergamini** introduced the dynamic duo, patients **Jordan Greco** and **Wil Ohler**. These



young men wowed the crowd first with their humor followed by endless appreciation.

*"Friends of Kids always reminds us that no matter how tough things get, there*



*are people like all of you on our side. We can't thank you enough for helping us when we are at our very lowest to keep living and making memories."*

Last but not least, our patient and honorary models lit up the stage wearing not only their favorite outfits from Dillard's and Mr. Guy but their courageous smiles. Honorary models included the children of the Friends Founders: **Susie Snowden (Ashley)**, **Molly Henry (Anne)**, **Jill Turec (Nikki)**, and **Dr. Bob Bergamini (James)**.

*"It's so heartwarming to see the kids walk the runway waiving to their parents giving them memories forever."* says Judy Ciapciak, Ex Dir.

Thanks to all for making this 25th Anniversary Fashion Show such a success!





## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: WINTER COAT DRIVE

The 2nd Annual Coats for Kids Campaign was the perfect way to kick off the holiday season! Friends received a list of over one hundred names of current patients and their siblings from each of the three Pediatric

Oncology Centers in our St. Louis area. Financial burdens associated with treatment become especially difficult this time of year. Thanks to everyone's quick response, we were able to deliver the winter apparel before the cold and dreary days arrived!

The quality of each and every coat was over the top and even hats and gloves were included.

*"Drew doesn't care much about clothes, unless it is a cat shirt, but he actually showed enthusiasm for the coat. The color was perfect & he really liked the fact that it was two coats in one, in case he needed a coat that wasn't as heavy as both layers*



*combined. We even got him to model it for us!"*

We are so grateful for the love and support of the gracious individuals that donated, and to the treatment center staff who helped us coordinate one hundred and eighty coats this season. We know the coats were well received with warm wishes by all.



## PARTY RECAP: WINTER WONDERLAND 2017

More than 600 people attended the annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Party at Sports Fusion in Chesterfield on December 3rd. This fun day provides a safe environment and ensures our patients, siblings, moms and dads experience the joys of the holiday season with the ones they love.



Mrs. Claus, caricatures, balloon animals, a candy store, bounce house, laser tag, arcade games, putt-putt golf, rock climbing and much, much more while creating lasting memories with lots of smiles!



*"Sports Fusion considers it an honor and a privilege to have hosted the past six FOK Winter Wonderland parties. Serving their kids is the most significant and rewarding work our staff participates in every year." - Greg Hoffman, Owner*

Thanks to Allen and Cindy Woods for their hard work and preparation throughout the year! Children were able to see Santa and pick out a new toy, enjoyed milk and cookies with





## SEASON OF LOVE: TOY DRIVES & ADOPT A FAMILY



December is the season of giving and this year was no exception as we received thousands of toys from our caring St. Louis community! From toys to adopting families year after year we are amazed at your generosity.

All parents want their children to have something special under the tree, especially those who are currently in treatment. The smallest gift can mean the world to these kids, but our donors went above and beyond! This year thirty-seven families were adopted and we were able to provide everything on their wish list.

A special thanks to Mosby Building Arts, Vito's in the Valley, Zion Lutheran School, Sydney's Soldiers, Amerisure Insurance, The Normal Brand, RJP Electric, Kelly Hager Group, Bank of America, Walnut Grill, CRB, Markway Strong, Kelly Beat's Holiday Party, and all of the other individuals/ businesses for hosting toy drives.



# Happy Holidays

## ST. LOUIS!



You have given the greatest gift of all:  
helping kids  
with cancer... be kids!

# THANK YOU

for your support  
these past 25 years!



## 2018 EVENTS

FEB	17	VOODOO IN THE LOU THE FABULOUS FOX THEATRE
MARCH	02	TRIVIA NIGHT VIANNEY HIGH SCHOOL
MAY	21	GOLF TOURNAMENT WHITMOOR COUNTRY CLUB
JUNE	30	WALK WITH A FRIEND WESTMINISTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
SEPT	13	ART FROM THE HEART Mungenast Lexus of St. Louis
NOV	08	FASHION SHOW & BOUTIQUE Ritz-Carlton St. Louis

# SAVE THE DATE

## FRIENDS OF KIDS WITH CANCER

### \* GOLF TOURNAMENT \*

#### Whitmoor Country Club

Come Join Alex Pietrangelo, Captain of the St. Louis Blues and This Year's Honorary Chair for the Friends of Kids with Cancer 20th Annual Golf Tournament!

