



DECEMBER ■ 2011

THE CHARNA RADBELL FOUNDATION

Charna's Kids Club



Helping Thousands of Patients, the Siblings, and their Entire Families Each Year!

IT IS OUR MISSION TO PROVIDE FAMILY CENTERED CARE IN A PLACE
WHERE CHILDREN FEEL SAFE, VALUED, AND LOVED.

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The New Year is truly a time of reflection upon past achievements and for planning the future. Charna's Kids Club, the **flagship program** of the Charna Radbell Foundation, was able to achieve some amazing accomplishments this year. As a therapeutic and recreational support program for school-aged siblings of seriously ill children, **Charna's Kids Club has continued to make a tremendous impact on thousands** of patients and their families. We are grateful to be able to spread a "Gift of Sunshine" throughout the NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital and its community **each and every day**.

As our patients' families have experienced, it is unimaginable the emotional stress and challenges of having a child who needs hospitalization. Many of our patients are fighting cancer, waiting for transplants, undergoing heart surgeries, and struggling with a multitude of other life-threatening illnesses, making extended stays at the hospital a necessity. During these times, Charna's Kids Club provides an appropriate and positive atmosphere in which the siblings are able to communicate their feelings effectively. Without a doubt, Charna's Kids Club has become a **home away from home** for these special families, providing **Family Centered Care**, a key component of the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital.

Our unique services are essential and are **available to all families at no cost**, allowing the Hospital to expand upon its current resources and to ensure that the wellbeing of a patient's entire family, particularly the brothers and sisters of seriously ill children, are addressed. Acknowledging that **when a child is sick the whole family hurts**, the Social Workers and the Child Life Specialists at Charna's Kids Club are committed to helping the siblings of patients to better understand their surroundings, express their feelings, meet peers in similar circumstances and reduce the stress associated with the hospitalization of a family member. Charna's Kids Club is a place where the child feels safe, valued, and loved. It is **a place where the child matters most!**

Throughout the years we have accomplished these goals through various events, holiday parties, therapeutic activities, field trips, and special projects. All of these events and activities have been **fully sponsored by the Charna Radbell Foundation**. We are certain that with your continued support we will continue to hold these families together and to help them focus on what is most important...healing. Please, we must continue to do more for our families as they depend upon us during difficult times of crisis and childhood illness for sunshine, joy, and hope. **Every moment counts.**



Charna's Kids Club: Its Inspiring Impact On the Community Throughout the World

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The Charna's Kids Club sibling program continues to mentor second year graduate social work students in the creation of a survey tool utilized toward assessing the needs of our siblings and parents. This project provides students with practical experience in population outreach and data analysis. This research also benefits the sibling program, developing our program to better serve our families' needs more efficiently. In addition, a second year graduate student works with the program on a weekly basis in order to gain experiential knowledge on the siblings' perspectives and on family-centered care in general.

THE LANG YOUTH SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The Lang Youth Scholar Program is a unique program on the Columbia University Medical School campus that mentors junior and senior year high school students from the Washington Heights and Inwood communities who are interested in health care careers. We are proud to announce that Charna's Kids Club will continue to partner with Lang Scholars for a third year during the 2011-2012 school term, focusing on community outreach and development goals for other hospital sibling support programs.

PEDIATRIC INTERN PROGRAM

A Columbia Medical Center pediatric intern is consulting with the staff of Charna's Kids Club in the creation of a sibling support model for a local elementary school which will be implemented in the 2011-2012 school term.

HALLYM UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER IN KOREA

Korean Social Workers observed the Charna's Kids Club sibling program model during the month of October 2011.

COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF NURSING

Nursing students observed the Charna's Kids Club sibling program model during the month of October 2011.



SUMMER SIZZLE CELEBRATION

THE THIRD ANNUAL SUMMER SIZZLE CELEBRATION WAS A SUPER SPECTACULAR EXTRAVAGANZA WITH OVER 200 PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING PATIENTS, SIBLINGS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

WE ROCKED THE HOUSE!

Sunday, July 31, 2011, marked the third annual phenomenally fun and entertaining celebration, Summer Sizzle, generously sponsored by our Charna's Kids Club at the NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital. True to its name, it was a sizzling dance extravaganza with over

200 participants who showed so much love and support for their fellow patients and caring friends and family members.

Once again, our wonderfully talented and spirited MC, Mario Calderon, the host of Finding Fascinating People, co-hosted with Picture Perfect Parties DJ's, Brett and Rebecca. They spun sounds that kept the party hopping and popping!

Three additional professional groups provided entertainment. Applause NYC presented an interactive show entitled *The Great Rock Sing-Off!* in which children inspired such wonderful spark and magic, making our celebration a fabulous success.

Outstanding classical and b-boy dancers from the Professional Performing Arts High School and Ted Fass' Entertainment Unlimited collaborated for

the first time at our event to demonstrate fun dance moves for the children. Children and parents entered into a dance-off demo on stage with these skilled and unique performers who truly rocked the house!

Again this year, the highlight of the event was the live performances by our own siblings who stepped up to DJ Brett's microphone at the close of the program. Their heartfelt songs reflected the spirit of resilience and hope that our celebration symbolizes.

Other fun highlights included the exciting Sunshine Raffle drawing in which over 60 door prizes and three Grand Prizes (iPads) were raffled off and distributed amongst all of the patients and their supportive friends and family members. Both the photo studio in which guests were invited to get



their pictures taken as a "Hula Dancer" or a "Surfer Dude" and the button-making station at which the children created their own designs created quite a big splash as usual. Other summer-themed crafts were featured at our craft table. Siblings, parents and patients donned star-shaped sunglasses as they walked the red carpet for their "close-ups" at the photo booth, but here at Charna's Kids Club we don't need a "special lens" to see that these children are all shining stars!

Past participants of the sibling program returned to celebrate as well as honor their siblings and families. Many greeted their old friends and met new ones as they danced and sang together with currently enrolled participants. It most definitely was a wonderfully spirited celebration of sunshine, hope and joy for all!

SPOTLIGHT: HALL OF HEROES



CHARNA'S KIDS REACH OUT TO OTHER FAMILIES

In collaboration with the Jewish Community Center of Manhattan and our own Special Events team at the NewYork-Presbyter-

ian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, the 10th Anniversary of September 11th was honored by Charna's Kids Club in the Wintergarden on September 11, 2011. The event was called "Hall of Heroes."

In commemoration of our heroes, the Jewish Community Center Service Day volunteers coordinated and created five different craft projects with the children. All of the projects appropriately had fire-fighter and police

officer themes. They also prepared bags of gifts for patients' bedsides

"Charna's Kids Club is one of my favorite programs at the hospital."

DR. HERBERT PARDES, CEO
NEW-YORK PRESBYTERIAN

and for those who were in isolation. In addition, the JCC volunteers and the kids of Charna's Kids Club prepared and delivered over 100 bags of toiletries for the new Emergency Department and for the families who were encountering a sudden emergency stay in the hospital.

ARTWORK

Our very own 'artists in residence,' the kids at Charna's Kids Club, have contributed their fun and creative pieces of artwork to multiple events throughout the hospital. One event was the Opening Day of the new Emergency Room at the hospital.

We are so proud of 'Charna's kids'!



A Safe Place to Feel

AT CHARNA'S KIDS CLUB THE CURRICULUM ENCOURAGES SIBLINGS TO EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS AND TO COPE WITH THE EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES OF HAVING A BROTHER OR SISTER WHO IS HOSPITALIZED.

Charna's Kids Club addresses the individual needs and interests of school-aged siblings of patients. It creates a safe and caring environment in which the well siblings can continue to develop and to thrive in spite of the hardships they are experiencing due to the illness of a brother or sister. This is very important as these special children are on the front lines of their sister's or brother's illness.

Unfortunately, all too often, they witness their sibling's physical decline and suffer the fear and isolation associated with having a seriously ill sibling in the hospital. The Social Workers and the Child Life Specialists at Charna's Kids Club support these siblings throughout every step of this emotionally difficult journey.

Multiple creative activities are designed to help siblings and their entire families to better cope with the illness of a child.

THERAPEUTIC ARTWORK

The Charna's Kids Club sibling program participants express themselves through the multiple art materials and projects offered in the program. Through the process of creating artwork, whether expressions of feelings and hope, "thank you" cards for family members or hospital staff, or centerpieces for the Summer Sizzle celebration, the children's sense of empowerment and participation in their sibling's treatment is given a tangible expression of emotion.

CHARNA'S KIDS CLUB ACTIVITY BOOK

The staff at Charna's Kids Club has created a hospital activity book to be distributed to siblings as needed. It contains fun activities centered around common themes of a pediatric hospitalization. Activities include puzzles and expressive exercises as well as pages for autographs.





Remembering Charna

Charna Radbell was a vibrant and wonderful young woman who had an adventurous spirit. So, it was no surprise to anyone that when she was stricken with colon cancer in the prime of her life, she fought the battle bravely and defiantly for eight years. In spite of the suffering she endured, Charna, an accomplished attorney, considered herself to be fortunate enough to have had access to state-of-the-art medical treatments and to have had the emotional support of friends and family members.

Despite her own battle against cancer, Charna was always very concerned with the welfare of those who were less fortunate. She had a vision to help many people of various ages, races, and economic backgrounds; she just wanted to make each day better for others in some way. In the weeks before she passed away, she spent many sleepless nights grappling with the details of establishing a foundation. Its mission would be to bring sunshine into the lives of children suffering with serious illnesses, especially the well siblings of a patient who would feel 'forgotten' during such difficult times. Charna recognized the value of such support for the siblings as well as for the entire families. It was in May, 2001, that Charna founded The Charna Radbell Foundation.

Since then, The Charna Radbell Foundation has sponsored many charities and causes which represent Charna's vision. But, over time, it is Charna's Kids Club that has become the perfect incarnation of Charna's mission and legacy. It was Charna's belief that feelings of happiness bring back moments of dignity and feelings of being loved and valued which most patients, their siblings, and their entire families may have deemed lost forever. She wanted to give them hope.

Hope is Charna's 'Gift of Sunshine' to all those who come to Charna's Kids Club.



"I get very emotional -- I sometimes come to check on my grandchildren in the club room, and it calms me, too."

What the Kids are Saying:

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Your generous donation is now even more important! Due to the success of Charna's Kids Club and the needs of our families, **our program is now available SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.** Remember, we provide and sponsor **ALL** of the supplies, catering, activities, services, special events, and the salaries for our Social Workers and Child Life Specialists.

We would be especially grateful for your continued support as we rely upon caring friends like you. We can't think of a more meaningful time of year to give such a special gift, positively changing the lives of so many patients and their families. It would mean so much to the children during this holiday season.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy and healthful New Year!

WE LISTEN. WE ACT. WE CARE.



"THE CLUB AND ME - 'BFF' !!"
(BEST FRIENDS FOREVER)

"THIS IS MY TIME. MY MOM FEELS SAD SOMETIMES, AND I CAN MAKE HER SOMETHING."

"YOU ARE NOT ALONE. I CAN HELP OTHERS. I HAVE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME, SO I CAN TELL PEOPLE THINGS."

"I HAVE BEEN TO A LOT OF HOSPITALS. I THINK THIS IS THE BEST BECAUSE THEY HAVE A PLACE FOR SIBLINGS. WE USUALLY DON'T HAVE A PLACE."

"I THANK GOD FOR THIS PROGRAM. WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE WITHOUT IT?"

"IT IS TIME TO TELL MY STORY."

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