



The mission of the AYJ Fund is to bring smiles to kids with cancer, to keep them connected to friends and school through technology, and to support the research of gliomatosis cerebri and other brain cancers to find a cure.

Gliomatosis cerebri is the rare type of brain tumor that Anna Yan Ji Arabia was diagnosed with at age 13. At the time of Anna's diagnosis, there was no research being done. We are committed to supporting new research now being conducted to find effective treatments and a cure for this devastating disease.



THE START OF A NEW YEAR

As we start a new year, we feel blessed for all of the love and support for the AYJ Fund over the last five years. We have just finished our most successful year yet and are very excited about having raised more funds to support research and help bring smiles to kids. In 2018, we donated \$ 50,000 to fund research to find effective treatments, and we touched hundreds of kids through our SMILES programs. These included over 500 gifts to Dana-Farber's Jimmy Fund Clinic throughout the year and over 100 more to children being treated at other cancer centers.

We held more events and met so many more supporters who have reached out to help us with events and volunteer through the year. We are grateful, thankful and blessed.

It is so hard for us to believe that it will be six years on Valentine's Day that our beautiful daughter Anna became our angel. She inspires us daily to do this work to make a difference for other kids, and we are grateful to each one of you who is on this journey with us.

As we look into 2019, we are excited about the year ahead. We will be sponsors of the 3rd International Conference on Gliomatosis Cerebri, which will attract

the brightest physicians and researchers from all over North America and Europe to Barcelona, Spain, to present their research, collaborate to achieve quicker results and set goals to find effective treatments. Out of the first two



conferences have come advances in research, collaborations and new discoveries about GC that were not available when Anna was diagnosed.

DON'T MISS OUR UPCOMING EVENTS ~

AYJ Fund's famous and fabulous. WINE, CHOCOLATE AND CRAFT BEER TASTINGS

**BRIGHTON, MA
SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd 7-10pm
PRESENTATION SCHOOL
FOUNDATION**

**NORTH ADAMS, MA
SUNDAY, APRIL 28th 3-6pm
FREIGHT YARD PUB**



Select the location closest to you, or double the fun and join us at both! We include a great selection of wines and locally brewed craft beers and lots of chocolates and more! What a great way to celebrate spring and support the AYJ Fund!

DONATIONS TO OUR AUCTIONS

We are always looking for items to be included in our great silent and Chinese auctions. If you have access to any sports memorabilia, vacation getaways, concert or sports tickets, items to create gift baskets, gift certificates or any other creative ideas, please let us know. Bottles of wine for our wine pulls are always welcome also. These donations make our events a success and help make a difference for more kids with cancer.



DANA-FARBER DR FILBIN'S LAB & AYJ FUND'S \$ 10,000 DONATION

Early in December we had the wonderful opportunity to visit the new lab of Mariella Filbin, MD, PhD, who leads the high-grade pediatric brain tumor lab at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. This new lab provides the opportunity to expand her research with a focus on high-grade gliomas including gliomatosis cerebri. We toured the lab, which is in the new research building on the corner of Longwood Ave and Brookline Ave. We



joined Heather and Robert Jucha, who lost their son Sean to GC, and, like us, support Dana-Farber's research on gliomatosis cerebri.

Dr. Filbin showed the newly installed equipment, including freezers to safely store brain tumor cells for research at a temperature of -82 degrees Celsius (or over 100 degrees Fahrenheit below zero).



We presented Dr. Filbin with a \$ 10,000 donation to continue this critical research to learn more about this devastating disease and find effective treatments to help others who receive this diagnosis.



We received this note:

"Dana-Farber relies on the foresight of generous donors to fuel our critical efforts in cancer research and cure. Your wonderful commitment enables Dr. Filbin and her colleagues to make powerful discoveries in the diagnosis and treatment of GC. Please know that your gift will have a profound and lasting impact on countless patients and their families."

HOLIDAY BACKPACKS

AYJ Fund Holiday Backpack program has been one of our biggest SMILES project. This year we continued to increase the number of backpacks we provided to children undergoing cancer treatment throughout the



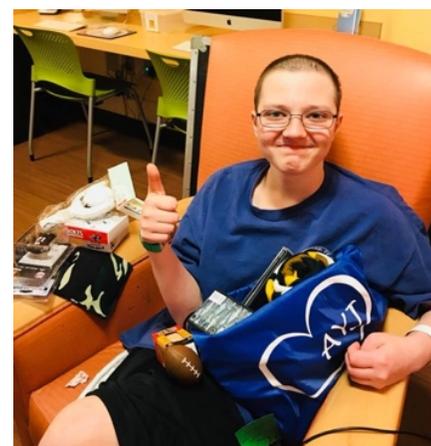
holidays and set a goal of 200 backpacks. Our AYJ Fund supporters came through with an overwhelming number of backpack sponsors and donations. We were able to fill 225 backpacks this year! Backpacks went to kids receiving treatment at Dana-Farber's Jimmy Fund Clinic, Baystate Medical Center's Pediatric

Oncology Clinic, Weill Cornell Medical Center in NYC, Dartmouth-Hitchcock in NH, and Children's Hospital LA, where Anna's NeuroOncologist now works.

We received so many special donations this year. The East Meadow School in Granby and Granby High School and Middle School collected boxes full of donations and Team Bam's friends sponsored a number of backpacks – all in honor of our friend Brice Flowers who walked with us last year in the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk. We also had donations from employees at Mountain One Insurance in both North Adams and Pittsfield, and so many family and friends who helped make this possible.

We received this photo from our friend Cam who received a backpack during a visit to the Jimmy Fund Clinic – thumbs up! - and his Mom sent this message:

"Thank you to the AYJ Fund for the awesome Holiday bag of goodies Cam got on his trip to the Jimmy Fund Clinic today , they bring so many smiles to kiddos going through treatment Thank You from Cam (and I) !!"



DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN?

Each year in addition to delivering AYJ Holiday Backpacks, we also deliver “Do You Want to Build a Snowman” treats so the kids in the clinic can assemble and enjoy their own snowman. Again this year, the Costa and D’lorio families put these fun kits together and Anna’s cousin Megan is seen in this picture delivering these kits to Jen Noonan, Adolescent Manager of the Jimmy Fund Clinic. Thanks for bringing smiles to these kids!



NYC MARATHON

Dr. Jeff Greenfield took a break from his lab at Weill Cornell Medical Center to run the NYC Marathon to raise money to further support his brain cancer research. The AYJ Fund sponsored a mile of his run in honor of Anna, and he ran for Anna and all of his patients along the route.



The lab posted that day “He did it! Dr. Greenfield held all of his patients close to his heart, and he is already planning for next year. Thanks to everyone who supported his marathon.”

These are the names of his patients and his donors who are on his mind every step of the way!”

And from Dr Greenfield:
“Your support makes us smile. Thank you for supporting life-saving research.”

“So proud to run in part for Anna, and in her memory. You guys are part of the family. Thank You!”

IN HONOR OF THE CHILDREN	SPECIAL THANKS TO
Allison Fisher	Gavin Dupler
Anna Arabia	Henley Thomas
Aubrey Szast	Isabella Romano
Barbara Klein	Jack Reyna
Brandon Bussler	Jacob Greco
Brooke Healey	Jason Lyons
Caillin Downing	Joanne Hoffman
Campbell Hoyt	Joey Clayton
Chad Carr	Joshua Bembo
Charlotte Poggi	Juliana Donnelley
Chase Baley	Lily LaRue Anderson
Christian Koehler	Mah Jongg Monday
Connor Crooks	Max Glezos-Charloff
Cristian Rivera	Maya Riggler
Daryn Clarke	McKenna Wetzel
Don Braugh, Jr	Nile Mitchell
Elizabeth Minter	Olivia Bocuzzi
Emma Marques	Patrick Spayly Marsano
Enzo Pelouquin	Rayan Barrage
Fiona Lundell	Samuel Jeffers
	Sophia Martin
	Ty Campbell
	Zachary Bernstein
	All to Win Foundation
	AYJ Fund
	Chad Tough Fdn.
	Cristian Rivera Fdn.
	Eclipse Contracting
	Elizabeth's Hope
	Hunter's Promise Fund
	Ian's Friends Fdn.
	Iron Matt
	Lyla Nsouli Foundation
	Meryl & Charles Witmer
	Charitable Foundation
	Perry's Promise Fund
	Solving Kids' Cancer
	The Joshua Bembo
	Project
	Tuesdays with Mitch
	Charitable Foundation
	Ty Louis Campbell Fdn.

\$10,000 DONATION TO WEILL CORNELL; UPDATE ON RESEARCH

Dr. Jeff Greenfield leads the gliomatosis cerebri (GC) research at Weill Cornell Medical College through the Children’s Brain Tumor Project. This lab is focused on pediatric brain tumors and is dedicated to advancing the research of gliomatosis cerebri.

The lab has been working with various tissue samples from GC patients that were donated with the goal of identifying mutations that can be better targeted with customized treatment.

Dr. Greenfield wrote, “Establishing a cell line is very difficult and often unsuccessful, but this lab has successfully established four cell lines from GC tissue... These cells lines have opened many different doors for investigation...We have recently seen success using GC stem cells to grow tumors in several mouse models,

and we have confirmed active tumor growth via MRI. This is another tremendous advancement in GC research that has not been accomplished in any other lab.”



The AYJ Fund has recently made a \$10,000 donation to help advance this exciting GC research. This is a lab we have visited ourselves and we follow their research closely.

MADDY’S WINTER WONDERLAND PARTY

We helped our friend Maddy celebrate with her friends with a Winter Wonderland Party that included a sleepover and, later when the weather cooperated, a skating party complete with hot chocolate and lots of skating fun!

Maddy is a seven-year-old beautiful girl who has been living with gliomatosis cerebri since 2015. Maddy is up and is off to school each day with style and a smile!

Her Mom wrote:

“Maddy had a wonderful blessed day”
“They loved it”.



FINDING JACOB

We loved our new banner that Allison Cellana created to celebrate some of the kids we have connected with and brought smiles to through the AYJ Fund.

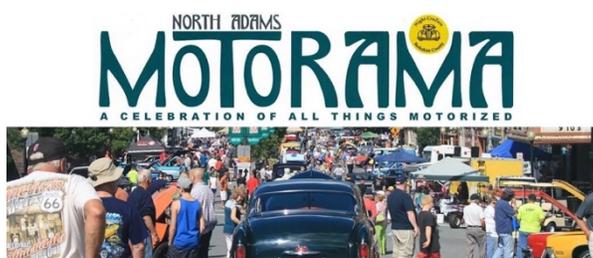


We had the banner hung on the wall during our Corn Hole Tournament this fall. Later we were sent this beautiful photo of our friend Jacob's younger sister Cecilia who found her big brother's picture on the banner. Jacob's family attended our event and Cecelia was so excited when she found her big brother!



MOTORAMA DONATION

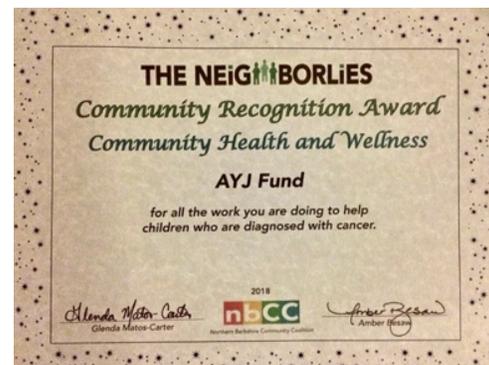
The AYJ Fund was so grateful to receive a grant from the North Adams Motorama organization to help support local children in our community with cancer. These funds are made possible from proceeds of the large annual Motorama North Adams event "celebrating all things motorized" put on by the Night Cruzers of Berkshire County.



NEIGHBORLIES AWARD

We were honored to accept a "Neighborlies Award" for the AYJ Fund from the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. The award was in the Community Health and Wellness category "for all the work you are doing to help children who are diagnosed with cancer"

We were proud to join others in our Northern Berkshire community at this annual recognition ceremony of those who are making a positive impact in our community.



LUKE'S LETTERS TO SANTA

Luke Hoag is an 11 year old who was treated for cancer when he was very young. At 3 years old he was



granted a wonderful trip to Disney World through the Make-a-Wish Foundation and talks about how it changed his life. Over the past few years he has been

busy helping Make-a-Wish grant wishes to other kids. He heard that Macy's donates \$2 for every letter to Santa that is delivered to a Macy's on "Believe Day" in December each year. Luke collected 77,000 letters and raised \$154,000 for Make-A-Wish!

A number of AYJ Fund supporters wrote letters to help Luke with his efforts, including the Hoosac Valley High School's Leadership Council, which worked with Hoosac Valley Elementary School to write these letters to Santa, add to Luke's total and help Make-a-Wish be able to grant wishes to even more children.



JIMMY FUND WALK

Anna's Army was out in force walking in the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk again this fall. This is always such a powerful and emotional event, as the first two years we walked, Anna was with us to send us off. We are so grateful for all of our family and friends who walked with us this year and to



all who helped sponsor us for this walk. Anna's Army helped this event raise over \$ 8 million this year to help support the critical work being done at Dana-Farber. Anna's Army has participated in this walk for eight years and raised a total of over \$30,000! Thank you to all who have supported us along the way.



PRINCESS PARADE

Our princesses proudly walked in the Fall Foliage Parade in early October to get the community excited about our upcoming AYJ Fund Princess Concert. We thank all of our princesses who walked with us. We had a



great group and the crowd cheered for all of their favorite princesses as they walked by. So much fun!

PRINCESS CONCERT

Our AYJ Fund Children's Princess Concert was a very special event for us again this year. We are grateful to the MCLA Allegrettos, which sponsored the event and blessed us with beautiful music from both the gospel group and the a cappella group. Jessica Wilson / Jess Renèe Music then took the stage and welcomed the children in the audience to join her in music and



on stage. Our Disney Princesses, including students from our local high schools, were available before the concert for a meet-and-greet and photos. We captured many special moments as many of the children came dressed in their favorite Princess outfits and searched to find their Disney Princess in person. There was so much excitement and wonderful music in the room as well as so many smiles on the faces of the children.



Thank you to all of our princesses for making the day so special for the AYJ Fund and for all who came out to enjoy the concert. Thank you to Pam Wilk and Kathleen Carbone, who made this possible, Berkshire Macaroni Kid for helping to spread the word, Berkshire Embroidery and Printing for our banner, Beck's Printing for all our printed materials, and all who donated items to the Chinese Auction, volunteered their time and talents and all who helped make this day such a great success!

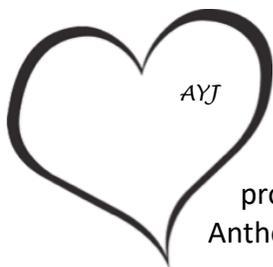
AYJ FUND TALENT

Do you have a talent or skill you'd be willing to share to help the AYJ Fund bring more smiles to kids with cancer?



Our talented supporters helped create these wonderful pillowcases and adorable hats that we were so excited to be able to share with kids who needed a little extra smile! We'd love to share the beautiful work of other AYJ Fund supporters.

ANTHONY'S FIGHT WITH LEUKEMIA



Anthony Goodrich of Pittsfield has had his third relapse of his AML, Acute Myeloid Leukemia, and the AYJ Fund was pleased to be able to provide a donation and help work at Anthony's fundraiser this fall.



BERKSHIRE COUNTY JIMMY FUND EVENT

33rd Annual Berkshire County Jimmy Fund Ice Fishing Derby – Sun Feb 10th 6am-2pm

Onota Lake Pavilion, Pittsfield MA

\$ 15 Adults \$5 Children Fee includes food & beverages

3 Division Trophies & Prizes Adult, Young Adult and Children

Tickets available in advance at Onota Boat Livery, Maces Marine or at the Pavilion the day of the derby.

AYJ FUND IN THE GIVING BACK GUIDE

Check out the AYJ Fund and other nonprofits in "Giving Back, Your Guide to Charitable Opportunities in the Berkshires" published by the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires.



MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The AYJ Fund was blessed to receive memorial donations in the names of the following. Our hearts break for the loss of these beautiful souls, and we will always keep them in our hearts and prayers.



Lucille Kulp – Anna's friend Alyssa's grandmother, who lived a full life of 100 years. We are grateful to the Marceau family.



Bob Mongeon – Anna's cousin Leon's father-in-law Mike and the Mongeon family have been friends and supporters of the AYJ Fund for years.



Brian Simard – Anna's grade school friend Breanna's older brother, who attended Drury High when Anna was there. Brian died in a tragic accident. Our hearts go out to our friends Sue, Mike and Breanna.

VOLUNTEER FRIDAYS

We are considering selecting one Friday a month where friends who have offered to volunteer would gather together and help with some of AYJ Fund's events, SMILES projects and marketing work.

Please contact Kathy if you would be interested in joining us. No commitment.



SOME OF OUR FAVORITE PICTURES AND NOTES FROM OUR AYJ FRIENDS

- ❖ *“I am truly amazed by all the work you do and appreciate all the time and effort you put into making these teens time in treatment a bit more bearable. We could not make all the magic happen without friends like you.”*
 Jen Noonan, MSW Adolescent Program Manager, Dana-Farber/Boston Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders Center

- ❖ *“I wanted to say thank you for the package we got for Arianna!..We had a rough Christmas this year and that package was a really great unexpected surprise! A blessing indeed. Thank you so much for thinking of her! She’s doing so well and started to improve so much in school. Sometimes I worry because I know we have no control over this so thank you again.”*
 Arianna’s Mom

SHOP & HELP THE AYJ FUND BIG Y COMMUNITY BAG PROGRAM

We have some great news!

We have been chosen by the Big Y located in North Adams, MA, as the latest non-profit to benefit from the Community Bag Program. This means that for the entire month of February, the AYJ Fund will receive a \$1 donation every time a reusable Community Bag is sold, unless otherwise directed by the customer.



All you have to do to support the AYJ Fund is go to the Big Y at 45 Veterans Memorial Drive, North Adams throughout the month of February and purchase a

reusable bag! Thank you for your support!

SHOP AMAZON SMILE

Another way to shop and help the AYJ Fund!

The AYJ Fund is an approved charity on Amazon Smile. When shopping on Amazon, go first to www.amazonsmile.com and select AYJ Fund as your charity option. From then on, every time you shop, a percentage of your purchases will go to the AYJ Fund. No cost to you! This works for all of your Amazon purchases, including school supplies, movies and books, food staples, household items, and all those other essentials you find on Amazon.

If you own a business, you can help even more by signing up now!



Our friend Jacob and his sister Lyla at the AYJ Fund Corn Hole Tournament

Jimmy Fund Walk day fun AYJ Fund style!



More fun from our Princess Concert!



amazonsmile
 You shop. Amazon gives.

WHERE TO FIND AYJ FUND

WEBSITE www.AYJfund.org

Our website has all the news on our latest events, and the option of purchasing tickets online. There is also lots of information on gliomatosis cerebri with the latest research articles posted, and links to lots of information and videos for helping children with all types of cancer. Check it out!

FACEBOOK AYJ Fund

INSTAGRAM AYJ Fund

TWITTER AYJ Fund

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate – We are always grateful for monetary donations in any amount to continue our mission of smiles ... connections ... cures. Donations to our silent and Chinese auctions and items for the kids are always appreciated throughout the year.

Volunteer - Contact us at Kathy@AYJfund.org and let us know you're available to help in any way.

Support our programs - Ask what our next SMILES project is, or send along your ideas on what we can do to raise funds, help research, and make more smiles.

Spread the word – Share information with family and friends on how critical increased funding for research is for childhood cancer and all brain cancers.

