


Profiles In
COMPASSION



Annual Report 2004



Lainie's Angels
Mission
Statement



Lainie's Angels will address an important, widespread, and currently unmet human need – the need families of children with cancer and blood disorders have for ongoing support.

Lainie's Angels will provide this support by creating and sustaining Family Support Groups within the institutions that treat these children.

Lainie's Angels will speak out publicly on those families' behalf to make sure their neighbors across the nation understand their need.

Message



from the president

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

One of the keys to the successful growth and development of any organization can be found in the relationships it holds with the individuals who help perpetuate its mission. In the pages of this, our 2004 annual report, you will meet four of these individuals, each of whom have made a tremendous impact on people's lives. Whether caring for sick children, teaching community service and social responsibility through the vehicle of sport, or sharing personal experiences to comfort others, these outstanding and courageous people exemplify the mission of Lainie's Angels.

Just as these individuals serve in their homes, hospitals and communities, Lainie's Angels is with them, supporting their efforts through our education and outreach and Parent Advocate programs. 2004 was a year in which we as an institution dedicated ourselves to increasing awareness of the needs of the families we serve, and creating new programs to help these families cope. I am proud to announce that Lainie's Angels has entered into a five-year development program with Children's Memorial Hospital of Chicago, an institution that serves over 94,000 pediatric patients a year. With the establishment of this program, we have the opportunity to touch the lives of hundreds of children and practice the compassionate care so necessary to their families.

Along with our hospital-based efforts, we continue to take an active stance in the communities we serve. Here in New Jersey, we have established relationships with organizations that serve children directly and in the public school districts. Educating healthy children and their families on the hardships of sick children is just one way in which we fulfill our mission of speaking out publicly on behalf of those families, making sure their neighbors understand their need.

The successes of 2004 could not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our board of directors and all the volunteers who help us each day. And, on behalf of everyone here at Lainie's Angels, I would like to thank you, our donors, for your continued support of our mission. We wish you health and happiness, and hope that you enjoy reading our 2004 annual report.

With love and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Stathi Afendoulis". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Stathi Afendoulis

Lainie's Dad

Founder and President, Lainie's Angels



About Lainie's Angels

The Lainie's Angels story begins in June 2000, when Stathi and Emily Afendoulis' 12 year-old daughter Lainie succumbed to Ewing's Sarcoma – a particularly rare and virulent form of bone cancer. Though her life was short, Lainie touched the hearts of many people through her grace, passion, and generosity. It was in the memory of Lainie's unique and irrepressible spirit that her parents were inspired to create Lainie's Angels.

Lainie's Angels is dedicated to making the lives of families currently struggling with pediatric cancer or a blood disorder just a little bit easier. The key component of this effort is the parent advocate program, whereby parents whose children have battled these diseases are recruited by Lainie's Angels and trained in peer support. In turn, these parent advocates – or "Angels" – provide the families of newly diagnosed children with guidance, counseling, and empathy.

In addition to the parent advocate function, Lainie's Angels offers parents a wealth of information and resources to help them make informed decisions about their child's treatment. The organization also works to promote awareness of pediatric cancer and blood disorders – which currently afflict over 50,000 families nationwide – through regular events, ongoing publicity campaigns and speaking engagements, and an informative Web site (www.lainiesangels.com).

Most importantly, Lainie's Angels offers hope to families who must bear an enormous emotional and spiritual burden. While no one can erase the pain these families will suffer as they fight their battle, we can offer them the comfort that comes with knowing that they are not alone.

2004

Highlights





2004 was truly an exciting year for Lainie's Angels, one in which we expanded our presence, established important new partnerships, and made major strides towards our long-term goal of building a national network of parent advocates. Our accomplishments of the last year stand not only as successes in their own right, but also as a foundation for the continued growth of Lainie's Angels in years to come. Here are a few highlights from the past year:

Kicks for Kids

On October 3rd, hundreds of parents, coaches and kids came to Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Edison, New Jersey for Lainie's Angel's 1st Annual Kicks for Kids with Cancer and Blood Disorders. Our fall fundraiser featured a 5k run/walk, all-day soccer matches on five different fields, and a soccer skills area where kids displayed their talents in speed dribbling, penalty kicking and more. The local professional soccer team, the New York/New Jersey MetroStars, pitched in with a "shoot and score" event, awarding prizes to children who kicked balls into an inflatable goal. MetroStars starting defender Chris Leitch provided a major highlight of the day, signing autographs and offering inspiration to the scores of young soccer players who participated in the fun.



Kicks for Kids was sponsored by Rovers International Soccer and the Edison United Soccer Association (EUSA) and was strongly supported by the local business community. As always, our tireless volunteer staff kept the event running smoothly all day long.

Kicks for Kids proved such an enormous success, both as a fundraiser and as a means of spreading the word about Lainie's Angels, that talk began almost immediately about the next Kick, to be held in fall 2005 – establishing the event as an annual Lainie's Angels tradition.

Pagano's Wine Tasting

Since its inception, Lainie's Angels has frequently turned to wine tastings, both for purposes of fundraising and as a means of bringing our many supporters together in a social setting. Valentine's Day 2004 was another such occasion, as Pagano's Restaurant in Grand Rapids, Michigan played host to more than 200 friends of the Lainie's Angels organization. Wine growers from across the state were on hand to share in some of the finest wines Michigan has to offer - and to help raise funding and awareness of the Lainie's Angels mission.



Partnership with Children's Memorial Hospital

In 2004, Lainie's Angels announced a major new partnership with Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital that will greatly expand Lainie's Angels' national reach. One of the country's leading children's hospitals and research centers, Children's Memorial Hospital serves more than 94,000 children every year, many of whom have rare and complex medical conditions.

As a key element of the partnership, Lainie's Angels will provide funding to help Children's Memorial expand its family support program into its new Palliative Care program. This pediatric palliative care program will be the first of its kind in the Chicago area, and will perform an essential function - providing comprehensive end-of-life care that fulfills the emotional needs of both terminally ill children and their families. Lainie's Angels looks forward to the many exciting opportunities that this alliance will no doubt yield as the program expands and grows.



In 2005, Lainie's Angels will provide funding to assist Children's Memorial Hospital of Chicago (inset left) expand its family support program into its palliative care program.

Profiles In
Compassion





Ultimately, Lainie’s Angels is about the profound difference that a single human life can make in the lives of others – and about the power of compassion to illuminate even our darkest hours. The individuals featured in these profiles represent just a few of the people that Lainie’s Angels has brought together in the name of hope. It is to these individuals – the families we serve, the volunteers so crucial to our success, the parent advocates who are at the core of our mission, the medical professionals working tirelessly to care for our afflicted children – that we dedicate our efforts, and through them that we will continue to grow.

Jill
Andrews





One of the starkest realities of pediatric cancer and blood disorders is that, despite continuing medical advances, some children will still lose the battle. Jill Andrews faced this heartbreaking fact in June 2004, when her daughter Stephanie succumbed to myelodysplasia (MDS), a bone marrow disorder. Although her loss is still painfully fresh, Jill felt it important to tell others about the support she received from parent advocate Carol Vattimo, both during Stephanie's illness and after her death. "It will always touch too close to home," Jill says, "but we need to get the word out there."

As head of the Golisano Children's Hospital parent advocate program, Carol met with Jill shortly after Stephanie's diagnosis. It was the beginning of an important relationship, one that would help Jill cope with the struggles facing her in the months ahead. "Carol is just wonderful," Jill says. "She is a truly caring person and she wants to help, to make it a comfortable situation, given what you're dealing with."

Carol encouraged Jill to explore all of the options and resources available through the hospital and other organizations. "Carol would answer any questions we had, and if she didn't have the answer she would go and find one for us. She was very honest, right from the beginning. She taught us how to go through proper channels to get things done."

Jill and Carol remain close to this day, meeting frequently for lunch. "Parent advocacy is definitely needed," Jill says. "You need to have someone you can trust, who will give you honest answers and not just tell you what you want to hear. Carol gives me that support. It's wonderful to know that I have someone I can talk to, someone who understands."

Carol
Vattimo





For over two decades, Carol Vattimo has been a key contributor to the CURE Childhood Cancer Association's peer-to-peer support program at the Golisano Children's Hospital in Rochester, New York. The ongoing success of this program provided the model for Lainie's Angels' national parent advocate network, and Lainie's Angels now provides Golisano with annual grants to fund and expand its program.

Carol's story begins in 1983, when her eight-year-old son Brian came to Golisano Children's Hospital for treatment. At the time, no program of peer-to-peer support existed to bring parents together. "If you happened to meet another parent on the floor of the hospital, it was just a coincidental meeting," she recalls. During Brian's treatment, an informal parent network began to evolve at the hospital's outpatient clinic. This unofficial program proved so popular that the hospital decided to institute it on a permanent basis, and Carol joined the staff as a full-time parent advocate.

Her involvement with families typically begins shortly after diagnosis as she helps them adjust to the day-to-day logistics of having a child in treatment. She also offers emotional support and an understanding ear. "We provide a coffee group once a week at the inpatient unit, so they can take a break and not be too far from their kids. I also try to take the families for coffee or tea one-on-one, so they have an opportunity to open up a little bit, ask some questions."

Over the years, Carol has shared moments of joy and sadness with many families. She wouldn't have it any other way. "I think for me personally, meeting with the families has always seemed like a privilege – that they would allow me into their lives, when their lives are in such chaos, to share their experiences. Some of those experiences are very tough, and sometimes there are much happier times, but it's all very rewarding."

Spencer
Rockman





For over three decades, Spencer Rockman has been a man on a mission. As the director of Rover’s International Soccer based in Edison, New Jersey, he’s shared his love of soccer with thousands of children, using the sport as a means of promoting personal values and character development. He is also one of the architects of Lainie’s Angels’ hugely successful Kicks for Kids with Cancer and Blood Disorders – an event that grew from Spencer’s conviction that “every step we take in life, on or off the field, is an opportunity to do good.”

“I’d had this idea mulling around for a Rover’s Run for charity,” Spencer recalls, “and I knew the right time for it would come along. When I was introduced to Lainie’s Angels, it was just a natural connection. I approached them and suggested that we work together.”

Spencer’s idea was quickly expanded to include a soccer skills area and an all-day soccer marathon, and Kicks for Kids was born. As planning progressed, support was secured from local and national businesses, as well as the MetroStars, the New York/New Jersey professional soccer team. “We worked really hard to get the word out, to galvanize the community, both locally and beyond,” Spencer says – and the hard work paid off. The event, held in October 2004, ultimately drew over 1000 participants, raising funds and greatly heightening awareness of the Lainie’s Angel’s mission.

“I’m very excited about next year,” he says. “We’re going to kick it up a notch.” Striving for more is an important part of the philosophy that Spencer has shared with the kids at Rover’s over the last thirty years, summed up by the phrase, “keep the ball rolling.” He plans to keep the ball rolling with Lainie’s Angels for years to come.

Dr. Morris
Kletzel





Morris
Kletzel

In 2005, Lainie's Angels will begin a five-year partnership with Children's Memorial Hospital of Chicago, as part of the hospital's new palliative care program. Dr. Morris Kletzel, head of Children's Memorial's Pediatric Hematology/Oncology department, is one of the primary forces behind the program, which will incorporate peer-to-peer support into its comprehensive care for terminally ill children and their families.

The peer support model promoted by Lainie's Angels will be a major component of the program. "I think this is going to be a parent-driven organization," he says. Dr. Kletzel and his colleagues decided early on that "not only should the parents be involved, but they should be active participants." Parents will be recruited to form an advisory board, which will in turn help doctors and staff better respond to the needs of families. And with help from Lainie's Angels, the hospital's existing family-to-family program will be expanded to address the practical and emotional issues facing families with a terminally ill child.

Dr. Kletzel sees many benefits in peer-to-peer advocacy. "The communication from parent to parent can be helpful... because it brings the best out of us [as doctors] in terms of responding to people's needs and issues."

"Today is a different era than when I started doing medicine. Parents are much better informed." With the expansion of peer-to-peer programs throughout the nation, Dr. Kletzel says, "families are now partners in the care of children with cancer – that's how I see it."

Lainie's Angels **Financials** 2004

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES* For the Years Ended December 31, 2004 and 2003

REVENUES:	2004	2003
Contributions	\$45,210.57	\$17,176.90
Donated Materials	0.00	1,005.05
Special Events (Net)	14,940.10	61,876.23
Interest Income	2,724.59	2,712.6
Dividend Income	11.28	0.00
Total Revenue	<u>62,886.54</u>	<u>82,770.64</u>
EXPENSES:		
Grants Given	\$11,000.00	\$22,684.50
Salaries and Related Expenses	9,688.00	39,354.00
Program and Operating Expenses	17,617.92	18,231.16
Total Expenses	<u>38,305.92</u>	<u>80,269.66</u>
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	24,580.62	2,500.98
Net Assets January 1	<u>271,497.62</u>	<u>268,996.64</u>
Net Assets December 31	\$296,078.24	\$271,497.62

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION* December 31, 2004 and 2003

ASSETS:	2004	2003
Current Assets:		
Cash – Business Checking	\$6,622.70	\$2,828.83
Cash – Money Market	283,736.8	268,069.50
Investments at Cost	4,073.06	3,020.26
Investment Cash	908.65	0.00
Total Current Assets	<u>295,341.21</u>	<u>273,918.59</u>
Fixed Assets:		
Equipment	2,526.03	2,526.03
Total Fixed Assets	2,526.03	2,526.03
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,789.00)</u>	<u>(947.00)</u>
Net Book Value	737.03	1,579.03
Total Assets	\$296,078.24	\$275,497.62
LIABILITIES:		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,000</u>
Total Current Liabilities	\$0.00	\$4,000
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>296,078.24</u>	<u>271,497.62</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$296,078.24	\$275,497.62

*Statements have been prepared by Desantis, Keifer, Shall & Sarcone LLP, Staten Island, New York. For further information regarding these statements, please contact Lainie's Angels at (732)-906-7887 or Stathi@lainiesangels.com

Lainie's Angels

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Lainie's Angels extends its sincerest gratitude to the many generous individuals and organizations who contributed to us in 2004:

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Lainie's Angels

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Lainie's Angels

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We work very hard to make sure every dollar we raise goes directly towards the well-being of parents and children thrown into a very uncertain and difficult situation. Your donation will help to provide an angel for these families, someone who can serve as a mentor and guide along the road ahead.

How to Give:

Credit Card: Secure donations can be made via our Web site: www.lainiesangels.com

Check or Money Order: Donation forms can be found on our Web site; please forward the completed form, along with your donation to:

Lainie's Angels
24 Oak Grove Lane
Edison, NJ 08820

To reach us directly, please call: 732-906-7887. All donations are tax deductible. Lainie's Angels is a 501(c)(3) not for profit charitable foundation. You can also give to Lainie's Angels through The United Way, through their directed donor giving programs. Our United Way number is 043334. We thank you for your support.



Lainie's Angels

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