



# The Zinzi Family's Philanthropic Impact

AT CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HOSPITAL



From our volunteers who enthusiastically engage with our families to the hundreds of special gifts stocked in Dr. Bear's Closet, the Zinzi Family's steadfast generosity continues to make these special touches possible for all patients who walk through our doors. The Zinzi Family's partnership means a great deal to us, having raised \$567,000 over the last 20 years through the Zinzi Christmas Party. With gratitude, we are proud to update you on how your support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of so many children at Children's National Hospital.

## Leading the Way, Brightening the Day

Just the thought of hospitals can often bring families unease. When surgery is involved, stress levels increase tenfold. Your generosity enables us to alleviate much of this anxiety through the Pre-Surgical Tour Program. This program introduces surgical patients and their families to the hospital prior to the day of surgery. A team of trained staff and volunteers lead the patients and their families through a tour of the Joseph E. Robert, Jr. Center for Surgical Care. Families are then introduced to commonly used equipment and procedures and various members of the healthcare team. By familiarizing families with the surgical preparation and recovery process, we significantly decrease their fears and increase the likelihood for a successful operation.


This year, we are proud to share that your support has enabled us to lead tours for 235 total participants in specialty areas such as Cardiology, Neurology, and Orthopedics. Results indicated that 94% of 100 families surveyed that had the opportunity to tour their specialty area were very satisfied with their experience.

## A Room Full of Joy

Playing is an essential part of childhood and is especially important when children undergo difficult treatment or procedures due to illness. Through the Zinzi Family's generosity, we ensure that our patients continue to have opportunities to play and just be kids through the many donated toys, games, and books in Dr. Bear's Closet. Whether comfort is needed before a child's medical procedure or to celebrate a birthday, Dr. Bear's Closet is fully stocked with age-appropriate gifts that will brighten our patients' day. Additionally, your support of Dr. Bear's Closet extends to our parents who often require necessities such as clothing, gas and grocery cards, and hotel accommodations while their child is being treated.

We are grateful to have received \$567,000 over the last 20 years through the Zinzi Christmas Party to support Dr. Bear's Closet. Your continued support enables Children's National Hospital to provide toys and supplies to all our children located at the hospital, our 83 onsite clinics, and 37 extended campuses.



We receive hundreds of thank you cards each year from patient families expressing their gratitude for the services we provide. They are a wonderful reminder of the the Zinzi Family's immense impact at our hospital. 

—Fernanda Vessio, Director of Volunteer Services

## Caring Comes Full Circle

Thanks to your longstanding generosity, Children's National Hospital has made a memorable impact on the lives of thousands of children over the years. Because of the close connection we build with our patients and their families, we are fortunate to continue engaging with them even after the completion of their visit.

Fernanda Vessio, Director of Volunteer Services at Children's National Hospital, fondly recalls two former patients and their families who currently give back to the hospital in their own unique ways. The first is Amanda, a cerebral palsy patient.

"Amanda first came to the hospital for surgery in the emergency department. She had just completed the procedure and was still sedated. I was nearby helping the family and assumed Amanda would have no recollection of the events. The operation was a success and she was able to go home. Three years later, I had a special visit from a mother and her daughter who was eager to become a volunteer. When I asked about her reason for volunteering, she smiled and said,

'You might not remember me, but I certainly remember you through your voice, because you helped me and my family during my surgery. You are amazing, and I want to give back.' It was a touching moment for me that I'll never forget. Now, Amanda plays an important role at the hospital as a rockstar volunteer in the patient care and greeter program."

Because the patient experience includes the needs of the family, often parents will continue to be engaged through philanthropy, as Fernanda describes in David's story.

"As a young boy, David was treated at our hospital. During his stay we gifted him a Harley Davidson toy motorcycle which became one of his favorite toys. David's mother was very appreciative and began donating to the hospital soon after their visit. Since then, David's family has moved to the Chicago area, and David has grown up to be a healthy 17-year-old. While no longer in the D.C. region, his mother continues to make donations to us, which have actually increased each year. She's always very grateful for her son's experience and tells me David still keeps the toy motorcycle after so many years."

## FY17 Volunteer Highlights:



**114**  
hospital tours led

**1,513**  
volunteers  
served over  
**77,000**  
hours



over  
**12,000**  
families and patients  
served through art  
and coffee cart rounds

