

"There's a generosity of spirit at Karmanos like I've never seen anywhere else."

Greg Skwira
Lymphoma Survivor



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The Rosemary A. Hockney Memorial Foundation Gives Back to Children

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Michael Hockney is dedicated to fulfilling a commitment – a commitment to follow in his mother's footsteps of helping those less fortunate.

After losing both of their mothers to cancer, Michael Hockney and Robin Sanderson were inspired to help others living with cancer. Together, they co-founded The Rosemary A. Hockney Memorial Foundation. Michael and Robin were particularly concerned about the children and the challenges they face when confronted with cancer, whether as patients or as the secondary party when a parent is diagnosed.

The Hockney Foundation offers two kinds of grants to families affected by cancer. Kids First is their signature program that provides grants to families in Michigan confronting the emotional and financial uncertainty that often is present with a cancer diagnosis. The Foundation also awards scholarship grants to patients and their families based on the fact that many face the battle with cancer and win. Michael and the Foundation have been working with Patient and Family Support Services at the Karmanos Cancer Center helping children and their families since December 2004.

"Meeting families' overwhelming needs for financial assistance, understanding, love and support embodies the essence of The Rosemary A. Hockney Memorial Foundation," said Michael Hockney.

Today, the Foundation is comprised of volunteers from all walks of life who share a common bond of helping others. Many people have contributed to the building blocks of The Rosemary A. Hockney Memorial Foundation: the patients, families, doctors, volunteers, corporate partners and donors. Although each brings a different dimension, they all work together to form a unique bond that will last for generations. All of these special people continue to come together with energy, dedication, loyalty and a caring spirit that sparks creation and enhances the longevity of what has become an extraordinary volunteer organization.

Throughout the year, fundraisers are held to help raise money. Individuals and groups also donate to the Foundation. The Foundation's largest annual event is a gala held in April called A Night of Hope, and raises a substantial amount of money to benefit the children.

The Rosemary A. Hockney Foundation has helped many children and their families in the past, some of the many generosityes include: covering the funeral expenses of a 12-year-old cancer patient, covering the rent and utilities of a seriously ill mother, and paying for a family to take one last vacation together to Disney World. Recently, the Foundation helped a Karmanos family whose mother had an aggressive form of breast cancer to bring the family home out of foreclosure and paid for them to take a vacation to Florida for a week.

While Rosemary preferred to work quietly in the background, she positively touched and influenced the lives of many with her incredible acts of kindness and generosity. She never looked for recognition, just for ways to help those less fortunate than herself.

Thank you to The Rosemary A. Hockney Foundation for all that you have done to benefit the children and their families whose lives have been affected by cancer.