Newsletter of
the Foundation
for Faces of
Children

Spring 2020
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# FACING THE FUTURE

## The FFC Annual Appeal has Been Moved to Springtime

**THANKS TO OUR DONORS**

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all donors for supporting the Foundation for Faces of Children and making a donation each year. We're very grateful for your generosity and for yet another successful year.

In the past, our Annual Paces for Faces Walk & Family Picnic in September was followed by the FFC Annual Appeal in November. To put some distance between the two, the Board of Directors decided to move the Annual Appeal to the Spring starting this year.

Please take time to review the letter from Board President Michael Greiner on page two of this newsletter. He reports the wide array of much-appreciated work being done for our FFC family. Each donation is *deeply* appreciated so please consider making one.

… and Happy Spring!

## Memories of Great Times at Camp Reflections

by Grace Cole

First time away from home and family, Grace Cole enjoyed fitting in with all of the other campers at Camp Reflections in 2019.

I attended Camp Reflections this summer. This camp experience was my first time being away from home and away from my family. The staff welcomed me with open arms and immediately made me feel right at home. I also felt comfortable because I was around people who were just like me with craniofacial differences. The cabins were very comfortable to sleep in and my cabin was always clean. I enjoyed the food a lot – it was delicious! The staff were always friendly and nice, and they kept a good watch on all the campers. The activities I enjoyed at camp were climbing the rock wall, tubing on the back of the boat, and cupcake wars. My cupcake was nominated as the one that would give you the most sugar high. The activities that worked on my strengths were that we sang the Harbor song and boy do I enjoy singing more than anything. I also got to be in a talent show and I love to perform in front of people. I also got to try archery for the first time, it was fun even though I struggled with it. I found it very easy to make friends at camp because everyone was respectful and kind to each other. The other memorable moment of going to camp was we had CPR radio which stands for Camp Public Radio and we had a radio show everyday where counselors interviewed the campers. I told my mother and my aunt when they picked me up from camp that I wanted to attend Camp Reflections again because I had so much fun and it gave me more confidence in myself. I would recommend Camp Reflections to other children and teens who have craniofacial differences because it is a place where you can be a kid and fit in with others like yourself. I look forward to another week at camp this summer.

Save the date!

### BRUNCH TO HONOR MOMS

**Don't miss FFC's Annual Brunch to Honor Moms Sunday, May 3 with guest speaker Kassie Merrill-Olver, Clinical Social Worker, BCH Maternal Fetal Care Center.**

Being the best mom you can be starts with self-care. Join other FFC moms at the Embassy Suites in Waltham for an informative yet relaxing morning presentation on self-care and maternal health. Sign up for either a quick chair massage or a Reiki session while enjoying brunch with fellow moms. Moms are invited to share their own tips, suggestions and experiences, on how they keep all the balls in the air (while taking care of themselves!), and raising their child affected by a craniofacial difference. See inside for more information.

## Discovering Creativity at the FFC Paint Party!

by Emma Kwan

**I like going to the FFC annual paint party because it's really fun and a great way to meet other kids with facial differences. It's so fun to see friends and hang out together while we paint. This event gets even more creative every year. Last year, we got to make a painting with mittens and this year we created a painting of a snowman. Every year it is a new picture and this year we got to use glitter which made it even more fun. My family likes going because it's a great way to meet people with similar interests. This year, someone did not want to do the painting that they were teaching. No problem! That teacher helped her do a different painting. I thought this was a great idea. This shows how this paint bar is really open to creativity. I'm looking forward to next year so I can create a new painting that will be really fun to make.**

Prepared to paint! (L-R): Niko Dimidis, Mac Dimidis and Emma Kwan.

Megan and Emma Kwan with their creations.

Paces for Faces Walk & Family Picnic

“Such a great day! Thanks for all who made this happen. See you next year!”

Jennie M.

Mother’s Brunch

“Amazing group of women and support system.”

Danille M.

Mother’s Brunch

“It was a wonderful event. Thank you to all!”

Karen F.

Pawtucket Red Sox Game

“Had a blast. So nice to see the boys meet each other for the first time and watch them laugh throughout the game!”

Roxanne & Miguel T.

Dear FFC Supporter and Friend:

2019 proved to be another great year for the children and families we support through the Foundation for Faces of Children. We shared, learned, and walked together once again and advanced our support networks. We had our serious moments, funny moments, and moments for reflection.

I became involved with the FFC over five years ago after my son was born with bilateral cleft lip and palate. Because I have a repaired bilateral cleft lip and palate, I understood what lay ahead for our son. The journey forward would be filled with a range of emotions and challenging moments. How we handle those moments determine whether he thrives or if the adversity negatively impacts his confidence and self-image.

Every family with a child born with a craniofacial difference will experience this journey. The question is, how will our children and the families navigate it? With a loving and supportive network, we will develop our children’s character to ensure a triumphant journey. These children become accomplished with their varied talents and generally exhibit a sensitivity for others that shows deep care and love.

The mission of the FFC is to provide educational, networking and advocacy opportunities along the journey from newborn to childhood to adolescence. We recognize that there are changing needs depending on which season of life the child and family are experiencing. Listed below are some of the activities and programs we provided in the past year to support our children and families.

**Annual Paces for Faces Walk & Family Picnic** – a beautiful fall day on Lake Quannapowitt brought us together for exercise, fun, and food to raise funds for the Foundation for Faces of Children. We had a great time, included more than 350 people, and raised over $36,000.

**Making Faces Workshop with Michael Williams-Stark** – A program that encourages self-expression and team work, teaches communication skills, builds self-confidence, and inspires kids to follow their dreams.

**Sporting Events** – We brought our children and families together for the Providence Bruins, Harlem Globetrotters, Lowell Spinners and the Pawtucket Red Sox. Great afternoons of fellowship for all.

**Scholarship Awards** – Four of our children, Breann Hill, Carolyn Bradley, Samantha Berman, and Sydney Cerveny were awarded substantial scholarships for college.

**Cher’s Family Retreat** – We supported a young adult and her family to attend the Children’s Craniofacial Association’s retreat in Scottsdale, Arizona. The annual retreat provides individuals affected by a facial difference, their siblings and parents an opportunity to interact with others who have endured similar experiences. For 2020, we’ll be supporting two additional families for their trip to Austin, Texas.

Without your continuing financial support, these programs will not be possible. I ask you to consider the future needs of the Foundation and the support it provides to children with craniofacial differences and their families.

## SUGGESTED GIVING LEVELS

**$500** will be recognized in supporting an educational webinar

**$250** helps send our children to college and beyond

**$100** contributes to a biennial trip to Cher’s Retreat

**$50** makes room for a mother to celebrate Mother’s Day with support

**$25** creates networking and support opportunities for a family

**Give** “in honor of” or “in memory of”

**Consider** the Foundation in your estate planning

**You may donate securely at our website: facesofchildren.org/how-to-help**

All contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

Please note that we are always looking for engaged parents with new ideas and experiences who are willing to actively join the Board so that we may continue to make each year better than the one before.

Michael C. Greiner

Michael C. Greiner

*President and Board Member, Foundation for Faces of Children*

# JOIN US FOR FFC PROGRAMS IN 2020!

For info & updates, visit facesofchildren.org/news-events

## *Brunch to Honor Moms*

Sunday May 3, 2020 – 9 am to noon

*Embassy Suites Hotel, 550 Winter Street, Waltham, Mass.*

Don't miss FFC's Annual Brunch to Honor Moms on Sunday, May 3rd with Guest Speaker **Kassie Merrill-Olver**, Clinical Social Worker in the Maternal Fetal Care Center at Boston Children's Hospital.

For updates and more information, follow us on Instagram, Facebook or visit our website.

*Please R.S.V.P by Friday, April 24*

## 2020 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION

2020 FFC Scholarship Awards

**Thursday, May 14**
**7:00 pm**
**Embassy Suites Hotel, 550 Winter Street, Waltham, Mass.**

Since its inception in 1999, the FFC Scholarship Award Program has distributed 70 scholarships for a total of $164,000. The Program recognizes promising students born with a facial difference by annually awarding post-secondary educational scholarships (college or vocational/technical school).

*Please R.S.V.P by Monday, May 4*

## LOWELL SPINNERS!

TWO GAMES!

**Saturday, July 17**
**5 pm**

– AND –

**Monday, Aug. 10**
**7 pm**

LeLacheur Park
450 Aiken St
Lowell, Mass.

## 2020 Paces for Faces Walk Family Picnic

**Sunday, Sept. 27**
**10:30 am**
**Lake Quannapowitt**
**Wakefield, Mass.**

## PAWTUCKET RED SOX!

**Sunday June 14**
**1 pm**

vs **Toledo Mudhens**

McCoy Stadium
1 Columbus Ave., Pawtucket, R.I.

**Follow us on Instagram**
**@FoundationForFacesofChilden**

If you are interested in reserving seats for any of these events, email us at **programs@facesofchildren.org**. Please list all of the programs you wish to attend and include the names of all those who will be attending along with the ages of those under 18.

## My Making Faces Experience

makingfaces.ca

**By Cameron Ireson**

HELLO! My name is Cameron Ireson. My experience at the Making Faces seminar was great, and here is why: When I first walked into the hotel it was the prettiest thing I think I had ever seen in my life. There were big columns holding up the building out-front. But I was super nervous when I walked in. I sat down and had my hands gripped to the bottom of my chair. I thought a mad man was coming. Then Michael walked in. I let go of the chair and I was not as scared, but I was still nervous. He introduced himself to all of us and sat down in the chair next to me. He started talking and said "Oh you want to know something, I used to be a voice-over actor of a character in Super Mario." That made me super relaxed, because I am a huge fan of Super Mario Brothers. Then I was really happy and excited! He said, "Okay let's get started!" I was still nervous but also shy. I thought to myself, "in through my nose, out through my mouth. Come on, this will be fun, fun, fun!" My inner voice was right, it was so much fun. After some cool games, it was time to socialize and eat lunch. We all sat at a table and ate a lot of food. I thought it was cool to sit and talk with kids just like me. Then it was back to the games. My favorite game was the one where we got to yell at Michael. We yelled at him, and then he had to run somewhere really fast. We laughed so hard. On the way home, I was thinking to myself, "Wow what an experience that was!" And from that moment on, I will never forget that day and how loud I yelled at Michael.

Cam shares a moment with Michael at the seminar

## Meet Clarissa Kwan, FFC's newest Board Member!

FFC's newest Board member, Clarissa Kwan, pictured with husband Hubert, and daughters, Emma (left), and Megan.

FFC is proud to announce the addition of Clarissa Kwan as our newest board member. When Clarissa's daughter, Emma, was found to have a unilateral cleft lip they were referred and introduced to Dr. Mulliken. For the last 12 years, Emma has been followed closely by Dr. Mulliken and his staff.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Clarissa has called Boston her home for the last 20 years. She is a graduate of San Francisco State University with an MBA from Boston University.

A working mom, Clarissa has over 15 years sales experience in the pharmaceutical industry. As an advocate of her patients, and a board member, Clarissa sees enumerable opportunities to aid in the ongoing transitions these patients make.

As it pertains to joining FFC's board, Clarissa states, "I believe I bring a plethora of experience as a parent of a cleft lip patient. My daughter is 12 yrs old now and we continue to find ongoing challenges in life – not only as a cleft lip patient, but also of a pre-teen in middle school. I believe that with my passion, experience and sales skills, I can help out in many ways in bringing this treatable condition to light. In turn, I would impact patient's (and their families' lives) positively." Clarissa hopes to utilize her parental knowledge in combination with her skills sets in marketing, sales and social media to help encourage and cultivate ongoing relationships with the parents and families of FFC.

In her spare time, Clarissa is an avid reader, spends lots of time with her husband, Hubert, older daughter Megan and Emma, and has recently honed her Reiki skills to become a Reiki Master.

## FFC to Sponsor Camp Reflections Campers in 2020!

HARBOR CAMPS

Together with Priscilla Coffin, a former long-time FFC Board member, we will be sponsoring attendance at Camp Reflections this August (*see story on page one*). A week-long camp for children with facial differences and their siblings (ages 8-16), Camp Reflections was founded to foster connections and friendship among children in our community. The camp takes place on a beautiful 116-acre lakefront property in New Hampshire. Each day, campers eat all their meals together and participate in fun activities (swimming, boating, sports, arts and crafts, music, drama, and a rock-climbing wall). Each night, the group comes together for an all-camp evening activity (camp songs, s'mores, movie night, star gazing, and a talent show). This year, the camp will take place from Sunday, August 16 to Sunday, August 23. A limited number of sponsorships are available so apply soon at harborcamps.org/camp-reflections. On your Camper's Application, be sure to mention that you heard of this camp from FFC. We hope to see you there! *Many thanks to Prilla for her generous support of this initiative.*

FOUNDATION FOR
Faces of Children

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**Connect with FFC Online**

**Support FCC**

amazon smile

The Foundation for Faces of Children is dedicated to improving the lives of children with craniofacial differences, including cleft lip, cleft palate, and other head and facial conditions.

Our mission is to:

- Provide patients and families with the most accurate, up-to-date, and accessible information about facial differences.
- Advocate for the best care possible for children with facial differences.

We achieve this by:

- Collaborating with leading specialists.
- Endorsing the team approach to care.
- Partnering with individuals and organizations with similar goals.

We are a not-for-profit organization entirely supported by private donations, grants, and fund-raising initiatives. Please contact us if you would like to participate in or sponsor a fundraising event.

### Board of Directors