Newsletter of
the Foundation
for Faces of
Children

Spring 2024
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FACING THE FUTURE

IN THIS ISSUE

FFC Cares Grant's Second Disbursement

The FFC Cares Grant was established in 2022 with the goal of helping to offset a small amount of the cost burden for families receiving medical care at eleven of the New England craniofacial centers. FFC has made donations to each of these clinics. Whether it be for assistance with fuel for long distance travel, supplying a meal voucher, covering parking fees, or help with costs for a local hotel stay while receiving care, FFC recognizes the lengths to which our families go to receive care for their child. These costs add up, and we want to help.

Fast forward to 2024 and six of the original eleven clinics have exhausted their funds. FFC would like to see the grants replenished.

Reflections by Cares Grant Recipient Clinics

OUR CLINIC has access to some donor funding for gas and food vouchers, but the Visa cards from FFC have been incredibly helpful in supporting families with miscellaneous other needs that do not fall into those categories. We have used them for specialty feeding supplies, formula before WIC benefits start, supplemental nutrition for the post-op feeding period, clothing for displaced families, etc. Families are so grateful for these flexible funds that can be given on the spot to support immediate needs. Thank you!"

MANY OF OUR PATIENTS travel an hour or more and some need to take the ferry. The funding helps out with the cost of gas or the ferry ride and without it, some patients may not be able to come to their appointments."

PATIENTS coming for surgery are the primary recipients of these funds. This helps them cover costs associated with the hospital stay such as parking fees, food, gas, or over-the-counter items needed for post operative care."

OUR FAMILIES often travel 3+ hours to the Maine Medical Center cleft clinic. These funds help with the cost of gas or pay for a meal on their way home. Many parents have to miss work (unpaid), which is a major hardship. Families have been so appreciative in the past!"

THESE VISA CARDS will help families subsidize the cost of travel and food to attend appointments. We treat families regardless of their ability to pay so these cards help families who wouldn't be able to provide transportation for themselves."

FOUNDATION FOR FACES OF CHILDREN
ANNUAL APPEAL

HOW TO DONATE TO FFC:

Please make donations at facesofchildren.org/how-to-help or by check (payable to Foundation for Faces of Children) sent to:

Foundation for Faces of Children Annual Appeal
258 Harvard Street, #367
Brookline, MA 02446

Cheryl Silveri pictured in 2014 for the scholarship announcement.

In Your Own Words

Continued Gratitude One Decade Later

by Cheryl Silveri

In 2014 I received the Dr. John B. Mulliken Scholarship, used towards my education at the MIT Sloan School of Management. Those two years were packed with late nights at the library, merry-making, job interviews and travel: Southeast Asia to study the varying economic conditions of the region, Morocco to consult for a startup tech company, and Patagonia to hike with Chilean classmates. In 2016, I graduated with a job offer from Microsoft and a fiancée.

Shortly after our wedding, my husband and I embarked on renovating a 100-year-old colonial, a 'starter' home that is fondly becoming our forever home (can't beat 2018 interest rates!). Since then, we have welcomed two perfect daughters, Lucy and Faye.

I stumbled into what has been an incredibly rewarding career advising large enterprises on Artificial Intelligence. I've been fortunate to work for men and women who have supported me through two maternity leaves, promoted me and encouraged my 'passion project' of advancing women in technology. Outside of work, I've slowly reclaimed pre-baby hobbies: tennis, skiing, yoga and reading ... hello old friends!

Truly, I am grateful for the support of the Dr. John B. Mulliken Scholarship, and for the many things Dr. Mulliken taught me while under his care. The most important lesson I learned from him was to develop a sense of wonder and to find my joy, something that Dr. Portia Chiou also inspired me to do. Additionally, the countless medical procedures and the self-image issues that I worked through as a young adult with microtia were important teachers – of resilience, humility and kindness. My hope is to teach these same lessons to my daughters.

Cheryl Silveri today with husband Dan and their daughters Lucy and Faye.

FFC's Success Comes Through Our Volunteers

We invite you to consider taking a more active role in supporting the Foundation for Faces of Children. Listed below are some of the important ways to become involved. If you are interested in serving in one of these areas, please contact us at communications@facesofchildren.org.

Scholarship Committee: Members read and evaluate applications and select award recipients. Serving on the committee requires one or two meetings as well as attendance at the scholarship awards presentation.

Walk Committee: Help plan the annual Paces for Faces Walk & Family Picnic fundraiser! Bring your ideas to monthly virtual meetings from May to September.

Board of Directors: Your skill and passion for our mission is needed to help provide oversight of FFC's programming, operations and fiduciary responsibilities. To serve on the Board means a commitment to attend monthly virtual meetings and some programming events.

Camryn Berry pictured in her 2017 scholarship announcement photo.

Scholarship Recipients Continue to Make us Proud

FFC proudly announces recent award wins by Camryn Berry, 2017 recipient of the Dr. John B. Mulliken Scholarship award! FFC congratulates her for the following achievements:

UNH Three-Minute Thesis

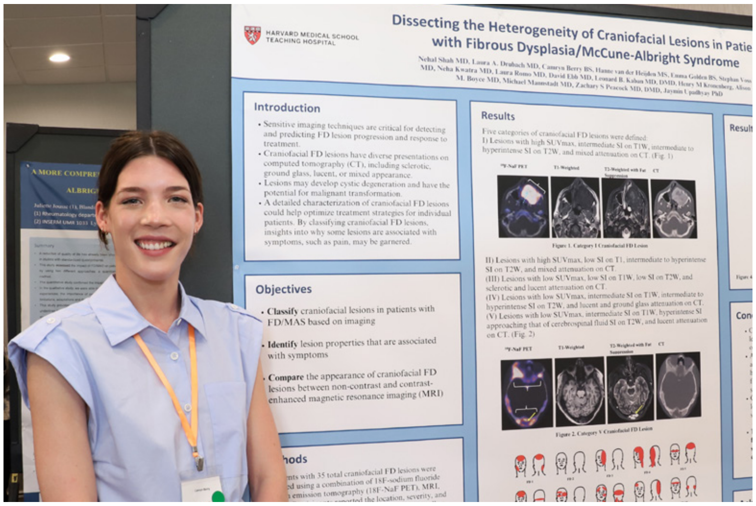
Three Minute Thesis (3MT) celebrates the exciting research conducted by PhD students around the world. Developed by the University of Queensland (UQ), the competition cultivates students' academic, presentation, and research communication skills. Presenting in a 3MT competition increases their capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience. Camryn researched pain in Fibrous Dysplasia, the rare disease that makes her a part of the craniofacial community, at Boston Children's Hospital.

Graduate Student Public Engagement and Outreach Award

This Graduate Student Public Engagement and Outreach Award is designed to recognize graduate students who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to public engagement, outreach, and/or service.

Summer Teaching Assistant Fellowship (STAF)

The Graduate School's annual competition for Summer Teaching Assistant Fellowships support research or study during the summer for individuals who have held a TA position during the current academic year and who have performed exceptionally well as a TA and as a student.



Camryn Berry at the 2023 Fibrous Dysplasia Community Conference.

Upcoming 2024 Programs

Please visit facesofchildren.org regularly or follow us on social media (Instagram and Facebook) for updates!

Virtual Parents Support Group (via Zoom)	Tuesday, June 11 at 7 pm EST	In 2024, FFC is committed to hosting virtual parent support groups the second Tuesday of each month.
Virtual Young Adult Hangout (via Zoom)	Monday, June 24 at 7 pm EST	Join FFC for the VYAH the fourth Monday of each month throughout the year.
Virtual Scholarship Awards	June (TBA)	We are excited to celebrate with and recognize the 2024 scholarship award recipients.
Camp Reflections Sponsorship	August 11 – 17	Apply at Harbor Camps (see page four)
Paces For Faces Walk and Family Picnic	September 22	Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield!

Thank you Olivia!

FFC extends its heartfelt gratitude to Olivia Oppel for nine years of dedication as Chair of the Walk Committee. Her leadership has been instrumental in shaping our annual walks into meaningful community events, bringing people together and raising vital funds for our cause. Olivia's passion, commitment, and tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on our organization. We can't thank her enough for her invaluable contributions throughout the years. FFC wishes her continued success in all her future endeavors.

If you are interested in taking on the role of the new Walk Committee Chair, please feel free to email communications@facesofchildren.org.

Olivia with her family (L-R) Sloane, Ryan, Olivia and Avery.

FFC Sponsors Campers to Camp Reflections 2024!

Together with FFC founding member Priscilla Coffin, we will be sponsoring attendance at Camp Reflections summer camp once again this August. This week-long camp for children with facial differences and their siblings (ages 8-16) was founded to foster connection and friendship among children in our community. On a beautiful 116-acre lakefront property in New Hampshire, campers participate in fun daily activities including swimming, boating, sports, arts and crafts, music, drama, and a rock-climbing wall. Each night, the group gathers for an all-camp evening activity such as camp songs, s'mores, movie night, star gazing, and a talent show. A limited number of sponsorships are available for the camp from August 11 to August 17. If you would like to apply, please visit campreflections.org. On your camper's application, please mention that you heard of this camp from FFC. We hope to see you there! *Many thanks to Priscilla for her generous support of this initiative.*

FOUNDATION FOR
Faces of Children
258 Harvard Street, #367
Brookline, MA 02446
617-355-8299
info@facesofchildren.org
www.facesofchildren.org

Connect with FFC Online

FFC is always looking for new Board members. Please contact us if you're interested in serving.

The Foundation for Faces of Children (FFC) is dedicated to supporting the social, psychological/emotional, and educational needs of individuals, and their families, affected by craniofacial differences. We seek to improve the lives of children with craniofacial differences and inspire them to reach their full potential.

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