

# Bridget Brigade Bulletin

Early  
Summer  
2014



## Highlights:

- Greetings from the Board
- 2013 Bash & Toy Drive Recap
- Hospital Relationships
- Grants To/From BBF
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Save-the-Dates

*"This program is such a wonderful blessing and truly has supported our family during a time when we're faced with an uphill battle."*

- The Santosuosso Family

## Greetings from the Board

Dear Friends,

Happy Summer! As the warm days take over, we thought it would be a good time to let you know what the Bridget Brigade has been up to.

In addition to a recap of our core events, check out the kind words we've received from some of the people our organization has helped.

It's because of the generosity of our supporters that we have been able to continue our mission of supporting critically ill children and their families.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at: [info@bridgetbrigade.org](mailto:info@bridgetbrigade.org).

Also, we're looking to **'Build the Brigade'** this year. If you or someone you know wants to get involved, please let us know.

Best regards,

BBF Board of Directors

## 2013 Bash Update

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Bridget Brigade Bash was our largest one yet, attended by 235 people. We thank all of our supporters who turned out to enjoy good cheer and the lively music of the Swinging Johnsons. The event raised more than \$40,000! This money will help us continue to support families caring for a child with a serious illness. The evening's success was also due to our generous business sponsors as well as families who did everything from donating auction items, to creating themed wreaths for raffle, to the "behind-the-scenes" hard work to make Winchester Town Hall sparkle.



*"When a parent is not working to be with their sick child for months at a time, it is the generosity of others that helps keep the family going. Thank you!"*

-The Mitchell Family

## 2013 Toy Drive Update

Our annual toy drive was once again a huge success with \$12,000 worth of toys delivered to area hospitals. In addition to Winchester Schools, this year

Belmont Day School and Dana Hall also collected toys for the drive. Along with a parent representative from each school, we were thrilled that student leaders played a large part in organizing the drive this year.

Additional toys donated by families in Needham and Hingham as well as employees from Winchester Hospital helped us bring a little cheer to children hospitalized during the holiday season. The toys were gratefully received by staff at **Dana Farber/Jimmy Fund, Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center, Franciscan Hospital for Children, Shriners' Hospital for Children and Winchester Hospital.**

## Hospital Relationships

Developing strong relationships with hospital social workers and child life specialists is crucial to sustaining the BBF's long-term success. We have established connections with the hospitals that receive our toy drive donations. We intend to continue to expand this list of hospital contacts in the future.



*"Many of our families experience financial hardship as a result of their child's illness. Families' finances are often strained by lost income, as parents must go on unpaid leave, work reduced hours, or even leave their job due to their child's illness. At the same time, there are new out-of-pocket expenses related to their child's care that are not covered by health insurance. Many families soon find it difficult to afford such basic and important expenses as rent or mortgage payments, groceries, copayments for their children's prescriptions, and gasoline for frequent trips to Boston. The Bridget Brigade Foundation helps address these very needs, easing the difficult road that many of our families travel."*

**-Joe Chabot, Pediatric Resource Manager, Dana Farber. Shown above with colleagues Patricia Clarke & Lilliana Lopera-Jimenez.**

## Update on Grants To/From BBF

- We're happy to announce that thanks to all of our kind donors, we are now helping our 15th family!
- The BBF has also awarded 3 separate grants to local hospitals for pediatric equipment and supplies.
- And we're honored to have been the recipient of grants from the following organizations:
  - \* Cedar Street Foundation
  - \* Shaw Foundation
  - \* Nashoba Brooks School & Crossroads Community Foundation

## Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have interests and talents that could be put to good use? We could use your help! Whether it's a one-time project or an on-going role, there's definitely plenty of work to go around. Some current needs include help with:

- Researching & writing grants
- Processing beneficiary applications
- Establishing hospital relationships

Contact us at [info@bridgetbrigade.org](mailto:info@bridgetbrigade.org) if you want to help **'Build the Brigade'** !



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Winchester, M 01890

Website:  
[www.BridgetBrigade.org](http://www.BridgetBrigade.org)

### Save-the-Dates:

Nov 24th - Dec 12th	9th Annual Bridget Brigade Toy Drive
Dec 6th	5th Annual BBBash at Winchester Town Hall