

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Harboring Hearts was founded in 2009 by Michelle Javian and Yuki Kotani – in honor of their fathers – with the goal of providing a safety-net for cardiac patients and families in need.

Since that time, Harboring Hearts has served more than 2,500 low-income cardiac surgery and organ transplant families with emergency resources, offering immediate housing, food, and transportation through life-saving surgery.





LOOKING AHEAD AT HARBORING HEARTS

Our commitment to patients and their families in 2024 and beyond:

- Meet the requests of as many patients and their families as possible, removing barriers for success.

When a family does not have to worry about the immediate needs and expenses associated with hospitalization, they are given the freedom to rest and focus on what's most important: their health and recovery.

- Serve patients and their families who are at the greatest financial risk.

We are committed to serving under-resourced patients and their families. We can serve a patient from New York State, another state, or another country – so long as the cardiac surgery or transplant patient is being seen at one of our 9 hospital partners and is deemed low income.

- Support a patient in their ongoing recovery.

Post operative recovery is not always linear. Whether a patient is dealing with a prolonged hospital stay, bouts of organ rejection post transplant, follow up surgery, or another complication, Harboring Hearts can offer financial assistance to a family more than once, thanks to the generosity of our donors. This is essential as families strive for stability and independence.

Together, we'll continue to give hope to hearts everywhere!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Pamela Kass'.

PAMELA KASS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Team Harboring Hearts from left to right: Nikkya Hargrove, Aradhna Bulchand-Ashrani, Nicole Zero, Pamela Kass, and Herbert Norat

2023 IN REVIEW

In 2023, we celebrated many milestones, both in our fundraising efforts and in our programs.

From the 420 patients helped to the more than \$920,000 raised to growing partnerships with Abiomed, Michael Kors, BridgeBio, and other industry leaders, we are grateful for our staff, our hospital partners, and our donors.

While we do not know what the year ahead will bring for our patients and their families, we know we will be ready to help when they need us.

“Harboring Hearts is worth more than Gold to us during this unprecedented time. They have blessed my family tremendously in such a way that we could have not gotten this far without them. Thank you to all the donors and sponsors that support Harboring hearts. You are truly transforming and helping families in need.

“

– **The Duque Family**
heart warriors

Our programs are delivered in collaboration with 70+ social workers at our 9 partner hospitals: NYP/Columbia University Medical Center, NYP/Weill Cornell Medical Center, NYP/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, The Mount Sinai Hospital, Montefiore Medical Center, Westchester Medical Center, NYU, Northwell/North Shore University Hospital, and Stony Brook University Hospital.

- ♥ 420 Patients Helped Through Emergency Fund
- ♥ \$364,967 in Funds Given
- ♥ 141 Pediatric Patients Helped
- ♥ 279 Adult Patients Helped
- ♥ Greatest areas of need: Food and Transportation



TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT

I met Joanna when I first started my role with Harboring Hearts in 2018. Joanna, pictured here, is a heart transplant recipient and at the time, looking for work. I asked her if she'd like to volunteer with us, and she said yes. In 2019, she joined our team and helped with our social media. In 2020, Joanna and her family attended our annual benefit, just before COVID-19 hit.

This year, she began her final year of college and will graduate from John Jay College with a degree in criminology.

Since 2009, our Emergency Fund Program has helped over 2,000 cardiac and transplant patients, Joanna's family is one of many families we've helped.

“It is not easy to ask for help, in fact, it's one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. I am grateful to be apart of a team in which we get to say 'yes' when someone finds the courage to ask for help.”

NIKKYA HARGROVE

Vice President of Operations and Programs





135 MEALS FOR CAREGIVERS



194 CARE PACKAGES DELIVERED



255 Attendees at our Events

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our donors provide a safety need for patients and families in their greatest time of need.

Economic inflation and lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have directly impacted the families we serve and requests for financial assistance continue to increase.



Funds raised: \$920,317



Number of donors: 410

Number of new donors: 285



Number of gifts: 489



Largest individual gift:
\$50,000

Thank you to all of our donors for helping us give hope to hearts everywhere!



GOLF OUTING AT SEBONACK

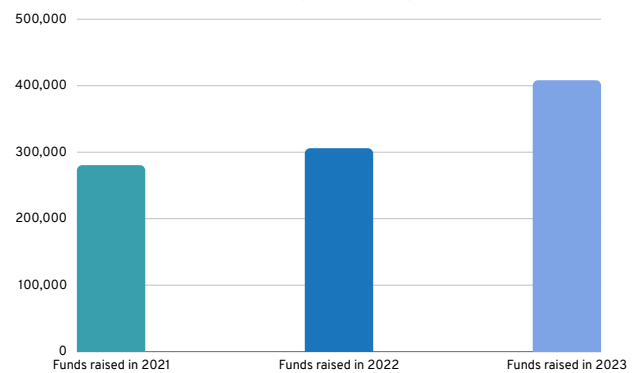
The success of this year’s Outing comes at a critical point for our programs and patient community. Funds raised via our Annual Golf Outing ensure we can step in and tangibly support families when they need it most.

Wendy Fox, pictured below with her social workers, Stefanie (left) and Rebecca (right) is a heart transplant recipient, spoke during our cocktail reception. She shared:



“It’s because of supporters like each of you in this room, that cardiac surgery and transplant patients and their families can continue to have hope and be blessed with benefits that will certainly make an impact.”

Wendy Fox
heart transplant recipient



Golf Outing: \$400K+ raised



Nearly 100 attendees

Number of golfers: 76

115 gifts from 95 donors



41 new donors to the organization



RUNNING WITH HEART



Team Harboring Hearts stepped up to run 13.1 miles and take on the \$2,500 fundraising challenge.

Special thanks to New York Road Runners and our five official runners in the United Airlines New York City Half Marathon who braved cold weather on Sunday, March 19th, **raising \$13,805** for cardiac surgery and transplant families!



“Don’t give up. The journey is very rough but it's worth it. Your loved ones and your family are so important. Even when you think about throwing in the towel, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.”

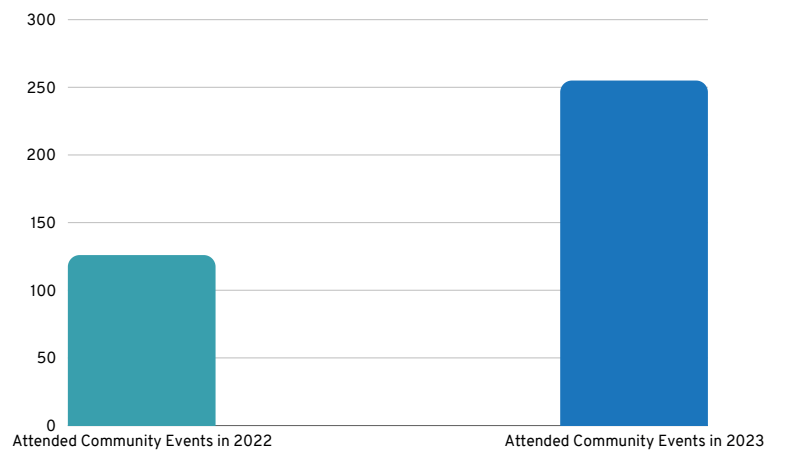
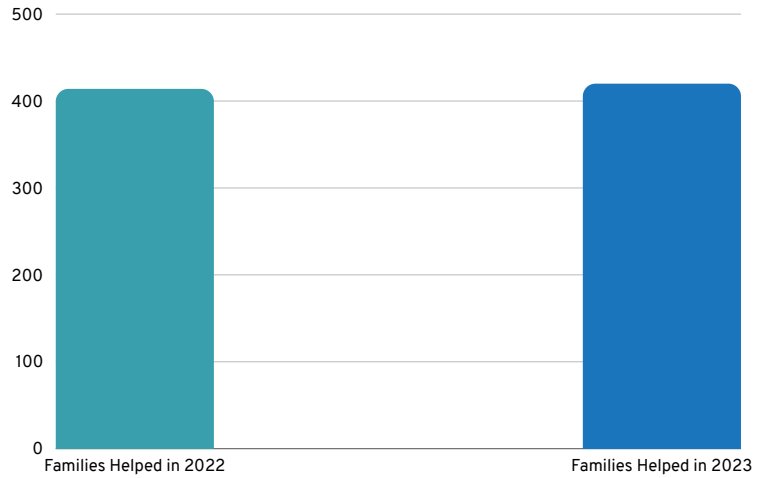
Anyelis Luciano

heart transplant recipient

AT A GLANCE

YEAR 2023

BY THE NUMBERS



BOARD LEADERSHIP



Ryan Melkonian, Chairman, Harboring Hearts & Managing Partner, Melkonian Capital Management

Michelle Javian, Founder, Harboring Hearts

Yuki Kotani, Cofounder, Harboring Hearts & Director of Strategic Partnerships, Child Mind Institute

Sonya Bhavsar, Director of Product Development, Abiomed

Russell Tisman, Partner, Forchelli Deegan Terrana

Sheila McCaffrey, Director of Administration and Finance, Laurel House, Inc.

Missy Rahman, Director of Operations, Amana Academy



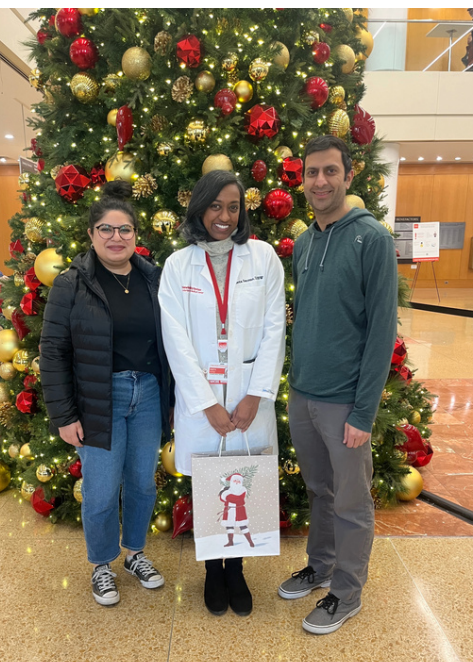


OVER \$16K RAISED

Together, our Junior Board organized volunteer events, participated in our annual small campaigns, and inspired their networks of colleagues and loved ones to open their hearts and pocketbooks and give hope to hearts everywhere!

15 BOARD MEMBERS

Our Junior Board is comprised of a diverse mix of young professionals who work across various industries in the greater New York metro. Through outside-the-box thinking, collaboration, and creativity, the Junior Board empowers Harboring Hearts to help patients and families in need.





Thank you to our corporate partners for their sponsorship, volunteerism, and advocacy!



2K

We've seen an increase in our following with over 2,700 Facebook followers. In 2023, we increased our posts, specifically, posting more reels which we will continue to do allowing us to raise our brand awareness and reach more non-followers.



1K

Our followers on Instagram are engaging and inspiring. We've seen a steady rise in the number of followers on Instagram. With our frequent and diverse posts, our followers comment, like, and reach out to learn more about our events, marathons, and families.



100%

Across all three platforms, followers engage most with our Care Package Events, our Golf Outing, and our Community Events. When we share stories, straight from the heart, our followers, in turn, help us give hope to hearts everywhere.



40%

With the help of our Junior Board, our presence on LinkedIn saw an encouraging increase in followers, from new companies, and new volunteers, to an increase in the comments. Our post about our shopping event at Michael Kors saw the most engagement.

Thanks to the unwavering support of the LiveOnNY Foundation, we have expanded our programmatic reach to serve cardiac, liver, and pediatric kidney transplant patients via our Emergency Fund.



Sadio, Heart Transplant Recipient

Sadio received her heart transplant at 10 months old, before she and her twin were a year old. After her heart transplant, her family and nurses cared for her at home and at the hospital 24/7. However, years later she was confronted with an EBV virus which caused PTLD (Post-Transplant Lymphoproliferative Disorder). She received treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering and Mount Sinai Hospital. At one point during her care, Sadio's dad lost his job as the sole worker in the home. Harboring Hearts helped pay their rent for a few months and groceries as well. Now, Sadio loves to discover different places, play sports, as well as be near her twin brother.



Roy, Pediatric Kidney Transplant Recipient

In December of 2019, Roy was born and then diagnosed with stage 5 kidney failure. After a three-year wait and three years of dialysis, a kidney became available and Roy received his transplant. During that time, Roy's mom remained by his side, missing work to be at the hospital and care for him. It was with the support of her family, and Harboring Hearts, that she found some relief. Through our Emergency Fund supported the family with food and transportation assistance at the time of Roy's transplant. Today, Roy is entering pre-k with a healthy appetite for learning and good food!



Rebecca, Liver Transplant Recipient

On September 12th, 2022, Rebecca received her liver transplant after battling cirrhosis of the liver. As a wife and mom of two, she was unable to work for over a year due to her illness pre-transplant. After her transplant she experienced what was thought to be rejection, but it thankfully turned out not to be. During her condition pre-transplant and post-transplant, her family stuck by her side to care for her. Through our Emergency Fund, we provided support to Rebecca and her family with hotel accommodations and food assistance so they could focus on caring for her while she recovered. Today, she is back to work and thriving thanks to her caring family and Harboring Hearts.





THERE IS GREAT BRAVERY AND COURAGE IN ASKING FOR HELP, AND WE ARE HONORED TO HELP CARDIAC SURGERY AND TRANSPLANT PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

"Harboring Hearts has consistently provided my patients with the support they needed to survive, and to thrive. Our community is incredibly fortunate to have Harboring Hearts consistent and substantial support."

Ricki Tannenbaum, LCSW
CARDIAC SOCIAL WORKER
New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center



Harboring Hearts

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Harboring Hearts is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. EIN#94-3433059.