

# Me Fine



2024 Annual Impact Report



Me Fine Turns 20!

*Doing Good Never Gets Old*



## Table of Contents

Letter from Executive Director	2
Our Core Values	3
2023 At a Glance	4
Our Programs	6
Hope for the Holidays	8
Starry Night Gala	10
Financial Stats	12
Volunteer Spotlight	14
Who We Are	15

## Letter from the Executive Director

As a parent, I routinely find myself aghast at the disappearance of time. Toddlers become pre-teens, January becomes November, you know the drill. One of the heaviest experiences of that kind hits this year as Me Fine turns TWENTY YEARS OLD.

When Lori Lee went through the heart breaking loss of her little boy, her courage and focus on the present likely prevented her from ever thinking that her vision would still be a reality two decades later. (Though knowing her, I'm absolutely certain that she knew Folden's spirit would live on in many different ways, including Me Fine's work.)

Despite the growing pains of a small nonprofit, the changes in the healthcare landscape, a global pandemic, and whatever else the universe has thrown at Me Fine, I've come to realize that doing good never gets old. Our drive to meet families where they are and offload some of the burdens that weigh so heavily on them is just as strong today as it was the first time Lori decided to do something about it. While I've only been along for the ride with Me Fine for twelve of those twenty years, I consider it a duty and a pleasure to be able to wake up every morning and be a part of doing what our community needs, and doing so in a responsive and supportive manner.

I think that's why we've lasted as long as we have: we're doing good, but doing so in a way that uplifts and dignifies those that we help. Roughly one-third of all nonprofits close within 10 years of operations. Because you've been in lock step with us doing good since day one, we're able to continue to be a reliable resource for our neighbors and their kids when they need us most.

That's timeless.

Humbly,

Joey Powell,  
Executive Director



At Me Fine, we have one guiding principle:  
**FAMILIES COME FIRST.**

We prioritize family dignity, privacy, and self-determination.

We use our mission as the litmus test for all operational decisions.

We honor and affirm the lived experiences of the families we serve, in their own words whenever possible.



### **OUR MISSION:**

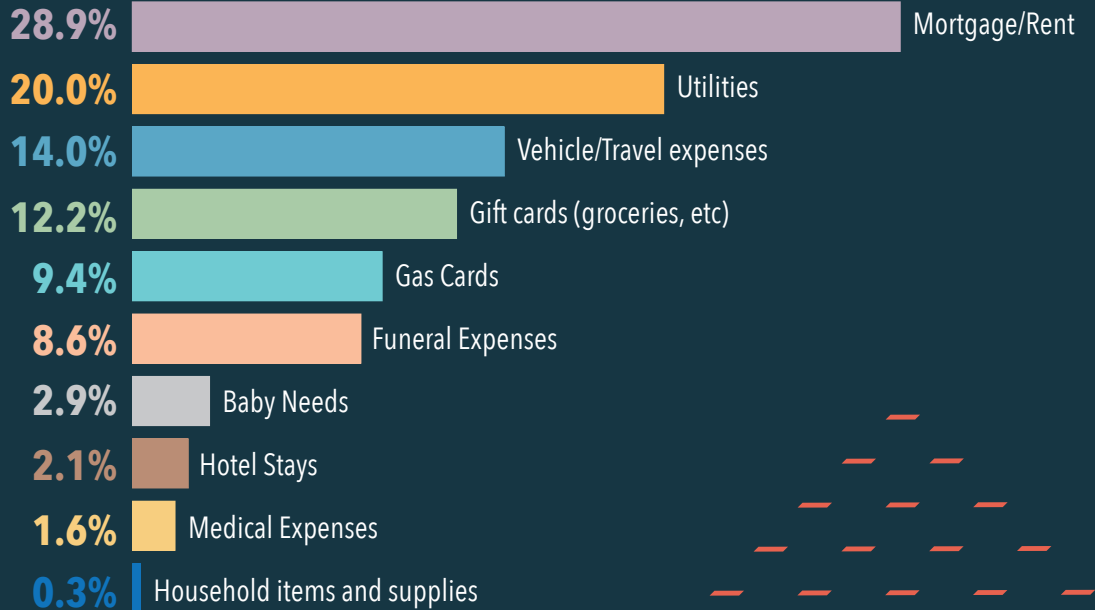
To provide hope through emotional support and financial assistance to families whose children are receiving care at North Carolina partner hospitals.

### **OUR VISION:**

To build and sustain partnerships to eliminate barriers so families can focus on their children.

# 2023 At a Glance

## WHERE THE NEEDS LIE



## IN-KIND DONATIONS RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED IN 2023:

General and Angel Tree donations received:	\$22,831
Hope for the Holidays Dream Team (Family Adoption) donations received:	\$31,254
<b>Total in kind received in 2023:</b>	<b>\$54,085</b>
Distributed through our Hope for the Holidays program:	\$31,254
Other goods distributed in-kind 2023:	\$21,736
<b>Total in-kind distributed 2023:</b>	<b>\$52,990</b>

**Families at our partner hospitals received \$52,990 in in-kind support**, including gifts through our Hope for the Holidays programs, clothing and toiletries, toy deliveries to our partner hospitals, and program-specific items such as resource books and sensory kit additions.



*“The Me Fine Foundation has consistently been a lighthouse in the storm for me as I work with families to navigate the immense emotional, logistical, and financial impact of critical illness. We can collaborate creatively to support things like self-care or clothing supplies to keep on hand for families in active crisis in addition to our ability to engage in the referral process for directed individual financial support in many forms. It is such a gift to have programming, and the people who create and sustain it, to lean on as we work tirelessly to support patients and families on this challenging journey. It is difficult to put into words the impact of a resource like this for families to alleviate even one small part of their worry as they remain present with their children. I am deeply grateful to have the opportunity to partner with Me Fine to continue to create a positive impact.”*

**Kelly Smith, MSW, LCSW**  
 Clinical Social Worker  
 Pediatric Intensive Care  
 at Duke Children’s

**707**

Families served in 2023 via  
 Financial Assistance

**1,472**

Instances of Financial  
 Assistance in 2023



**TOP FIVE DIAGNOSES SERVED IN 2023:**

- Prematurity
- Cardiac
- Cancer
- Congenital and Genetic
- Complex

*Teamwork is...*

## **ME FINE PROGRAMS**

Me Fine is grateful to support our hospital partners through multiple emotional support programs that honor the whole family. These programs and resources provide various ways to connect with others with similar experiences, decrease anxiety and improve understanding during treatment, honor milestones and challenges, and provide normalization and comfort during a difficult time.

**A comprehensive listing of our Emotional Support Programs that *Strive to Do More* for pediatric families:**

Sensory Kits

Toiletry Kits

Emergency Clothing Kits

Chemo Ducks

Beads of Courage

Pill-Swallowing Supplies – Medi Straws, Pill Sorters

Sibling Support Resources/Groups

Grief/Bereavement Support Programs and Resources

Teen Cancer Support Group

Teen and Family Diabetes Support Groups

Toy Donations

Diagnosis-Specific Resource Books

NICU Support Groups

NICU Caregiver Bags

Cardiac Caregiver Support Group

Books and Resources for WakeMed Hospital School Program

# Program Spotlight



## Sensory Resources, Emergency Clothing, and Toiletry Kits

Since 2020, Me Fine has been providing sensory resources such as stress balls, fidget items, weighted blankets, and more to help decrease anxiety and improve comfort during a child's overwhelming treatment course. Me Fine has also provided emergency clothing items and toiletry kits to help meet essential needs during a hospitalization and reduce stress for a family during a child's treatment. In 2023, we received consistent requests from our hospital partners to restock these items on a monthly basis. These resources have helped support patients and families throughout all units and clinics at each of our hospital partners. Some of our hospital partner staff have shared some amazing feedback about these essential programs and resources Me Fine provides.



"I just needed to tell you how incredibly helpful it was on Tuesday night to have the Me Fine shower kits! I had a family who's child was unexpectedly and emergently transferred to the pediatric ICU. The mom was incredibly anxious (understandably so) and after we got her child settled and we explained the plan I asked her if there was anything I could do for her. She asked was there any chance we had any shampoo and conditioner to shower. It was so nice to be able to have the pre-made shower kits available. I've worked at other hospitals before where giving families this simple request was never so easy. She expressed enormous gratitude for the supplies, and it was amazing to be able to give this mom the ability to care for herself during this hard time. Please pass my thanks along to the Me Fine family!! These kits are wonderful for families and such a time saver for nurses."

**-RN at Hospital Partner  
in response to Me Fine's  
toiletry kit program**

"Our behavioral health population has greatly benefited from the sensory kits Me Fine provided to WakeMed. Stress balls, fidget toys, and other sensory-friendly items included in the kits are very beneficial for these patients in helping them positively cope with being hospitalized. The weighted blanket, weighted lap pads, and noise-canceling headphones have also been a wonderful resource to offer to patients who are on the autism spectrum or are sensitive to stimulation. I am extremely grateful for the helpful resources Me Fine has provided to help us better serve our patients and families."

**-Child Life Specialist  
in response to Me Fine's  
sensory resource program**



# HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS IMPACT

Me Fine's Dream Team are supporters who "adopt" families around the holidays, helping to provide the exact needs families share for the season. This year, **the Dream Team helped support a record number of 63 families including 94 parents/caregivers, 188 children (patients and siblings),** distributing countless gifts and smiles.

## FAMILY TESTIMONIALS

"We were hesitant to ask for assistance, but things have been so hard for us with our daughter's treatment financially. We are so glad we did. Thank you for everything you guys do. We are so thankful."

"I'm truly humbled and grateful. Christmas could not have happened for us without your support."





# Teamwork is...

## ME FINE PARENT AND PARTNER TESTIMONIALS

***“You literally made my dreams come true! We got it (the quad stroller) yesterday & we had our first stroller ride together as a family!!! My child’s medical equipment fit perfectly & I can’t explain how bizarrely happy she was! I’m not sure if it was her with her siblings or just being where the action is! But thank you!!!”***

Mom of quadruplets- patient spent 8 months in the NICU and had significant medical equipment at discharge and other 3 siblings spent 2-3 months each in the NICU. Me Fine provided a quad stroller for the family that they could otherwise not afford.

In planning for their child’s bone marrow transplant, this family worked with their social worker to line up funding support from several sources to assist with bills that they knew they would not be able to pay during the transplant. They began the process in March to request funds from another organization and filled out and submitted paperwork to have a check sent to cover their car insurance for two months. The first check sent was lost in the mail, a replacement was returned without being processed, and a third attempt would have taken 10 more days. By this time (early May), the car insurance had lapsed – leading the vehicle lien holder to disable the car remotely. Clearly, the family was panicked, in addition to being more than a bit frustrated...

Enter Me Fine. The social worker said, ***“I knew Me Fine was the only organization that could take care of a request on such short notice.”*** Within 30 minutes, and for just \$450, we were able to pay the balance owed over the phone to restore their insurance and cover the family for the duration of treatment. (Financial assistance provided for a family during their child’s medical crisis)

***“As a parent it was extremely difficult navigating a medical crisis for my child in the hospital. We had a whole medical team supporting and helping us. Unfortunately being isolated from our family we did not have any support for our healthy child who had to navigate being away from his whole family through this ordeal. Having support and a safe space for the sibling to feel connected, special and heard is just as important as taking care of our medically-sick child. Thanks to the program offered by Me Fine, our healthy child was able to have some normalcy through our medical tsunami.”***

-Mom of a patient and sibling who benefited from Me Fine emotional support programs and resources

Teamwork is...

## STARRY NIGHT FUNDRAISES TO THE STRATOSPHERE!

Me Fine hosted an unforgettable “Starry Night” for our 2023 fundraising gala, celebrating Me Fine’s work and mission with more than 300 guests at Bay 7 in Durham’s American Tobacco Campus.

The 2023 Hero for Life Award was presented to **Courtney Graham, MS, OT/L, a pediatric occupational therapist at UNC Hospitals** who advocates fiercely for her patients and consistently goes the extra mile to optimize their therapy treatment – as a rule, not the exception. Her manager and nominator Kelly Clark, MHA, CCLS, LRT/CTRS, said, “I have witnessed Courtney’s passion for her patients no matter their circumstances ... I can name patient after patient and recount the stories of the care she has provided, the battles she has fought (and won), and the lives she has changed.”



During the event, **Me Fine recognized UNC basketball’s Armando Bacot as an honorary board member** in recognition of his ongoing partnership and support of Me Fine’s mission through visits to our hospital partners and fundraising efforts.

“ **Event co-chairs Shriya Soora and Katie Punia commented,** “Me Fine’s gala is one of the organization’s most significant sources of funding, directly benefiting the children and families we serve. We still have stars in our eyes from another amazing evening gathered with Me Fine’s supporters, including an aerialist dancing from Bay 7’s rafters, catering by the Angus Barn, and out of this world games, silent, and live auction.”



# Rivals On the Court



## BOTH JOIN TEAM ME FINE

After the success of Me Fine's partnership with UNC basketball star Armando Bacot, we went just down the road to Duke University and found one of his rivals who cared about our work as well. Jeremy Roach is a Senior Captain for the Blue Devils, and has also been teaming with Me Fine as an official Ambassador. Both players have made tremendous contributions of their time and brand to help pediatric patients and families, providing special donor opportunities but also spending time meeting with children and their caregivers at our referring hospitals. While the Carolina/Duke rivalry may be heated, these two have teamed up in a great way to advance the Me Fine cause.



# How You Gave in 2023

## Major Donor: Richard Click

"My grandson was born with a rare genetic disorder and I am acutely aware of the pain and uncertainty that the severe illness of a child brings to a family. It saddens me greatly that some families lack the ability to care for their most basic needs when the family is most vulnerable and under extreme duress. I cannot help everyone, but I will help those that I can. Thank you ME FINE for all the lives that you touch."

## Me Fine Sustainer: Amy Hoots

"Financial burdens should be the last things families face while they face the unthinkable: a sick child. We give to Me Fine in an attempt to ease the burden of families in crisis and we are proud to support an organization in our community that strives to be a bright spot during the darkest of times."

## Corporate Sponsor: Biologics by McKesson

"Me Fine is a perfect embodiment of Biologics by McKesson's core values, as it wholeheartedly embraces the principles of offering both financial and emotional aid to patients facing medical crises," says Ela Lourido, VP/GM, Biologics by McKesson. "Our longstanding partnership with this remarkable organization, spanning over 7 years, has allowed us to extend our assistance to countless families in North Carolina who are undergoing medical treatment. It is a privilege to collaborate with Me Fine, as together, we strive to make a positive impact in the lives of those in need."

## In-Kind: Triangle Grace Church

"We love Me Fine. Triangle Grace Church loves supporting Me Fine through our Angel Tree Program each year because we know through Me Fine we can share God's love with families in need. We do gift cards because it better meets the needs of the Me Fine families and helps our youth raise money for summer retreats and camps. One TGC member reflected on a time her child was in the hospital many years ago and she met a family who was sleeping in their car because they couldn't afford a hotel. She was so excited to support an organization that is helping families in need of support during a difficult time in their families lives. Thank you Me Fine!!"



# Financial Stats

## Statement of Financial Position (condensed), as of 12/31/23

<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$715,984</b>
Short Term Liabilities:	\$6,053
Unrestricted Net Assets:	\$672,326
Restricted Net Assets:	\$37,605
<b>Total Net Assets:</b>	<b>\$715,984</b>

## Annual Financial Activity (condensed), as of 12/31/23

Donations and Grants:	\$251,168
Net Event Revenue:	\$199,851
Retail Proceeds:	\$11,842
Miscellaneous Income:	\$190,242
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>\$653,103</b>
Org. Performance:	\$636,321
Fundraising:	\$8,237
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$644,558</b>

# Impact by the Numbers



**707**  
FAMILIES  
SERVED



**385**  
Duke  
Children's

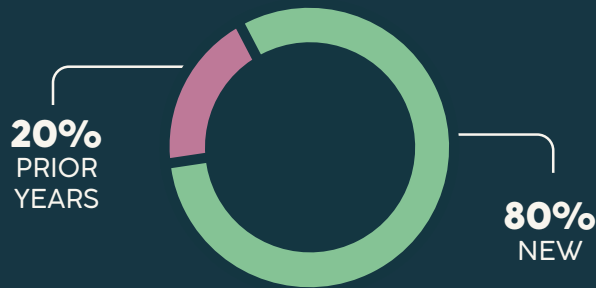


**245**  
UNC  
Children's



**108**  
WakeMed  
Children's

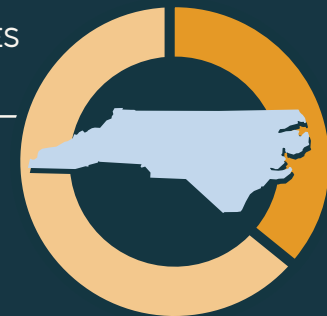
Percentage of  
New vs. Prior Families



**96%**  
of families served were from NC

**64%**  
URBAN  
COUNTIES

**36%**  
RURAL  
COUNTIES



**1,472**  
total assistance payments  
(*most in our history!*)

**Average amount of assistance** needed per referral increased from \$325 in 2022 to \$360 for 2023.

**314** total financial donors in 2023 made **905** gifts ranging from \$5 to \$35,000.

# Continue to Provide Hope

## VOLUNTEER

There are many unique opportunities to get involved with Me Fine for individuals or organizations. **Check out some of the amazing ways you volunteered with Me Fine this year:**



If you'd be interested in upcoming opportunities to volunteer or other ways to support Me Fine, check out the "Get Involved" page on our website.

[mefine.org/get-involved](https://mefine.org/get-involved)

## Volunteer Spotlights

### Me Fine Superfans Brodie, Edward, Thomas, and Yash

These incredible superfans generously volunteered their time to show their fandom for Triangle ACC basketball teams in support of our Me Fine Madness fan-raiser.

### Junior Leagues of Smithfield, Durham and Orange Counties

In October, Junior League members volunteered at our annual gala, helping with event set-up, check-in and check-out, and various other needs throughout the night.

### UNC Football Team/Heels 4 Life

During the holiday season, the UNC football team came to our Chapel Hill family gift pick-up location to help families carry their gifts to their cars and choose extra items to stuff their stockings.

### 2023 Hope for the Holidays Program

Liz Agro was instrumental in helping us communicate and support Spanish-speaking families.



# Board & Staff

## 2024 Board of Directors

- Jen Farrell** - Chair
- San Parikh, Esq.** - Immediate Past Chair
- Allie Mitzak** - Events Co-Chair
- Katie Punia** - Events Co-Chair
- Kerry Henderson** - Development Chair
- Katherine Hutchinson, PhD** - Programs Co-Chair
- Jason Deibert** - Finance Chair
- Tyrone Battle** - Board Member
- Joshua Dix** - Board Member
- Bridget Donnell, MD** - Board Member
- Dave Fotheringham** - Board Member
- Kathryn Kiel** - Board Member
- Garret Klas** - Board Member
- Lori Lee** - Founder, Board Member Emeritus
- Allie Lindahl, MS, RN** - Board Member
- Matt Phillips** - Board Member
- Rubin Shah** - Board Member
- Shriya Soora** - Board Member
- Blair Stanley** - Board Member



## Me Fine Staff

- Joey Powell** - Executive Director
- Meghan Fox, CCLS** - Program Director
- Heather Campbell** - Finance Director
- Kne'Ashja Jackson** - Outreach Coordinator
- Shannan Tyndall** - Event Coordinator



Give, volunteer, spread the word—  
whatever your heart moves you to do.

*We're thankful for it.*

**Me Fine** 

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 @MeFineFoundation

 @MeFineNC

 @MeFineFoundation

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