



## The Sophia Sunshine Foundation

# Sprinkles

Issue No. 1 | November 28th, 2021



Sophia mid-December 2019 (left) and January 14th, 2020, 7th birthday (right)

### A Note From Sophia’s Mom The Virtue of Gratitude ...

The first year having gone through the days of life without Sophia physically here is coming to a close. At some point in October, I realized that I was not going to be able to “trick” myself- my mind nor my body, into somehow

believing that *this* fall, *this* November, wasn’t going to feel any different than any of the other 330 difficult days before. There was no fooling the stored pain of last fall as I watched my brilliant, beautiful angel slowly,

brutishly, physically decline from DIPG. Diffuse Intrinsic Pons Glioma. An **extremely** rare form of pediatric brain cancer. Terminal. A Death Sentence. Game Over. Unbelievable. Just. Like. That.

[www.SophiaSunshine.org](http://www.SophiaSunshine.org)

The official registration and financial information of The Sophia Sunshine Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1- 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



# The Sophia Sunshine Foundation

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## A Note continued...

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Right now, the best treatment available for DIPG is Proton Therapy. And that is not a cure, it is a treatment. It is Time. It is a Gift.

And if Proton is well-tolerated for the child, as a parent you feel SO grateful. So grateful for the window of time you receive as a result of your child being temporarily symptom-free of their diagnosis, yet radioactive...

Every minute, of every day, especially from the second we learned Sophia's diagnosis- that time together was a gift.

I now know: That period of time together was our Miracle.

Even though our miracle for Sophia didn't take the shape that we imagined, the one that we had all hoped and prayed; for an inexplicable miraculous healing...

The miracle did, however, take a different form. And it would be unjust to Sophia- to the root of her very being, her existence- to deny the miracle in the beauty of the wonderfully good, miraculous months we shared with Sophia after her diagnosis.

Thanks to her courageous, fighting spirit, so full of love and grace.

She gave me strength then and she does now.

Hearing the phrase, "No real options" when dealing with your child's life in a medical-crisis has the power to corner you into a place of disbelief and hysteria ...at machspeed.

Brain Tumor + Cancerous + Pediatric + Extremely Rare + Inoperable = Terminal.

Why is DIPG terminal?

NO Funding. Means NO Research.

No research means NO significant progress. And it means nowhere even close to a Cure.

As you select your Annual Appeals this season, **please** keep the 600 (approximate) families, in the world, that were told this year their child has DIPG. And their child, who was seemingly perfectly healthy, is now 99.9% likely going to die in the next few months.

No child should have to endure the despicable cruelty and the horror that comes of DIPG.

No parent, no sibling, no family should have to bear witness.

**Please** consider donating to Sophia Sunshine to help enable research towards a cure for DIPG. You can earmark your donation for that area of focus.

Forever Grateful for your support!

**The Sophia Sunshine Foundation**  
**221 Wyncote Road**  
**Jenkintown, PA 19046**



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# Announcements

## Sophia Sunshine Makes First Service Dog Sponsorship!

**11/28/2021** It makes my heart smile to be able to share beautiful news with everyone today, November 28th, as it marks the date of Sophia's earthly departure.

Thanks to all of your support, Sophia Sunshine sponsored a six year old little boy named Luke, who was waiting for his new furry friend companion service dog to graduate from training school at Canine Partners for Life this month!

Luke's new furry friend is named Orrie! She is a beautiful yellow Labrador. Orrie demonstrated all through her schooling that she is very easy-going and patient. At graduation, **all** of Orrie's volunteer training handlers commented on how much she loves children. That was a key factor in the matching process because Luke also has two young brothers at home!

We look forward to helping more children obtain their furry helper friend through service dog sponsorship!



## SAVE THE DATE 1/22/22 Sophia's 9th Birthday Bash!

Fundraiser Event

1/22/2022

At Huntingdon Valley Country Club  
Event is Open to Non-Members!

-Please bring a new children's book to donate for Sophia's focus on Literacy Outreach.

### Two-Part Event - Options:

1pm Family Lunch & Magic Show  
And/Or

4pm Adult Paddle Tournament &  
Skills Competition

**More Details Coming!**

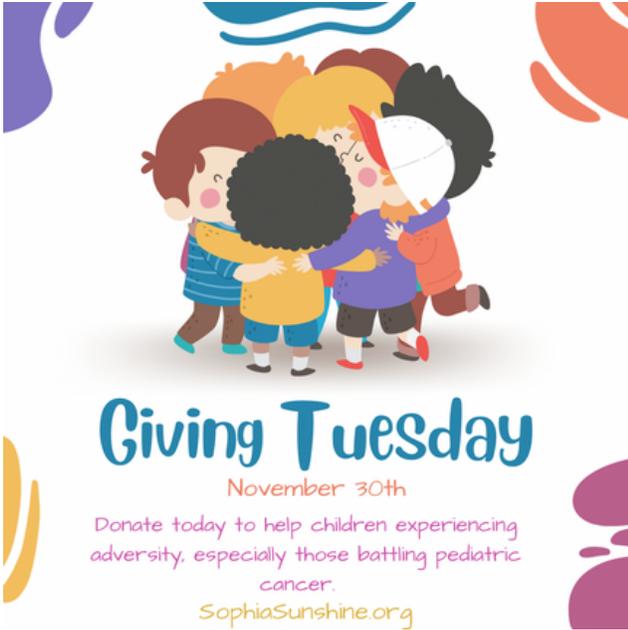
### Stay In the Loop!

Sign Up to Receive  
Sophia's Newsletter!



# The Sophia Sunshine Foundation

## Extra



### HVCC Ladies Golf Charity Day

On October 5th, The Sophia Sunshine Foundation was the blessed beneficiary of Huntingdon Valley Country Club's Ladies Golf Charity Day.

The rain held off enabling a fun day of golf, lunch and raffle basket winners amongst friends for a special cause!

We are so grateful for all of the hard work and dedication of the staff at HVCC, especially Judy Leighton and Elena Shields, the event co-chairs, for making the event such a success!

**HEY KIDS!**

Do you have a good name suggestion for Sophia's newsletter??!

Let us know! Email

**love@sophiasunshine.org**



Judy & Elena



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