

CONQUERING CHILDHOOD CANCER



2020–2021 IMPACT REPORT

FOUR DIAMONDS
TEEN ARELIS
conquering neuroblastoma



Everything We Do Is FTK[®]

FOR THE KIDS[®]

The Four Diamonds mission is to conquer childhood cancer by assisting kids and families treated at Penn State Health Children's Hospital through superior care, comprehensive support and innovative research.

In this challenging year, you helped us to remain strong as we continued our work to conquer childhood cancer – For The Kids[®].

FOUR DIAMONDS
CHILD **ANGELICA**
conquering neuroblastoma



In the U.S.,
an estimated

16,000
CHILDREN

will be diagnosed
with cancer this year.*



That's nearly

1 EVERY

33
MINUTES.



Thanks to your
support and advances
in research,

84%
of kids with cancer
WILL SURVIVE
five years or more.*





“The support of Four Diamonds lifted many burdens off our shoulders and allowed us to give all of our attention to our daughter when she needed us the most. I can’t say ‘thank you’ enough.”

KRISTIN, FOUR DIAMONDS
MOM TO MARGOT



World-Class Medical Care

**AT NO COST TO
FOUR DIAMONDS FAMILIES***

At just 11 months old, Margot was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, a type of blood cancer. Unlike most children, Margot experienced many firsts throughout treatment and hospital stays — she celebrated her first birthday, began crawling and learned her first sign language words.

Today, Margot is a sweet, happy and healthy four-year-old! She loves art, dancing and singing, especially to Disney’s “Frozen” and “Coco” soundtracks. Margot’s parents, Kristin and John, love watching her grow and are forever grateful for Four Diamonds supporters whose generosity ensured they never saw a medical bill for Margot’s care.

**Four Diamonds covers all medical expenses not paid for by insurance for children fighting cancer at Penn State Health Children’s Hospital.*



Providing Patients with the Latest Breakthroughs in Research

GENE MUTATIONS LINKED TO WORSE LEUKEMIA OUTCOMES IN HISPANIC AND LATINO CHILDREN; A NEW DRUG COMBO MAY HELP TO ADDRESS THE DISPARITY

A combination of genetic mutations may explain the higher incidence of and poorer outcomes from pediatric leukemia in Hispanic and Latino children, according to Penn State College of Medicine researchers. A novel therapeutic drug combination — as well as testing for these mutations — may help address the disparity.

Hispanic and Latino children are between 1.2 and 1.75 times more likely to develop B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL), the most common childhood cancer, than non-Hispanic and non-Latino children. They also have a 40% higher death rate than their counterparts after correcting for socio-economic factors. Dr. Sinisa Dovat, a Four Diamonds funded researcher and pediatric oncologist at Penn State Health Children's Hospital and Penn State Cancer Institute, partnered with Dr. Gordana Raca of Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Dr. Kimberly J. Payne of Loma Linda University to understand the biology behind this health disparity after prior research suggested that there may be an increased

frequency of a type of genetic mutation in Hispanic and Latino children with B-ALL.

The researchers developed a combination therapy, which proved more effective against leukemia than either drug individually. These studies, published in *Leukemia*, laid the groundwork for a Phase I clinical trial with this treatment and provided a new paradigm for similar approaches to treat cancer using dual targeted treatments.

“We’ve identified a new approach for treating high-risk B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia,” Dr. Dovat said. “Our work established the foundation for clinical testing of a new combination therapy that may address health disparities and benefit patients who suffer from pediatric leukemia.”

FOUR DIAMONDS RESEARCHER
DR. SINISA DOVAT



Scan the QR code or click here to learn more about Dr. Dovat's work.



“Glioblastoma patients with higher degrees of necrosis have a poor chance of survival,” Dr. Li said. “We hope insight into the processes that drive this tissue death can help us develop new therapeutics to improve outcomes for these patients.”

FOUR DIAMONDS RESEARCHER
DR. WEI LI

WHITE BLOOD CELLS MAY CAUSE TUMOR CELL DEATH – BUT THAT’S NOT NECESSARILY A GOOD THING

White blood cells are part of many immune system responses in the human body. New research shows that a specific type of those cells may cause brain cancer tissues to die – but that’s not good news, according to researchers at Penn State College of Medicine and Penn State Health Children's Hospital. Higher amounts of this tissue death have been associated with poor survival in patients with aggressive glioblastomas, a deadly type of brain cancer.

Dr. Wei Li, a Four Diamonds funded researcher and assistant professor of pediatrics and biochemistry and molecular biology, studied the causes of this tissue death called necrosis. Scientists have suggested that a lack of oxygen due to poor blood supply from rapid tumor growth may cause necrosis, but Dr. Li and a team of researchers investigated the molecular processes that cause this tissue death to occur. Their findings were published in *Nature Communications*.



Local Research. Global Impact.™

WORKING WITH DOCTORS AND SCIENTISTS
AROUND THE WORLD TO FIND SAFER
TREATMENTS AND CURES

Four Diamonds researchers
are members of

5

**NATIONAL &
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
CONSORTIA**

which connect doctors and scientists
to combine their efforts and find
more effective treatments.

All Four Diamonds lead
researchers are funded by the

**NATIONAL
INSTITUTES
OF HEALTH**

which is an extremely
competitive grant process.



**2012-2022
U.S. NEWS &
WORLD REPORT**

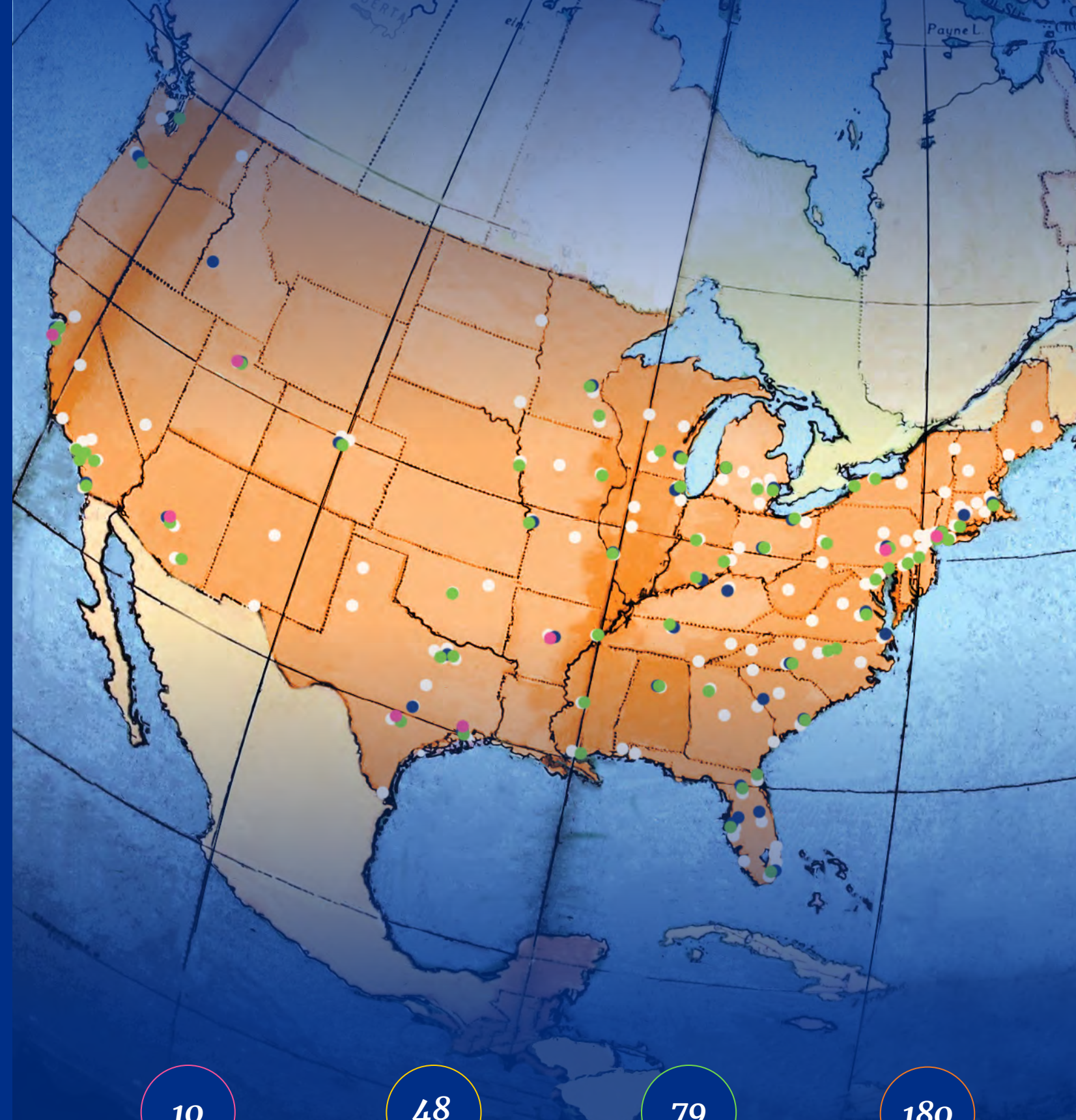
recognized Penn State
Health Children's Hospital
as one of the leading
pediatric cancer hospitals in
the United States.

Four Diamonds funds

90+

**SCIENTISTS &
RESEARCH
PROFESSIONALS**

working toward a cure.



10

**Pediatric Oncology
Experimental Therapeutics
Investigators' Consortiu**

(POETIC)

48

**Beat Childhood
Cancer**

(BCC)

79

**Pediatric Blood & Marrow
Transplant Consortium**

(PBMTTC)

180

**Children's
Oncology Group**

(COG)



Hope Beyond Medicine

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES DURING CANCER TREATMENT AND THROUGH SURVIVORSHIP

Four Diamonds funds the work of more than 30 specialty care providers to exclusively serve the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of our childhood cancer patients and their families. The entire care team provides for these unique needs, in addition to providing expert treatment for childhood cancer. The team is comprised of:

- Music therapists
- Social workers
- Psychologist
- Pharmacist
- Clinical nutritionist
- Genetic counselor
- Art therapist
- Neuropsychologist
- Chaplain
- Child Life specialists
- Nurse specialists

FOUR DIAMONDS CHILD **KAI**
with Four Diamonds social
worker Greg, family and friends

MICHELLE, FOUR DIAMONDS
MOM TO KAI

“Our social worker Greg became a part of our Hershey family that we grew to love during Kai’s five years in treatment. He walked our family through diagnosis, a difficult relapse and was there when Kai rang the bell at the end of treatment. ‘Thank you’ doesn’t seem like enough because Greg and our entire care team were an important part of Kai’s journey. We are forever grateful.”



Scan the QR
code to listen.



New Patient-Led Podcast

HELPS YOUNG ADULTS WITH CANCER NAVIGATE “LIFE ON PAUSE”

To support adolescents and young adults with cancer, Four Diamonds care teams at Penn State Health Children’s Hospital and our young adults co-created “Life on Pause”—a podcast for and by young adults with cancer. This podcast is now available on Spotify, Apple and Google Podcasts.

Funded in part by your support of Four Diamonds, “Life on Pause” invites you to follow along with a group of young adults as they reflect on their cancer journeys and the relatable themes that emerge.

“Getting cancer in my 20s made me think about things I never thought about before — like mortality, after-effects of chemo and fertility. Talking with people who are going through the same things makes you feel a lot less alone.”

FOUR DIAMONDS YOUNG
ADULT **KAYLA** with mom Julie

Thanks to you, Four Diamonds helps hundreds of families every year.

FOUR DIAMONDS FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Each spring, a robust grant process allocates all dollars raised that year by Four Diamonds for the coming fiscal year to further our goal to conquer childhood cancer. All requests are evaluated on the guidelines established in the original gift agreement by the co-founders of Four Diamonds.

FOUR DIAMONDS BY THE NUMBERS

\$14.8

Million raised
in FY2021

100%

of medical
bills covered*

85¢

of every dollar
supports our mission

30+

Specialty care
providers

100,000+

Student volunteers
each year

90+

Research
professionals

4,800+

Families helped
since 1972

For eligible Four
Diamonds families*

FOUR DIAMONDS CHILD SUMMER,
conquering acute lymphoblastic leukemia



Funding Priority 1:

To ensure every Four Diamonds child receives the highest quality of life-saving childhood cancer care at our Children's Hospital without ever seeing a bill for that care. This compassionate process relieves both the financial pressures and the burden of billing paperwork for all Four Diamonds families.

Funding Priority 2:

To ensure Four Diamonds children and their families are wrapped in comprehensive services. This includes providing access to top-notch specialists proven to enhance positive treatment outcomes, combined with support services to meet their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs.

Funding Priority 3:

To ensure grants are made to a variety of innovative research projects that are searching for deeper understanding of why and how childhood cancer happens and new ways it can be treated. Funds are also invested in endowments. The interest earned on those endowments creates a secondary, permanent funding stream for our ongoing research efforts in pursuit of a cure for all childhood cancers.

During the uncertainty of Covid-19, the Four Diamonds Allocations Committee recommended all unspent funds be held to ensure our ability to serve 100% of families in the future year. A full strategic plan describing the significant and purposeful use of these funds will be released in July 2022.

FOUR DIAMONDS FINANCIALS 2020-2021

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Sources of Funds

THON™	\$11,120,779.60
Mini-THON®	\$2,853,412.13
Other	\$681,325.80
Memorial Gifts	\$62,816.00
Honor Gifts	\$23,526.18
Non-Charitable Income	\$154,200.38

TOTAL \$14,896,060.09

Uses of Funds

Patient Care & Family Support

Patient Care	\$3,378,971.80
Family Support	\$1,137,606.13

Research

Research Grants	\$2,789,576.30
Research Support	\$4,080,232.40

Research Endowments

Division Chief Endowment	\$1,700,000.00
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Administrative

Administration, Fundraising & Marketing	\$2,364,891.83
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TOTAL \$15,451,278.46



Our partners power our fight to conquer childhood cancer.

A FOUR DIAMONDS CHILD **CELIA**
with THON volunteers
**photo taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic*



Thanks to the continued commitment of our Partners In The Fight™ – the Penn State Dance Marathon (THON™), Four Diamonds Mini-THON® and Team FTK® – Four Diamonds at Penn State Health Children's Hospital has helped more than 4,800 families since 1972 by providing world-class cancer care, financial support and life-saving research.



DURING
2020-2021,
**tens of
thousands**
OF VOLUNTEERS



CONTRIBUTED
5 million+
VOLUNTEER
HOURS



AND THEY
RAISED
\$14,896,060
FOR THE KIDS.®



Penn State Dance Marathon

Dollars raised through THON directly benefit Four Diamonds.



FOUR DIAMONDS SURVIVOR HELPS LEAD THON 2021

When Nick was just seven years old, he was diagnosed with cancer. It was the beginning of years of hospital stays and difficult treatment, but it was also the beginning of a support system through THON and Four Diamonds that Nick could not imagine his life without.

Today, Nick is 11 years cancer-free and served on the executive committee for THON 2021! Thank you, Nick, for sharing your inspiring story and for your continued dedication in the fight against childhood cancer.

“The unwavering support for Four Diamonds and THON, especially in a pandemic, is a true testament to how powerful this community is and the genuine compassion for others. Thank you to the THON and Four Diamonds community – you have saved my life and thousands of others.”

NICK FOUR DIAMONDS YOUNG ADULT
member of the THON 2021 Executive Committee
**photo taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic*



Watch Nick share his story
on the *Today Show* with
Hoda and Jenna!



Four Diamonds Mini-THON

*Dollars raised through Mini-THON
directly benefit Four Diamonds.*



FOUR DIAMONDS CHILD
RILEY and his family

UNITING OUR COMMUNITIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD CANCER

Tens of thousands of students across Pennsylvania and in surrounding states have joined Four Diamonds to conquer childhood cancer by participating in Mini-THONs. Despite the changes the COVID-19 pandemic caused in K-12 education, which led to the cancellation of many Mini-THON events, 161 schools found creative ways for their student leaders and volunteers to continue their Mini-THON activities. Mini-THON collectively raised \$2,832,826.81 for Four Diamonds at Penn State Health Children's Hospital during the 2020-21 school year to support families like Riley's. **Since its inception in 1993, the Mini-THON program has cumulatively raised more than \$52 million to help conquer childhood cancer.**

"The young leaders who join the Four Diamonds mission to conquer childhood cancer are motivated and resilient, and they demonstrated those qualities repeatedly this year," said Suzanne Graney, executive director of Four Diamonds. "The students who were able to participate stepped up, brought their creativity and can-do spirit, and found ways to successfully participate in Mini-THON either virtually or in a socially distanced fashion. Their determination to support Four Diamonds families is truly inspiring."

*"Mini-THON is a reminder that we're not fighting this alone,
we're fighting as a community."*

GREG, DAD TO FOUR DIAMONDS CHILD RILEY

mini  thon
— FOUR DIAMONDS —
Conquering Childhood Cancer



Team FTK[®]

(FOR THE KIDS[®])

Team FTK[®] is a Four Diamonds fundraising initiative that unites supporters in the quest to conquer childhood cancer. Through Team FTK[®], the collective efforts of individuals, students, families, community members and corporate partners make an incredible impact to help kids here and around the world.

This year, passionate supporters and grateful patient families contributed more than \$760,000 from individual and corporate gifts, community fundraisers, and gifts in honor or in memory of a loved one. Every gift gives hope to families fighting childhood cancer.

LEARN HOW SOFI MADE A DIFFERENCE FTK[®]

After Sofi learned how Four Diamonds helps children fighting cancer, she wanted to help them too. Instead of asking for presents for her 9th birthday, she asked her loved ones to make a donation to Four Diamonds. Sofi's goal was to raise \$900 in honor of her 9th birthday (including the money in her piggy bank), and she raised more than \$3,000!



Want to hear more about Sofi's story?

Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more.

This year, our Team FTK[®]
partners raised more than

\$760,000+

SOFI A SUPPORTER
OF TEAM FTK[®]



“It is our hope that this gift makes their fight easier, because they shouldn’t have to worry about anything but their health.”

MATT DESOTO, MI Windows and Doors CEO



MI Charitable Foundation commits \$1 million to Four Diamonds

The MI Charitable Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Gratz, PA-based MI Windows and Doors, has committed \$1 million to Four Diamonds, demonstrating the company’s continued commitment to help conquer childhood cancer.

“This tremendous gift from MI Windows and Doors will help children fighting cancer at Penn State Health Children’s Hospital to receive superior care and comprehensive support services without their loved ones ever having to worry about how they will pay for that care,” said Steve Massini, CEO of Penn State Health. “It will also help to advance our research, which has the power to impact children around the world through better prevention, treatments and ultimately a cure for all childhood cancers.”

The five-year, \$1 million commitment will provide \$200,000 in unrestricted funds annually to support providing superior care and comprehensive support to Four Diamonds children fighting cancer at Penn State Health and driving innovative research

at Penn State College of Medicine in pursuit of cures for all childhood cancers. Throughout the course of the five-year commitment, MI Windows and Doors will be prominently recognized as a presenting sponsor for several fundraising initiatives, including the Four Diamonds Mini-THON Leadership Summit, Penn State Dance Marathon (THON), and Play For The Kids, a newly-launched collaborative fundraising initiative to benefit THON and Four Diamonds.

“We are fortunate to have so many wonderful people inside our business that care so deeply about giving back – and there is no better way to give back than to help children and families fighting childhood cancer,” said MI CEO Matt DeSoto. “It is our hope that this gift makes their fight easier, because they shouldn’t have to worry about anything but their health.”

On behalf of Four Diamonds families, staff and researchers, thank you to MI Windows and Doors for your continued support of our mission to conquer childhood cancer!

“Gabby participated in Mini-THON before she was diagnosed with cancer, but what Four Diamonds does for families became so real while she was in the hospital. The support we received is immeasurable.”

ALICIA, FOUR DIAMONDS MOM TO GABBY



FOUR  DIAMONDS
— Conquering Childhood Cancer —

1249 Cocoa Avenue, Suite 115 | P.O. Box 852 | Hershey, PA 17033
717-531-6086 | FourDiamonds.org