



Our Mission

To provide emotional, financial and advocacy support to children with a life-threatening illness and their families in order to help keep them stable, functioning, and able to cope.

Whom We Serve:

Friends of Karen helps families with a child (birth through age 21) who is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, and lives in one of the 18 boroughs and counties in New York, New Jersey or Connecticut that we serve (for at least 12 months prior to their diagnosis). In 2017, Friends of Karen helped 1,532 children (619 ill children and 913 of their siblings) and their families.

Friends of Karen partners with every major hospital that has a pediatric oncology department and/or a pediatric transplant unit in the New York Tri-State region. We serve children and their families regardless of race, religion, national origin or cultural heritage.

What We Do:

Friends of Karen is the only organization that provides vital and comprehensive support – at no cost – to families in the New York Tri-State region caring for a child battling cancer or another life-threatening illness, from diagnosis through treatment. Through personal advocacy, our team of experienced professionals – social workers, child life specialists, arts therapists – ensures that each family receives the support they need to stay functioning and able to cope during a crisis that affects every member of the family.

Our services include:

Emotional support, including supportive guidance, bereavement support, Gifts for Children programs, and support for siblings that may include individualized sessions with specially-trained professionals who use expressive arts to help sisters and brothers of the ill child to better understand and cope with the changes in their family life.

Financial support through direct payment of medical expenses not covered by insurance (e.g., doctor and nursing fees, prescriptions, lab bills) and other illness-related and basic living expenses (e.g., utility bills, rent/mortgage, transportation, childcare) that are no longer affordable when parents leave their job to care for their child.

Advocacy support to ensure families have access to all available benefits from government and other agencies; support from other organizations; pro bono legal counsel; and help with special educational needs.

Our Financials:

Our Fiscal Year 2018 budget is \$3.98 million. 79¢ of every \$1.00 raised goes directly to supporting Friends of Karen children and their families.

For 9 consecutive years, Charity Navigator, an independent organization that evaluates the financial health and responsibility of more than 8,200 U.S. charities, gives Friends of Karen a 4-star rating - their highest award.

Find our profile on CNN's *Champions For Change*



It's amazing what so many people can do to help others. It all started in 1978 with one inspired woman, Sheila Petersen, helping one child, Karen MacInnes. Look at what we can do 40 years later, thanks to the generosity of resources, time and commitment of so many friends.

Notable Numbers for FY 2017

\$1,614,441

The amount of money, and gifts-in-kind, Friends of Karen spent to cover basic living and illness-related expenses enabling families to remain stable and secure in their homes and for their children to receive the care they needed.

15,318

The total number of children Friends of Karen has helped since our founding 40 years ago.

4,984

The number of hours our volunteers dedicated to helping achieve Friends of Karen's mission.

1,532

The number of children whose lives we touched through emotional, financial and advocacy support.

339

The average number of families we helped each month, emotionally, financially and with practical day-to-day support throughout their child's illness.

172

The number of siblings supported one-on-one by Friends of Karen's child life specialists and expressive arts therapists.

79¢

The portion of every dollar raised that directly supports Friends of Karen's children and their families.

22

The number of boroughs and counties in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut served by Friends of Karen.

18

The number of hospitals we partner with that have a pediatric oncology department and/or pediatric transplant unit, including Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, Cohen Children's Medical Center, Maria Fareri Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital of New Jersey.

9

The number of consecutive years Charity Navigator, an independent charity evaluator, has awarded Friends of Karen their highest 4-star rating, recognizing that we "adhere to sector best practices" and execute our mission in a "financially efficient way." It also shows that we exceed industry standards and outperform most charities in our area of work.

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It all started with **one** child and **one** caring neighbor.

