

THE JILLIAN FUND

# IMPACT & GRATITUDE STATEMENT 2020





## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

I am thrilled to share with you The Jillian Fund's first-ever Impact & Gratitude Statement. During these difficult times, we continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of our friends. Because of you, The Jillian Fund was able to increase the amount of support provided to families of children experiencing serious illness in 2020. This was especially critical, as so many families found themselves experiencing sudden job losses due to the pandemic, while others were forced to leave the workforce as they could not risk bringing the virus home to their child. We also were able to provide emergency aid through gift cards so that families could continue to buy food, medication, cleaning supplies and other essentials during the height of the pandemic in the spring.

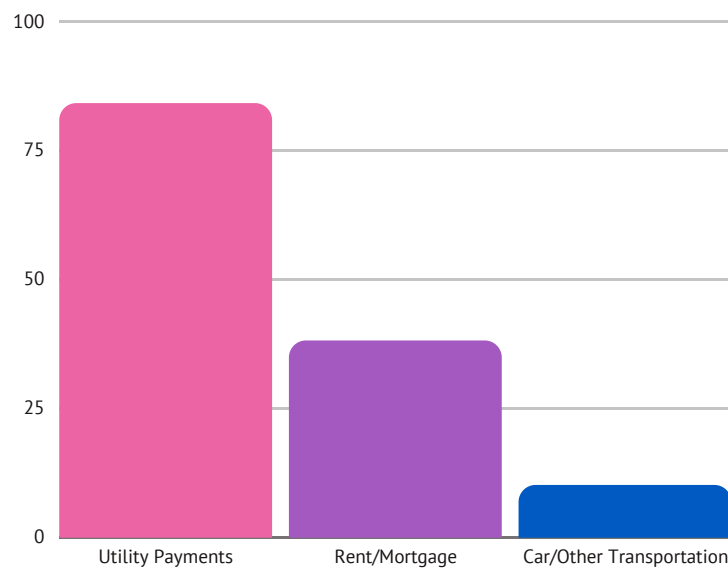
The reality is that children continue to be diagnosed with cancer and other serious illnesses every day, forcing families to refocus all their time and energy on navigating the medical treatments that can potentially save their child's life. While we wish no family had to experience this journey, we are grateful to play a small part in it. The financial support we are able to provide--by paying the rent or mortgage, utilities, or transportation expenses--lessens the burden for families experiencing the worst times of their lives. Our goal is to ensure that parents can take time away from work and focus on being by their child's side when it matters most. There is no greater gift we can offer to our families, and we are grateful to you for enabling us to provide it.

**BILL MCLAUGHLIN**

*Chairman, The Jillian Fund Board of Trustees*

# OUR IMPACT

In 2020, The Jillian Fund assisted 50 families with rent/mortgage, utility, and car/other transportation-related payments. We served 32 percent more families in 2020 as compared to 2019 in our signature Patient Assistance Program. Families received additional support through our continued funding of a social work position at our partner hospital, the Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital in Hackensack, N.J.

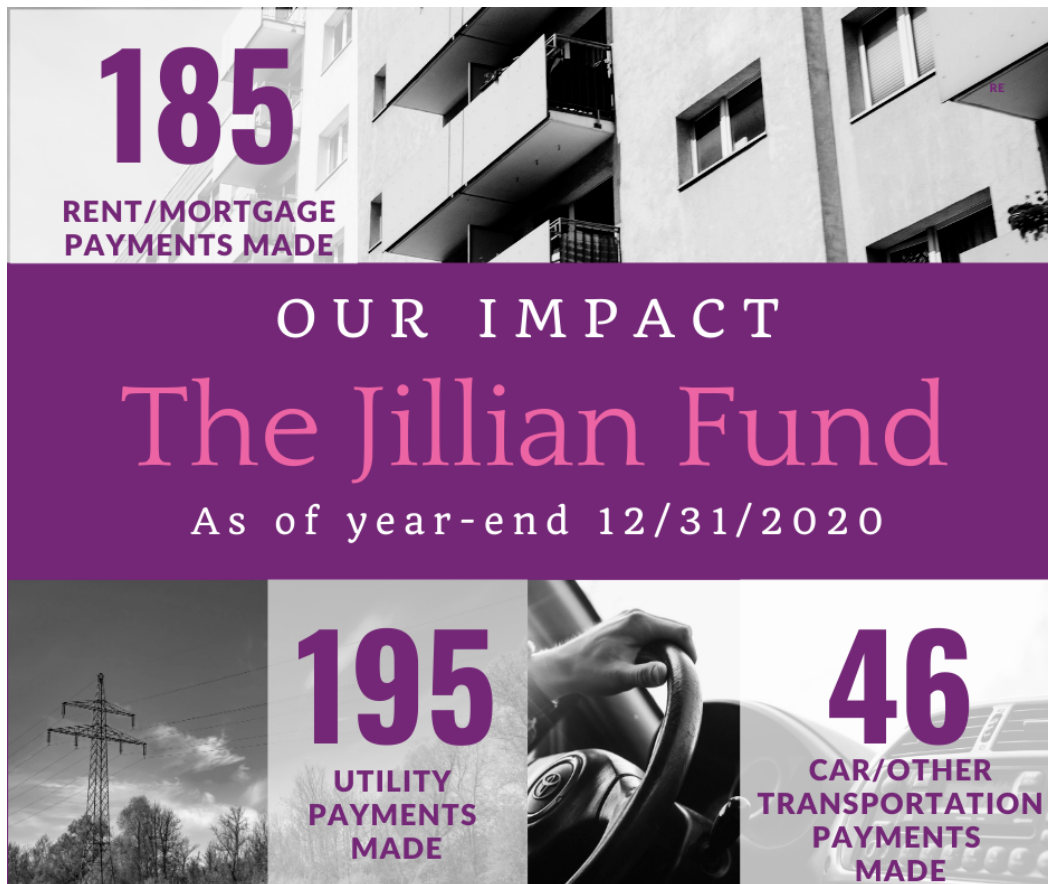


Recognizing that families of children with serious illnesses were experiencing additional financial hardship due to the pandemic, we provided gift cards that families at the Children's Hospital could utilize for essentials. While this emergency assistance is not the typical way we support families, we wanted to help during this unprecedented crisis. George Gorman, Jillian's dad, stated simply: "Jillian would want us to help." And so we did.

**50 families: Patient Assistance +  
150 families: Pandemic Emergency Aid  
= 200 FAMILIES HELPED IN 2020**

# SINCE INCEPTION

The Jillian Fund began assisting families in 2014. Here is a summary of our impact since then.





# OUR STORIES

Keeping a household running, even under the best of circumstances, can be difficult. Managing work, children's schooling and activities, housework and cooking can be all-consuming. The families we serve have to manage, on top of this "normal life," a serious, often life-threatening, illness of their child. This "normal life" fades away as families focus their time and energy on doctor appointments, treatment and often very extended hospital stays. In 2020, families also had to face the reality of the pandemic, which often involved job losses or furloughs, more difficult access to healthcare, and isolation to avoid exposure to COVID-19. Meet some of the families we helped in 2020.

Judy is 2 years old and was diagnosed with cancer of her chest wall in January and brain cancer a month later. To combat this unusual dual diagnosis, she received intensive chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant. Her mom was on maternity leave at the time of diagnosis and was unable to return to work. The Jillian Fund paid the family's utility bills for several months.

James is 20 years old and was diagnosed with leukemia in 2019. He was in the maintenance phase of treatment when the pandemic hit. His entire family contracted the virus, which meant both parents had to stop working for several weeks, placing enormous financial strain on the family. The Jillian Fund's assistance paid the family's utility bill and rent payment.

Harry is 16 years old and was diagnosed with leukemia after being sick for many months, experiencing headaches, pain, night sweats and a 30-pound weight loss. He lives with his grandparents. His grandfather drives a school bus and, due to school closings, has been unable to work. Support from The Jillian Fund helped pay the family's utility bill for several months.

Mateo is 10 years old and was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer, with disease in his kidneys, lymph nodes in his abdomen, and lungs. Mateo has had to undergo a difficult chemotherapy protocol to cure his disease. Mateo's mom is a single parent and had to stop working to support him during this battle. The Jillian Fund paid the family's utility bills for several months.

You can read more stories on our website at <http://bit.ly/jillianfamilies>.

# OUR SUPPORTERS

We are so grateful to all who make our work possible. The following lists all those who invested in our mission in 2020 through support of our virtual event, A Big Night In, monthly contributions through our Jillian Fund Champions program, our #GivingTuesdayNow campaign, grant funding and individual gifts. We couldn't do it without you!

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Throughout her journey, Jillian Lauren Gorman was the embodiment of strength and encouragement to others, and recognized the importance of a parent's presence and support during difficult times. At The Jillian Fund, we believe that children facing life-threatening and serious illnesses should never face them alone. Each day, thousands of critically ill children face long hospital stays without a parent by their side because the parent is financially unable to leave work.

The Jillian Fund is dedicated to uniting families in need during their most critical times.

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