



CHILDREN'S BRAIN TUMOR PROJECT FOUNDATION



Children's Brain
Tumor Project
powered by families



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Medicine

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MATTER

BECAUSE SOMETIMES LAUGHTER
IS THE BEST MEDICINE



BENEFITING THE
CHILDREN'S
BRAIN TUMOR
PROJECT
FOUNDATION

PROGRAM

- 8:00 PM Musical Performance, Emily Taylor Kaufman
in honor of patient, Alain Brutus
- 8:10 PM Welcome, Brooke Baldwin
- 8:15 PM Patient Testimony, Isabella Tornos
- 8:20 PM Comedian Kaneez Surka
- 8:30 PM Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield and Dr. Mark
Souweidane
- 8:45 PM Tara Lipton presents *Liz Laugh Love* award
to Nancy Goodman
- 8:55 PM Comedian Chris Distefano
- 9:05 PM Patient Testimony, Anthony Greco
- 9:15 PM Live Auction and Research Appeal with
Kenny Polcari, Special Patient Testimony
from Jordana Finkelstein
- 9:35 PM Comedian Josh Johnson
- 10:00 PM Stage Program Concludes

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anthony Trimarchi, Tina Peloquin, Cindy Campbell,
Tessa Naso, Emma Hill, Dana MacNaughton,
Shirah Dunphy, Kyle Fisher, Kathleen O'Connell.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Tara Lipton, Dinner Chair

whose tireless efforts ensure the success of this event year after year.

Amelia Whitmire, Project Manager
Beth Raskin, Event Coordinator

OUR HONOREE Nancy Goodman



NANCY GOODMAN is a lawyer and legislative advocate. She founded Kids v Cancer to change the rules of the road and create new models to incentivize and biotech and pharmaceutical companies to develop drugs for kids.

Kids v Cancer authored and championed the Creating Hope Act Rare Pediatric Priority Review Voucher Program, first passed into U.S. law in 2012 (21 U.S.C. 360ff) and reauthorized in 2016 and 2020. The voucher program establishes a market-based incentive, a voucher, for companies to develop drugs expressly for children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Over \$6 billion in vouchers have been traded since the establishment of the program. Vouchers trade at about \$100 million.

Kids v Cancer also authored and championed the RACE for Children Act, passed into U.S. law in 2017 (21 U.S.C. 355c). The RACE for Children Act authorizes the FDA to direct companies developing adult cancer therapies to undertake pediatric studies of those therapies when their molecular targets are relevant to pediatric cancers.

In 2020, Nancy cofounded CARGO Therapeutics.

Kids v Cancer and the pediatric cancer community are now asking the U.S. Congress to pass the Creating Hope Reauthorization Act (PRV Reauthorization) to extend the PRV program to September 2029, to pass the Give Kids a Chance Act, to extend the RACE for Children Act, and to authorize the FDA to direct companies developing adult cancer therapies to undertake pediatric studies of those therapies in combination with a second drug when the second drug is owned by the same company or is a generic.

Nancy received her JD from the University of Chicago Law School and her MPP from Harvard Kennedy School. Her son, Jacob, died of medulloblastoma.

The Liz Laugh Love award was created in memory of Elizabeth Minter to honor her tremendous advocacy and fundraising efforts, which helped create a dedicated research lab for rare pediatric brain tumors at Weill Cornell Medicine.

OUR BENEFICIARIES



DR. JEFFREY P. GREENFIELD is Professor of Neurological Surgery and Pediatrics and Vice Chairman of Academic Affairs in the Department of Neurological Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine. He co-founded the Children's Brain Tumor Project (CBTP) with Dr. Mark Souweidane, where he is also the scientific director.

Dr. Greenfield specializes in pediatric neurological surgery and neuroscience. His passion for exploring the biology of pediatric brain tumors drove the CBTP to become one of the earliest adopters of precision medicine approaches for children with pediatric brain tumors. As a result, all children who receive care at Weill Cornell Medicine have their tumors analyzed by a world-class team of scientists to help define a targeted treatment plan. Dr. Greenfield is the Principal Investigator (PI) on a large-scale precision medicine program and PI on the Gift from a Child rapid autopsy donation program. He founded tumor registries for thalamic gliomas and gliomatosis cerebri (two rare and highly invasive gliomas) and directs several other research projects, with particular interests in the pediatric brain tumor microenvironment and pediatric brain tumor immunology. His research has been widely published—he has contributed to more than 100 peer-reviewed publications—and he has received various awards from neurosurgical societies.

DR. MARK M. SOUWEIDANE is Professor of Neurological Surgery, Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery, and Vice Chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine. He also co-directs the CBTP alongside Dr. Greenfield.



Dr. Souweidane's clinical and scholarly contributions have helped define the contemporary fields of minimally invasive endoscopic surgery and direct drug delivery for brain tumors. His passion lies in discovering curative options for children with rare and often inoperable brain tumors through alternative drug delivery approaches. He directs a translational team at the CBTP lab focusing on novel drug delivery techniques for childhood brain tumors. He is the PI for a clinical trial using convection-enhanced delivery (CED) and immunotherapy as a novel therapeutic approach for children with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG). In 2017, Dr. Souweidane was selected by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to serve as the Neurological Surgery Special Expert on its Brain Malignancies Steering Committee (BMSC) and was appointed to the Children's Oncology Group (COG) CNS Steering Committee.

Both Dr. Greenfield and Dr. Souweidane have clinical appointments at the combined pediatric neurosurgery service of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (Weill Cornell Medicine and Columbia University Irving Medical Center) as well as at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

THE CHILDREN'S BRAIN TUMOR PROJECT (CBTP) FOUNDATION

Tonight's event is hosted by the Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation (formerly known as Elizabeth's Hope), a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funding research for rare and inoperable brain tumors. All funds raised exclusively support the research of Drs. Jeffrey Greenfield and Mark Souweidane at Weill Cornell Medicine. **EIN 46-4537457.**

THE CBTP LAB AT WEILL CORNELL

OUR MISSION is to improve the outcome for children with brain tumors by advancing scientific discovery and clinical research that focuses on targeted therapy, effective drug delivery, and low treatment-related toxicity. The Children's Brain Tumor Project (CBTP) lab has a single goal: to bring hope to the children and their families who are confronted with the diagnosis of a rare, sometimes inoperable, and often incurable brain tumor.

LEVERAGING NEXT GENERATION APPROACHES

It is known that traditional therapies (chemotherapy, surgery and radiation) often fail these children, which is why the CBTP is focused on innovation, attacking pediatric brain tumors from several simultaneous directions in an effort to accelerate progress and save the lives of children.

Basic science research lays the foundation for translation into clinical trials with the goal of bringing new treatment options, such as immunotherapies and targeted drugs, from bench to bedside as quickly as possible.

Precision medicine offers physicians the ability to quickly identify a brain tumor's "fingerprints" at the molecular level, allowing for personalized tumor therapy.

Alternative drug delivery methods help administer therapy directly to the tumor site, bypassing the blood-brain barrier. In addition, the CBTP is developing methods to track delivered drugs to ensure they stay where intended.



OUR EMCEE



BROOKE BALDWIN Brooke Baldwin is a TV host, award-winning journalist and bestselling author of *Huddle: How Women Unlock Their Collective Power*. She recently gave her very first TEDx Talk on truth and what she learned after getting fired! She writes a weekly Substack called “Unraveling, with Brooke Baldwin.” And if you’re looking for a fun show to binge on Netflix, Brooke hosted a popular social experiment show called *The Trust*. For more than a decade, Brooke anchored her own live daily news show on CNN and was renowned for her versatility, authenticity, and humanity at the news desk. **Brooke went to high school in Atlanta with CBTP Board**

Member, Shirah Dunphy, and lives in Los Angeles.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MILES WILKINS is an up-and-coming jazz pianist who has performed at venues in New York City and gained a following on social media. Based in NYC, Miles has played Lucille’s in Harlem and has been involved with Harlem Late Night Jazz events, such as the Harlem JAZZ Club Revival. When we asked if he could perform tonight in memory of our young patient, **Kai Coley Brown**, he didn’t hesitate.



ALAIN BRUTUS was recruited as a performer for *Aladdin* on Broadway shortly after his recent graduation from Rider University in May, 2025. He performs in the cast ensemble and covers for both *Aladdin* and *Omar*.

Alain is also a patient of Dr. Mark Souweidane. He was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor, he underwent a successful surgery, and he is currently undergoing daily proton-beam radiation. His journey, as expected, is filled with twists and turns so he couldn’t commit to a performance. He recruited his talented friend Emily, to accompany or play for him if he isn’t feeling up to it. We are all wishing Alain a fast recovery.

THE PERFORMERS

EMILY TAYLOR KAUGHMAN is a senior at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ, pursuing her BFA in Musical Theatre. She has performed in more than 40 theatrical productions since the age of seven and is recognized as a versatile pop vocalist, appearing at venues throughout South Florida.



Her artistic journey includes five years of mentorship and onstage performances with legendary musician Phil Collins. As a lead vocalist with *Acapop! KIDS*—the global a cappella group created by the producers of *Pentatonix*—Emily has showcased her voice in high-profile performances seen on YouTube.

Emily is deeply honored to be here tonight supporting the Children’s Brain Tumor Project with -- or in place of -- her friend, Alain Brutus. When Alain first committed to perform he wasn’t sure if he would be feeling well enough after receiving proton beam radiation every mornig, so he recruited Emily to sing with him (or in his place) Because, as any Broadway actor would say... “The show must go on!”

“Alain and I first met when he transferred to Rider University in the spring of 2023. He quickly became known in our program as a kind, friendly presence with the most contagious smile. I’ve had the privilege of working alongside him on various productions and sharing many classes together. He is incredibly talented, but even more importantly, he is one of the most generous people I know, and I feel so lucky to call him a close friend.”



KANEEZ SURKA is a producer, actor, and comedian from India, born and raised in South Africa.

She has produced and performed in her Netflix Special, ‘Ladies Up’, Netflix’s ‘Comedy Premium League,’ and Amazon Prime Video’s Improv specials, ‘Something From Nothing’ and ‘Improv All Stars - Games Night.’

Kaneez is also known for her comedic acting. Her short film, ‘The Shaila(s)’ was selected for the Voot Select Film Festival.

THE PERFORMERS (continued)



CHRIS DISTEFANO is one of today's biggest & most beloved names in comedy. Chris first burst onto the scene as a standout on MTV's Talking Heads franchise Guy Code/Girl Code, with Popsugar naming him the "Funniest Guy on MTV".

He became the first stand-up comedian to sell out both the world-famous Radio City Music Hall and the Theater at Madison Square Garden on consecutive nights in 2023. His fearless yet endearing stage presence and natural ability to connect with audiences around the world have made him a household name, not just in comedy but in all of entertainment.

Chris quickly rose to success after being named the funniest person on MTV for his show-stopping performances on the Guy Code/Girl Code series. From there, he went on to star in IFC's Benders, co-host the Netflix game show Ultimate Beastmaster, and star in his own CBS sitcom.

In 2022, Chris was selected by Jimmy Kimmel to host Jimmy's latest TV venture, Super Maximum Retro Show, for ViceTV. Fresh off appearances on The Late Show with David Letterman and Late Night with Seth Meyers in 2019, Chris released his first full-length special, Size 38 Waist, on Comedy Central. The special perfectly captured his Brooklyn-born edge and nice-guy charm.

His first special, Size 38 Waist (2019), is currently on YouTube. His second special, Speshy Weshy, premiered on Netflix in May 2022 to critical acclaim. His much-anticipated third special, It's Just Unfortunate, released in February 2025 as the fourth installment of Hulu's stand-up Hularious series.

When Chris isn't on stage delivering his gut-busting jokes, you can catch him in his element recording his wildly popular podcast History Hyenas with Yannis Pappas on YouTube and Patreon. Also, catch Chris on Sunday nights with Sunday Night Stand Up on YouTube.

When he's not podcasting or on TV, Chris continues to travel the world on his sold-out comedy tours, entertaining thousands by poking fun at the world – and himself – with his uniquely warm energy.

JOSH JOHNSON is an Emmy-nominated writer, stand-up comedian, actor, and NAACP award-winner from Louisiana by way of Chicago. He was just named as the newest correspondent on Comedy Central's Emmy & Peabody Award-winning program The Daily Show where he was previously a writer for the past six years. Johnson is also a former writer and performer on NBC's The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, where he made his late-night debut in 2017. In addition, he is Comedy Central's 'most watched comedian ever' with 40M+ views to date across their platforms.



As a stand-up, Johnson headlines theaters, clubs, colleges, and festivals around the world. In 2015, he was named one of Comedy Central's "Comic to Watch", in 2016 a "New Face" at the Just for Laughs comedy festival in Montreal, in 2018 the winner of the "New York's Funniest" competition at the New York Comedy Festival and in 2021 he was named one of Variety's "10 Comics to Watch".

Comedy Central released Johnson's first hour-long special #(Hashtag) in June 2021. Johnson's self-released comedy and music mixtape album Elusive, was described by Vanyaland as "live stand-up observational humor with musical compositions. Both elements wade in and out of political and social waters between the two "arcs" of the multi-genre epic". Johnson also co-hosts the weekly podcast, The Josh Johnson Show (with fellow stand-up Logan Nielsen).

Johnson's other credits include, CONAN (TBS), @Midnight, Kevin Hart's Hart of The City, The New Negroes, and This Week at The Comedy Cellar on Comedy Central and @fter Midnight on CBS.

Johnson lives in New York, but you can catch him on his Flowers Tour across the country.

OUR AUCTIONEER



KENNY POLCARI is a managing partner at Kace Capital Advisory, a financial services consultancy serving wealth managers, industry participants, incumbent b/d's and emerging fintech companies. He also serves as the Chief Market Strategist at Slatestone Wealth, a boutique wealth advisory firm with \$1.7 billion dollars of investor assets under management. In this role, his responsibilities range from market and economic analysis to investor education interpreting the ever changing economic and market landscape on behalf of Slatestone and how those impacts may affect future investment and planning strategies on behalf of their clients.

With more than 40 years of industry experience as a member of the NYSE serving institutional investors both at home and abroad, Kenny is a seasoned and well-known voice on the markets. You may recognize him from serving as a market analyst on CNBC, or his daily market commentary, "Morning Thoughts."

Earlier in his career, he built the U.S. equities business at the largest inter-dealer broker, ICAP, and was among the first traders to go direct to institutional money managers, executing on the opportunities market evolution created, and bringing greater transparency and accessibility to the customer.

Before that, Kenny ran the Salomon Brothers New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) division during the nineties bull market and was a part of the team that launched the first electronic order delivery system in the industry. Kenny began his career on the floor of the NYSE in 1985 and has lived through the many significant and life changing/industry changing events and has a special perspective having seen it all through the lens of the NYSE. He served as a member of the exchange for nearly forty years and as a NYSE Governor for more than a decade, representing the interests of institutional asset managers in the global equities markets.

He is an active member of the financial community and a board member of the National Organization of Investment Professionals (NOIP). He is also a big supporter of our Veterans – as a direct result of his own experience on 9/11 – and served on the board of the Headstrong Project for five years, recently stepping down to lead the advisory board as this organization continues to grow.

He met his wife on the NYSE – herself a former member – and they have two daughters.

THE NEED FOR RESEARCH FUNDING

Brain cancer is the *most fatal* of all cancers in children, but funding for pediatric brain cancer research is scarce. The current standard of care for children with brain tumors is often ineffective and causes severe short and long term side effects. At the **CHILDREN'S BRAIN TUMOR PROJECT (CBTP)**, Weill Cornell Medicine, we aim to improve outcomes for children with brain tumors by advancing scientific discovery and clinical research that focuses on targeted therapy, effective drug delivery, and low treatment-related toxicity.

Applying research findings to innovative frontline therapies for children with brain tumors can increase the efficacy of treatment while minimizing long-term side effects. We need scientific advances to be adopted into upfront treatment protocols, and at the CBTP we have the talent, technology, and commitment to make that happen.

Researching tumor tissue at the molecular level and testing drugs against patient tumors in the lab to evaluate efficacy and determine the ideal drug delivery method prior to administering treatment is critical to saving lives. Yet, this methodology is not standard-of-care, nor is it funded by health insurance. The majority of our financial support comes from family-founded nonprofits and individual donors who have been directly impacted by a pediatric brain tumor diagnosis. We simply can't continue this life-saving work without the support of our donors, and we thank you.

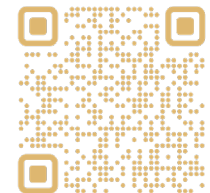
HOW TO BID/MAKE A DONATION


1 - When you checked in, a link was sent to your phone that allows you to login to the event site with a unique code. Here you can quickly and easily **bid on items or donate** to the research appeal from your phone via credit card.

2 - If you wish to **donate online**, there are QR codes posted throughout the venue (and here) that will take you straight to the donation page, where you can process by credit card.

3 - If you prefer to **donate offline**, each place-setting includes a postcard that can be filled out with your contact and credit card information, or an option to pay by check. If you opt to donate through a charitable trust, DAF, or stock transfer, the tax identification number is **EIN 46-4537457** and we can follow-up with you post-event.

4 - To donate by **personal check**, you can also check-out at the registration desk before leaving tonight.





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Zimmer Biomet supports the efforts of The Children's Brain Tumor Project to bring hope to children and their families.

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THE KULMAN HARRISON TEAM STATS

50+ Years Combined Experience	\$133M Current Listing Volume	\$100M+ Total Sales (2024)	\$1.5B+ Lifetime Sales	Top 1.5% RealTrends Verified by Volume	100+ Transactions in 2024
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The Kulman Harrison Team is a team of real estate licensees affiliated with Compass. Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. ***Source: Data from RealTrends America's Best 2024 Rankings.

SUSAN HARRISON AND THE KULMAN HARRISON TEAM ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN'S BRAIN TUMOR PROJECT FOUNDATION.



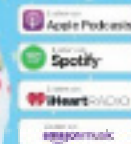
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO NANCY GOODMAN!
THANK YOU FOR DRIVING OUR SHARED MISSION FORWARD**



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Medicine**

**NewYork-
Presbyterian**

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY



**Dedicated to curing more children with brain
and spine tumors by combining surgical skill
with innovative scientific discovery.**

Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield and Dr. Mark Souweidane founded the Children's Brain Tumor Project research initiative to address the unmet needs of their patients.

**We have a *single goal*: to bring
hope to children and their
families who are confronted
with the diagnosis of a brain
or spinal cord tumor.**

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