



Fashion Designer Gretchen Scott to Be Honored for 15 Years of Philanthropy Supporting Pediatric Brain Tumor Research

Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation will recognize Scott at its annual "No Laughing Matter" Gala on October 22 in New York City

NEW YORK, NY — September 1, 2026 — Fifteen years ago, fashion designer **Gretchen Scott** began advocating for children with brain tumors in honor of her young neighbor and family friend, Elizabeth Minter, who had been diagnosed with an incurable brain tumor. Scott and Elizabeth shared the same birthday and a similarly joyful spirit, and their relationship inspired Scott to become an early supporter of Elizabeth's Hope, the nonprofit founded by Elizabeth and her family to advance research for children with brain tumors.

What began as an effort to help one child and her family would ultimately help fuel an innovative pediatric brain tumor research program at Weill Cornell Medicine—and grow into the organization known today as the Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation.

This October, that story will come full circle.

The Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation will honor Scott, Founder and CEO of Gretchen Scott Designs, at its annual No Laughing Matter fundraising gala on Thursday, October 22, at the New York Athletic Club. She will be recognized for her longstanding philanthropy and the important role she played in the earliest days of an effort that continues to advance research for children with rare and often incurable brain tumors.

Scott's involvement began with Elizabeth's Hope, established during Elizabeth's treatment. Scott designed two distinctive cotton blouses for the effort and went on to sell thousands, donating 100% of the proceeds to the cause.

The impact of Elizabeth's Hope extended well beyond those early fundraisers. The organization helped generate philanthropic support and momentum for a research program founded in 2012 by Weill Cornell Medicine pediatric neurosurgeons Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield and Dr. Mark Souweidane to advance treatments for children with rare and often incurable brain tumors.

As that research effort grew, so did the mission that began with Elizabeth. In 2020, Elizabeth's Hope became the Children's Brain Tumor Project Foundation, reflecting the nonprofit's expanded commitment to supporting the research initiative it had helped champion from its earliest days.

Today, the Children's Brain Tumor Project at Weill Cornell Medicine has grown into a comprehensive research initiative focused on scientific discovery, precision medicine, innovative drug delivery and new treatment approaches designed to improve outcomes while minimizing toxicity for children.

“Honoring Gretchen feels like bringing an extraordinary story full circle,” said Emmie Hill, Elizabeth’s mother and Vice President of the Children’s Brain Tumor Project Foundation. “When my family was faced with an impossible diagnosis, she used her creativity, her business and her community to help. Fifteen years later, the research effort that grew from those early days is giving hope to families around the world.”

Known for her vibrant prints, bold colors and effortlessly elegant designs, Scott built Gretchen Scott Designs into a distinctive lifestyle brand with boutiques across the United States and an international following. Philanthropy has remained an important part of the company’s identity, beginning with Elizabeth’s Hope and continuing through its support of charitable causes and communities.

The October 22 gala will bring together approximately 300 leaders from finance, medicine, entertainment, fashion, media, real estate and science for an evening benefiting pediatric brain tumor research at Weill Cornell Medicine.

The event will be headlined by comedian Zarna Garg, the New York Times bestselling author of *This American Woman*, whose stand-up comedy has earned her an international following. Previous No Laughing Matter performers have included Jim Gaffigan, Jessica Kirson, Jordan Klepper, Roy Wood Jr., Josh Johnson and Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Freestyle Love Supreme.

For Scott, the evening represents something that began long before No Laughing Matter existed: a commitment to a child, a family, and the belief that research could create hope where too little existed.

WHAT: No Laughing Matter fundraising gala

WHEN: October 22, 2026, 7-10pm

WHERE: New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South

For tickets, tables, sponsorship opportunities and additional information, visit nolaughingmatter2026.org.

About the Children’s Brain Tumor Project Foundation

The Children’s Brain Tumor Project Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the groundbreaking research of the Children’s Brain Tumor Project at Weill Cornell Medicine. The Foundation is 100% committed to funding research aimed at improving outcomes for children with rare and difficult-to-treat brain tumors through scientific discovery, precision medicine, innovative drug delivery and the development of safer, more effective treatment options.

About Gretchen Scott Designs

Gretchen Scott Designs is a fashion and lifestyle brand known for its bold prints, vibrant colors and effortless silhouettes. Founded by Gretchen Scott, the company has grown from its New York roots to include boutiques across the United States and a devoted international following. Philanthropy has been part of the brand’s story since its earliest years, beginning with Scott’s support of Elizabeth’s Hope.

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