

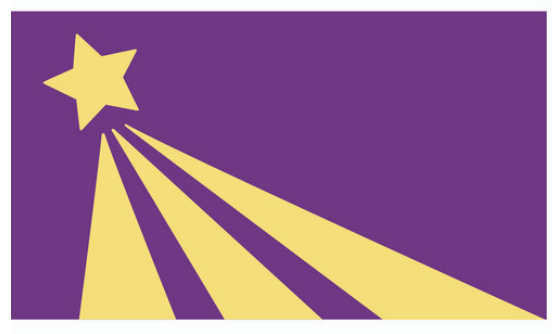


1 0 T H

A N N U A L

F O R A D A Y

F A S H I O N
S H O W



ForADay.org

F O R A D A Y
T H A N K S O U R
S P O N S O R S

English Gardens
Nino Salvaggio's
Tea Party Castle
Tricho Salon

Jennifer Laurain-Cattini - Massage Therapist
Marilynn Hartrick - Massage Therapist
Heather Savas - Photographer
Parties and Poses - Photographer

California Pizza Kitchen
of Partridge Creek Mall

Carson's - for hosting 9 years of this life-
changing event!



F R O M N I K K I Fashion Show Coordinator

Can you believe it's been 10 years?!

As I sit down to write my reflection, there is so much that I want to share about my experience that I could write a book all of my own. But, this isn't about me, it's about you. And for those that might have wondered how this show came about, I would like to share a bit of the history. It is an anniversary, after all.

I had been volunteering for the organization for a couple of years doing very small things to help where I could. I was finally at a point where I could spend a little more time and was looking to see what options were available to volunteer for when I was presented with an opportunity to chair the first fashion show for the For a Day Detroit Chapter.

Of all the things for me to jump into....fashion was probably where I had the least amount of experience. Yikes!

For those of you who were not with us our first year, the show was held at Gilda's Club in Royal Oak. This is a home turned club-house and what an experience it was. Can you picture all of the things we do today happening inside of someone's home? We had make up in one room, clothing in another, two rooms of photographers, and two sets of staircases to get to where we needed to be. We took up every inch of space in that place, but we made it happen. The show took place in the family room and wouldn't you know, we had such an amazing turnout that the fire department showed up because we were over capacity. Oops!!

Fast forward 10 years and here we are. Thank you Carson's for opening your space to us!! What started out as an idea to create smiles grew into an event that makes me proud to be a part of each year. I have had the opportunity each May to see many of you go from young kids to high school graduates and college students. I have no doubt in my mind that every single one of you will achieve what you set out for. You are strong, you are beautiful, you are amazing, and I am so happy to be a part of your life through the event.

Thank you for allowing me the continued opportunity to share in your story.



E L E N A

I have been so blessed and happy to be a part of the For a Day fashion shows.

The first show ever, which I was very fortunate to be part of, began in 2008. I was prepped up and ready to go, when suddenly I froze and refused to walk.

I felt ugly with a wig that looked fake, drawn eyebrows, and a dress that I didn't do justice, due to my swelling. I felt embarrassed.



That's when I met Nikki, she came to talk to me while giving me the sincerest look. She told me that I looked beautiful, and that I was not alone in feeling this way. Plus, everyone here is supporting me and would not make fun of me.

She also said that the runway was nothing compared to what I had been through. Furthermore, Nikki explained that I could walk with someone if it made me comfortable. So, I shared and conquered that Runway.

That feeling of support and applause is something I will cherish forever, because it gave me back my self-esteem. I know now that I am beautiful, and that I always have a place to go for support. Thus, the given boost in self-esteem has helped me make friends, embrace my unique life, and love every moment of it.

M A D I S O N

Madison loves the fashion show. She loves all of the special attention she receives at the salon, picking out her clothes at Carson's, getting her makeup done at the makeup counter.

She loves the glamour and getting done up. She loves walking the runway showing off her new look and loves spending time with her friends. She really looks forward to this event every year. We are so grateful to everyone involved for all of the hard work they put into this incredible event every year.



I believe events like this give these kids confidence by making them feel beautiful and good about themselves.

Madison glows after this event and talks about how pretty she was for months.

These children have been through unspeakable turmoil in their lives and events like this make them feel special, important and like they matter.

G I O I A

Gioia will turn 11 on May 29th and goes to 5th grade.

She was diagnosed with ALL leukemia in 2011 and is now 4 years off chemo treatment and is doing well.



This is her 5th appearance of this fashion show and it is a pleasure for her being out here again to see her friends.

Her hobbies are playing the guitar together with her sister Kyra and loves her dancing classes. Last year she started to mountain bike ride on one of the many Michigan single track trails with her sister Kyra and of course daddy.

During the last Christmas break she enjoyed going to Florida for swimming and wave board riding. While searching the beach for treasures she found her first perfect round sand dollar.

She loves this event and is thankful for being here this year again.



K Y R A

Kyra is a 3rd grader and just turned 9 years old.

She was a great support for her sister Gioia while she was on treatment.

They are very bonded to each other and can play for hours with their dolls, my little ponies or jump outside on the trampoline.

This is for her the 4th year to be on stage and she loves to be pampered like today. When her hair gets brushed she sits down and closes her eyes and just relaxes.

Like her sister she plays the guitar and loves dancing. Her loud laugh and smile is contagious and gave our family strength during the difficult time of treatment and even today.

When visiting Clearwater Florida during our Christmas vacations she fell in love with dolphins and is still determined to be a dolphin trainer when she grows up. She likely watched " Winter, the Dolphin That Can" a few more times since our last fashion show.



G I O I A & K Y R A

The fashion show is for us a very important milestone in our calendar. The chosen May period is the start for spring, the most beautiful time of the year to celebrate new life.

The fashion show event brings families and survivors together to become a star for a few moments to forget what they have gone through in their such a young lives.

Besides seeing them shine on stage we see them grow year to year and how their own selected outfits change and mature. We cannot thank the many volunteers enough that make this event happen, they may have an idea how much they make a difference for our children and parents but our feeling exceeds their imagination.

After each year's event, we go home with a thought in our mind to be here again next year with a healthy family. We are planning to join many more of these events to celebrate and bring a smile on their faces.

Many thanks to Carson's, Tricho Salon, For a Day Foundation and the many other companies and people making this yearly event possible.



M A I S A

Hi, my name is Maisa & I am 13 years old. I was diagnosed with an optic glioma brain tumor at age of 2. I received chemotherapy from 2007- 2008. I have an MRI every year to monitor my brain tumor. I have had stable (no growth) MRI's since I finished treatment.

It was scary for me to be experiencing all of this at such a young age. I was introduced to For A Day when I was 6 years old. I was very excited when I found out about For A Day fashion show.

The day consists of having my makeup, hair & nails done. Picking out an outfit to walk down "the runway" is also so much fun. The day makes me feel very special & beautiful.

I remember the first time I did the fashion show being greeted by all the volunteers. When I walked in, I was so excited I could barely stand. When I was getting my nails done all I could think about was walking down the runway.

I loved choosing the color of my eyeshadow, lipstick & blush.

I remember being excited to get my hair done, all I wanted was very pretty curls.

Then the moment I had been waiting for, getting my pink dress on.

I got in my dress & I thought that I was a princess.



The time finally came, it was time to walk down the runway. As I stood in line I had a big smile on my face. They called my name, & I started to walk down & I felt like a million bucks - it was priceless. I felt amazing.

Fast forward, this year will be my 8th participating in For A Day fashion show. It has changed my life. It has built confidence in me & has made me realize there are amazing people who care about children with cancer.

Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity! For a Day fashion show is something I look forward to every year.



D A K O T A

I've been part of this fashion show for many years.

Now 21 years old, I will walk the runway one last time before I head out to pursue my dreams, but not before I express my gratitude to my fellow cancer survivors, my family, other families and amazing volunteers who have walked this path with me.

You have been so supportive, accepting and loving. I have loved watching my peers grow into amazing people. I can honestly say that this event has been a highlight of my life, so far. I couldn't ask for anything more from such an amazing group.

The confidence that the fashion show has given me has definitely helped me in other parts of my life. I have been able to give presentations in class much easier and am able to go the extra mile without fear when applying for jobs.

Being able to walk the runway and just have all eyes on me is really awesome. My younger shy self wouldn't agree but I've really grown to enjoy the attention and support that I see when I get that spotlight.



D A N I E L L E



Hello there, I'm Danielle. I am twenty years old and would be described as a happy go lucky girl whose optimism about the world shows and my smile rarely is stolen by sadness and anger.

Some would probably say I'm stubborn and flighty at times, but I ask them who isn't. Others would say I'm too energetic, happy, and 'off my meds,' but that's just my personality and mindset showing.

I am attending Baker College of Auburn Hills and I am striving for my Associate's Degree in Human Services, but shooting for a Master's Degree in Human Services. I am going the corporate route of Human Services, however I am considering after an amount of time going back for a Doctorate's Degree in Human Services and then opening my own practice.

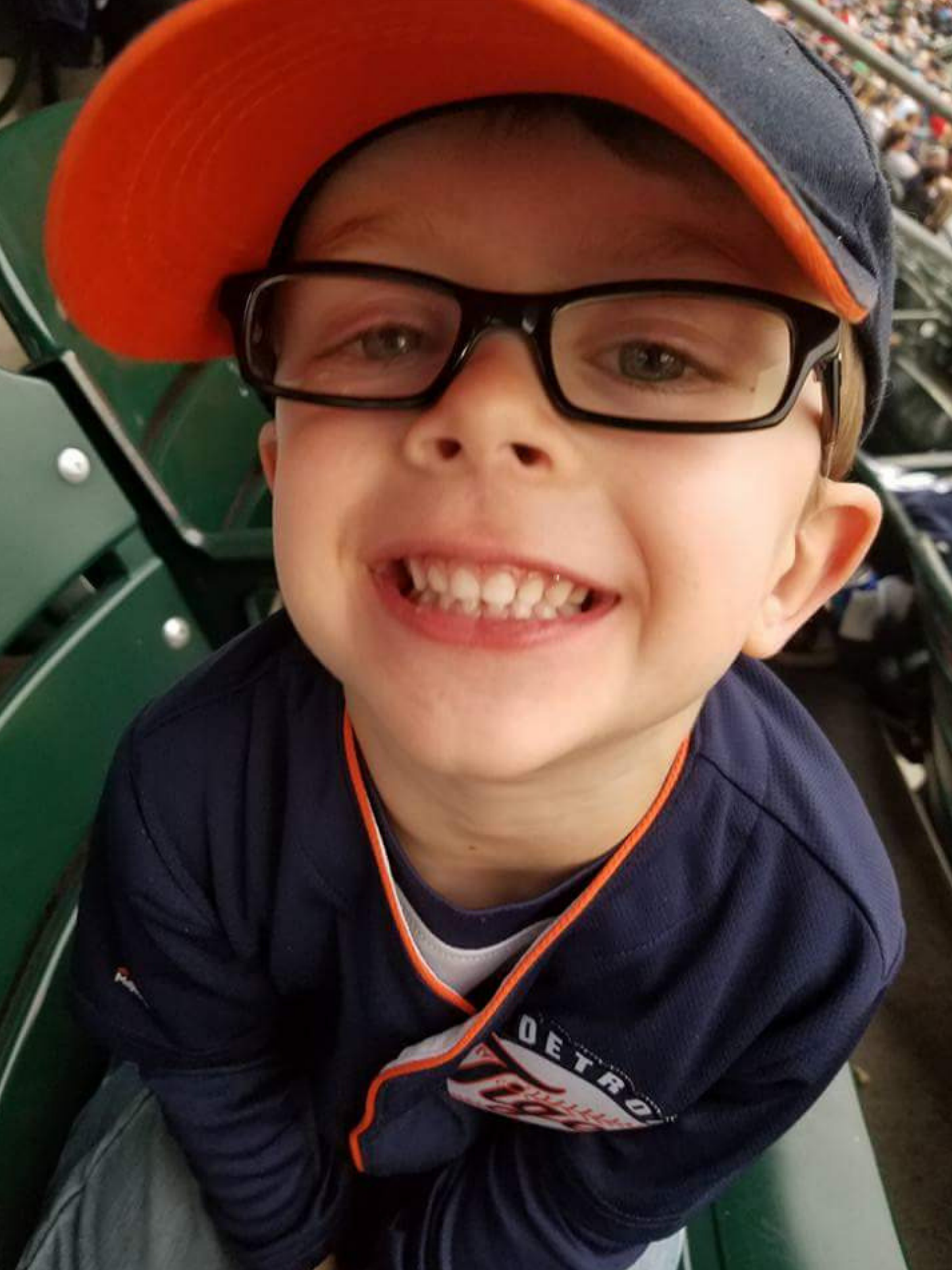
I love writing, working out, and trying to enjoy life to the fullest.

I've found that I am a lot nicer than I believed myself to be through my work there and that I'm doing my family proud of how they raised me to be a kind, caring, happy, and optimistic young lady.

This year I am walking with my niece, Grace, and she has been so excited to do this show; I can only hope she enjoys the show as much as my sister and I have over the past couple of years.

The photo I have included is one with my twin sister, Dominique, and my second oldest brother, Demetri, from the one year my brother did the fashion show. He is happily married and living life in the Marine Corps.

Have a great rest of the year and see you next year.



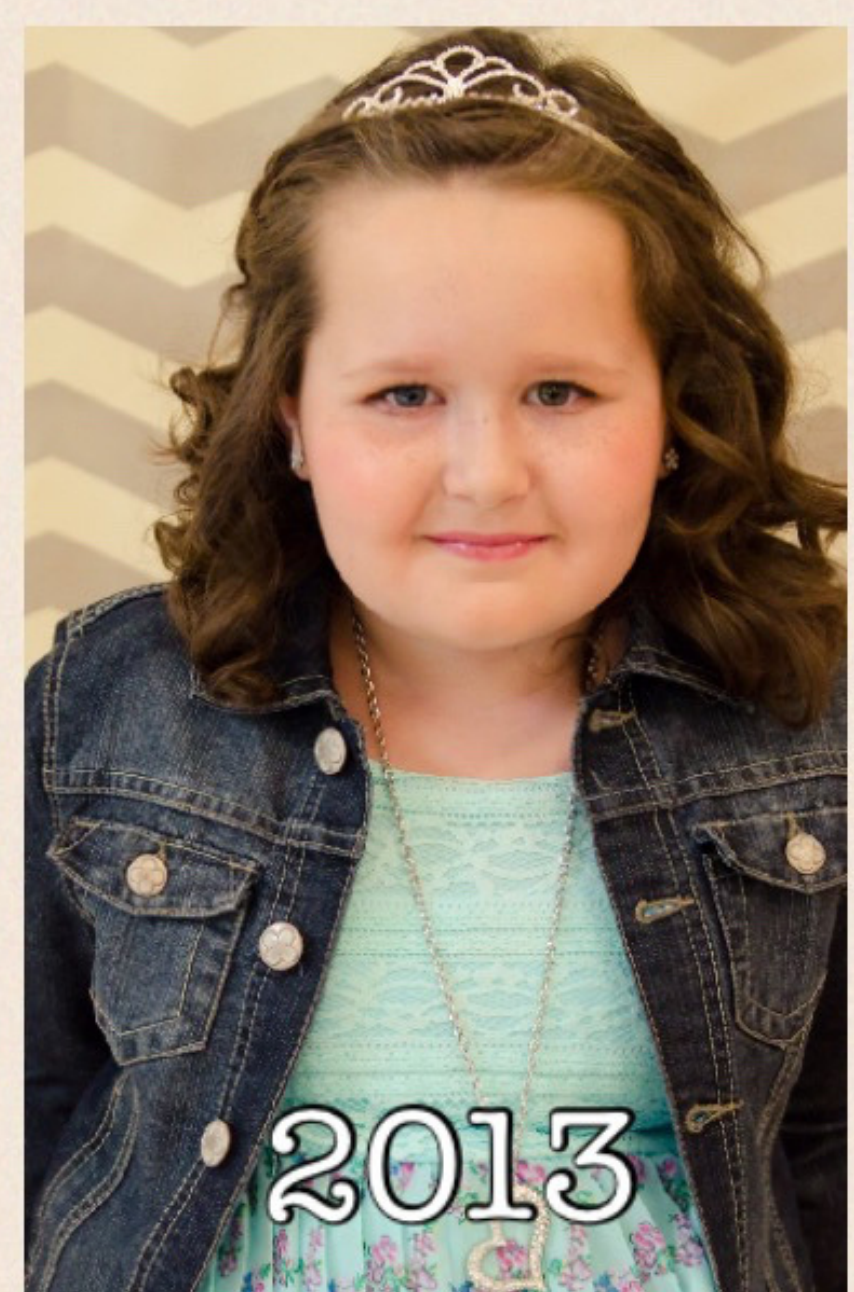
P A R K E R

Parker is 4, but turning 5 in less than a month. He has an older brother, Ryan, who is 7, and a younger sister, Madelyn, who is almost 2.

He currently goes to preschool and can't wait to go to Kindergarten next year, so he can be at school everyday like his brother.

Parker still loves any and ALL Superheros. He went on his wish trip to Disney World this past summer. He said it was “magical and SO much fun”. Parker says his favorite part was meeting all of the characters, especially Peter Pan and Spiderman. He also liked going swimming and going on the carousel. Parker loves playing outside. He will be playing Soccer for a second season, and will begin his first season of T-ball soon.

Parker just loves being in the fashion show. He says his favorite part is meeting the other kids in the show and waving to everyone when he is walking!!



A V A

I am 12 years old. In September 2010, I was 6 years old, I was Diagnosed with T Cell-stage 4 Non-hodgkins lymphoma cancer. My first fashion show was in 2011. When we got to the fashion show I was sick because I was in the middle of chemo and I almost couldn't do it. About an hour before the fashion show started I started to feel better so I went to get ready. That day was the funnest day I had in awhile. It took my mind off of how sick I was feeling. I also met some new friends!

Each year my friends and I were so excited for the day of the Fashion Show to come. We would like seeing each other all dressed up with makeup and hair all done.



G R A C E

This is now Grace's 4th Fashion Show. She looks forward to them every year. Her first year, Grace had low self esteem due to her chemotherapy causing weight loss and hair loss. The volunteers with the show made her feel confident & beautiful. She immediately began planning for the next year. This time, she was cancer free & almost done with her treatment. Her hair growing back thicker than ever. She was growing into a beautiful young teenager, full of life.

She loves being in the spotlight & walking the runway, proud that she has overcome so many challenges. She again, was so excited, awaiting the next year. She felt even more beautiful & confident, as she was getting older & healthier with more energy. She loved heels & has always been known as "the girl with the heels" when attending her appointments at the hospital. She has always taken pride that she learned to walk in sometimes 6 inch heels.

Grace has always been a girl who loves people, animals & other children. She is has become quite altruistic & has a passion for helping those in need. She has always been a bit eccentric & loves to be in the spotlight.

This year, Grace has grown into a beautiful young woman who has her own sense of style & flare. She puts together her own outfits & loves to show her sense of style off! She loves anime & the Japanese culture & has a dream of learning the Japanese language & travel to Japan someday.

Thank you for having a hand in helping Grace feel self confident & beautiful & helping to inspire her style with her high heels & flare!



D O M I N I Q U E



The show allows me to forget about all my worries for a few hours, allows me to catch up with some friends as well. The hair and make-up personnel are always fun to talk to, always polite. In recent years I've noticed more people coming to watch the show, it will definitely be interesting to see how many people watch the live stream on facebook.

I'm one that's always had confidence, but when the show happens I feel my confidence grows bigger, especially being in the spotlight.

Enough about the show, let me tell you about me; I am a licensed Basic Emergency Medical Technician, and working towards my Paramedic. On my free time I work on writing fictional books, enjoy playing card games currently Five Crowns. Love doing little crafts, especially with my niece Grace who is also in the show.

A very, very special thank you to our volunteers:

Dave, Renee, Andrew, and Alle Plosky

Sean, Sean II, Colton, and Travis Follis

Carie Deaton

And to the volunteers in past years who have helped shape this fashion show to the experience it is today, we are truly grateful for your heart and generosity.

We dedicate this booklet to you and for the impact you've made on dozens of lives.



For a Day, a 501C3 organization, is committed to creating emotionally therapeutic experiences for seriously ill children—and providing them and their families with a joyful and much needed diversion from the strain of chronic treatment.

Founded in 2000,
we host 15 local chapters throughout the country.

Follow us at **[Facebook.com/ForADay](https://www.facebook.com/ForADay)**

or Take Action with us at
[ForADay.org/Take-Action](https://www.ForADay.org/Take-Action)

F R O M J E N N A

For A Day founder

I can't begin to express what an honor it is to witness this community in person. I founded For A Day as a teen, with only the notion to help the kid in front of me and no expectation for what it could be 17 years later.

Working on this booklet and reading the stories of the families whose lives are intertwined with this event has humbly blessed my soul. I always tell new chapters about this event, encouraging them to strive for this sense of community. You are truly special.

To Carson's - thank you for so warmly opening your space to our event and for these families. I hope you know the impact you have created and the love you have given. It is forever.

To Nikki - I am so grateful for your dedication. I love what you have built!

To the families and models - I look up to you. I don't know a fraction of your experiences, but I know you are incredible people and it is such a treat to be in your presence. Thank you for being a part of For A Day.

