

In 2011, my daughter, Brianna Bove, was diagnosed with Leukemia at age 13 and was treated at Staten Island University Hospital, at their north site. The news was devastating and my family was overwhelmed. I had worked at the hospital as a transporter and was familiar with the doctors, nurses and staff members so I felt comfortable having her treated there even though they were not known as a state of the art cancer hospital. On top of my daughters diagnosis and just a couple of months before my daughter Brianna got sick I got seriously hurt at work. I was diagnosed with a detached retina. I lost all vision in my right eye which prevented me from working due to many surgery's and the lack of vision. I was struggling financially and couldn't afford to pay my household bills let alone focus on caring for my daughter and my 4 other children. A few weeks after my daughter was diagnosed, Vivian Alestra of SIUH introduced me to Mark Russo of Kids Against Cancer. Kids Against Cancer helped me get in touch with many foundations and helped put a sense of hope back into this very sad time for my family and I. For example, Kids Against Cancer made a connection for us with Echo, The Emergency Children's Help Organization. They, along with Kids Against Cancer, helped me pay my bills while my daughter was receiving treatment. Kids Against Cancer also gave my children Christmas gifts and Mark Russo even visited my daughter many times during her hospital stays. Kids Against Cancer, along with their Chairman Mark Russo, helped my family tremendously in our time of need. In addition, they also provided my family with a trip into the Manhattan in a limousine for Brianna to see a Broadway play of her choice and dinner at Tony DiNapoli's. Kids Against Cancer also introduced us to the Make A Wish Foundation and they granted us a very special wish for Brianna. My family and I will be going to the Atlantis in the Bahamas! Something we could never do on our own but something that has made us and Brianna very happy. As a father, your main concern is always the happiness and health of your children, Kids Against Cancer gave me and my family the chance to focus on the things that matter. There are no words to say for how thankful and grateful we are that Kids Against Cancer came into our lives and really made a difference during the toughest time of our lives.

Sincerely,
Nunziato Bove