



Muriel's Breath of Life

Making a difference in the lives of children and adults living with Cystic Fibrosis.

MURIEL'S STORY

Muriel Lagnese was a devoted wife, wonderful daughter and fun loving aunt as well as an intelligent and successful businesswoman. Her life changed dramatically in 2004 when she was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) at the age of 50. She was one of a growing number of patients who have late onset disease discovered in adulthood.

Through her struggle, the Lagnese family discovered that CF impacts nearly every aspect of the lives of both the patient and those closest to him or her. This insidious, incurable and life-shortening disease requires extensive and costly medical care. Muriel was blessed with excellent health insurance and was able to pursue most treatments and medications without worry of cost or coverage. She recognized that many of her fellow patients were not as fortunate and were often

overwhelmed by the financial burden of CF. One of her last wishes was for her husband, Les, to take all of the unused medications and supplies she had accumulated to the clinic so that they may be used by those less fortunate. To honor the life of Muriel and to help others with CF, the Lagnese Family created Muriel's Breath of Life. Administered by Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation and distributed to adult patients and pediatric patient families by Children's Hospital social workers, the fund provides direct financial assistance to cover the out-of-pocket costs associated with the treatment of CF.

**Your support of
Muriel's Breath of Life
pays tribute to the life
of one woman by
bettering the lives of
so many others.**



At just 56, Muriel Lagnese tragically lost her battle with Cystic Fibrosis. Her family honors her generous spirit through Muriel's Breath of Life.



Children's
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Cystic Fibrosis is a devastating disease affecting about 30,000 children and adults in the United States alone.

Although great strides have been made in the treatment of CF and many patients are now living well into their 30's, 40's and beyond, the disease remains incurable and treatment is extremely costly.

A chronic disease like Cystic Fibrosis also entails exorbitant hidden costs (including co-pays, missed work, transportation fees for treatment, etc.) which can be debilitating for patients and patient families. For some adult patients, this means choosing between one's medical care and basic needs. For the parents of children with CF, it often means forgoing one's own needs to make sure a child receives the treatment he or she requires.

That's where Muriel's Breath of Life steps in. A family-led initiative that provides direct financial assistance to those living with CF, Muriel's Breath of Life gives patients and patient families help when they need it most.



Pictured here are just two of the many children in this region battling Cystic Fibrosis.

Patient Stories



Kathy, 57

As an adult living with Cystic Fibrosis, Kathy's condition necessitates frequent clinic visits. For Kathy, her visits to the clinic entail nearly 300 miles of travel. Kathy has limited resources and lives on a tight budget, making her frequent trips financially taxing. Muriel's Breath of Life has assisted Kathy in affording the travel related expenses she incurs when she comes to Pittsburgh for care. Knowing that she can receive help paying for gas, parking and tolls alleviates some of Kathy's stress and enables her to focus on her treatment.



Chris, 38

Chris is currently awaiting a lung transplant. She too struggles to stay afloat financially as an adult with CF. Although Chris has insurance, her monthly prescription co-payments are more than she can afford. Muriel's Breath of Life helps Chris cover her co-pays — giving her much needed peace of mind as she prepares for her long-awaited transplant.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!



*Muriel's
Breath of Life*

- *Attend an event.
- *Sponsor a fundraiser.
- *Make a donation.

For more information about ways that you can get involved with Muriel's Breath of Life visit murielsbreathoflife.org or givetochildrens.org.



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