Vision and History

Nicholas “Head” Colleluori, the founder of the HEADstrong Foundation was an exceptional young man. He was a member of Hofstra University’s lacrosse team when he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. During Nicholas’ battle with cancer his family lived through the many financial and emotional stressors cancer can bring to a family. Simply put, Nicholas had the vision, wisdom and fortitude to create the HEADstrong Foundation from his hospital bed to provide direct services to families affected with cancer. Nicholas asked his family to carry forth his vision.

During his hospitalization, Nick’s parents encountered a family living out of their car in the hospital parking garage while their daughter was receiving a bone-marrow transplant. The family, who had traveled more than 500 miles to pursue saving their daughter, was financially exhausted and needed help. The Colleluori’s welcomed them into their own home and provided them with comforts and the support necessary to keep fighting. These shared experiences supported the overwhelming need for a family home on the outskirts of Philadelphia to complement the medical landscape and allow more families the opportunity to pursue leading-edge treatment. In 2011, Nick’s House opened and has provided more than 3,000 complimentary nights of housing for families.

Expanding Nick’s House

However, every month more and more families are forced to travel hundreds and thousands of miles to pursue the most sought after cancer treatments that are offered in the Greater Philadelphia region. For many their stay in the Philadelphia area may exceed 50 days, impacting their already difficult financial situation.

In response to the urgent demand for long-term housing for families displaced to the Philadelphia region, the HEADstrong Foundation is expanding and opening the second Nick’s House in suburban Philadelphia. The home will serve an additional seven families at one time, providing more than 2,555 complimentary nights annually. Nick’s House offers families respite and a haven comfort with an inviting balance of private and communal spaces allowing them to focus on taking care of their loved one. The house will provide a sense of normalcy for families in long-term treatment and will be a home-away-from home.

For Nick,

Cheryl Colleluori, President and Nick’s Mom – Cheryl@HEADstrong.org
Michael Colleluori, Vice President and Nick’s Brother – Michael@HEADstrong.org

How You Can Help

We are extremely grateful to the many donors who have and continue to support Nick’s vision. We are building on our commitment to those we humbly serve by launching a capital campaign of $1.5 million encompassing the acquisition, renovation and an endowment to provide ongoing maintenance and family programs of the second Nick’s House.

Please consider making a financial gift in support of Nick’s House. There are many opportunities within the House to honor a loved one. Please contact us to learn how you can be part of Nick’s vision.

610.461.5987
www.headstrong.org

Creating a HOME away from HOME for families fighting cancer