



Where We've Been, Where We're Going



Inside!

Your Impact.....	p 5
How You Raised Awareness.....	p 9
The Bigger Picture.....	p 14

Where We've Been, Where We're Going

Dear Friend,

The twelve months of 2017 brought rapid, exciting growth for the Me Fine Foundation. This was because of the generosity and encouragement from supporters like you. We helped more families than ever (211 unique families) through financial assistance and hundreds more through our sponsorship of key emotional and social support programs. We also expanded our offerings, including a new resource cart dedicated exclusively to teenage patients.

Thanks to significant investments from key funders, we announced Me Fine's first-ever expansion during our 2017 gala. Now, we are also serving NICU families at WakeMed Children's Hospital. This increase in funding also allowed us to turn two part-time staff positions into full-time opportunities, which has already reaped a multitude of benefits for Me Fine's capacity, fundraising efforts, and programmatic impact in the first six months of this year.

Because of the tireless work of those who came before, we no longer need to ask ourselves: How can we build Me Fine to be a viable organization? Based on the 2017 impact reports and anecdotal reflections from hospital partners, donors, and community members, it is clear that Me Fine's mission to support critically ill children and families is viable. Now our question is: **How we can ensure sustainability?**

Families will continue to experience financial crisis. Families will continue to require strategic social and emotional interventions to help process their experiences, tell their stories, and build connections with others going through similar experiences. Our task now is to develop that clear road map to ensure Me Fine has the resources, skills, and infrastructure to meet the ever-growing needs and move the work forward in meaningful, significant ways.

Thank you for your willingness to join us on that journey. Thank you for channeling your compassion into contributions that allowed more families to be together, and more stable, during such unimaginable times.

Sincerely,
Webb Bostic, Chair
Me Fine Foundation Board of Directors



Table of Contents

Major Me Fine Moments	3	How You Gave in 2017	12
In Their Own Words	4	The Bigger Picture	14
Your Impact in 2017	5	Continue to Provide Hope	17
How You Raised Awareness	9	Who We Are	19

Major Me Fine Moments

2004



SEPTEMBER, 2004

Lori Lee files for a 501(c)(3) in memory of her son, Folden IV, and the Me Fine Foundation is born

DECEMBER, 2004

Me Fine's first unofficial "Hope for the Holidays Program"



2006

Second Hope Shop

APRIL, 2006

Second Hope Shop opens in Princeton to create a regular stream of income for the Foundation

JULY, 2006

First ever "Christmas in July" held for inpatient children



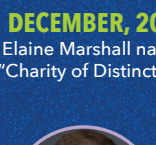
2007



APRIL, 2007

Inaugural "Me Fine Gala" hosted at Clayton Center raises \$11,000

2011



DECEMBER, 2011

Secretary of State Elaine Marshall names Me Fine a "Charity of Distinction"



2013



JANUARY, 2013

Me Fine hires first full-time Executive Director to manage operations and drive the organization

JULY, 2013

Acquisition of peer organization, Striving for More, and emotional support programs at UNC and Duke Children's Hospitals



2016



FEBRUARY, 2016

Launch of online referral system for financial assistance leads to exponential growth in annual number of families served

2017

SEPTEMBER, 2017

Expansion into WakeMed Children's announced for January 2018



In Their Own Words

**"Thank you so much!
This makes things a little
easier during the scariest
times in our lives."**

**-Mom, receiving hospital
parking passes**

**"I just wanted to thank your
Foundation for helping my family in our
time of need. Being a single mother, sometimes
things get so overwhelming, and you feel very alone.
I am so grateful for what you have done, and I will
never forget the kindness shown to us. I hope one day
that I can pay it forward. Thank you, and God Bless!"**

**-Mom, receiving assistance with car insurance
and vehicle payment while her child
receives a bone marrow transplant**

**"You all are a blessing. This will
help our family tremendously.
Thank you thank you thank you!"**

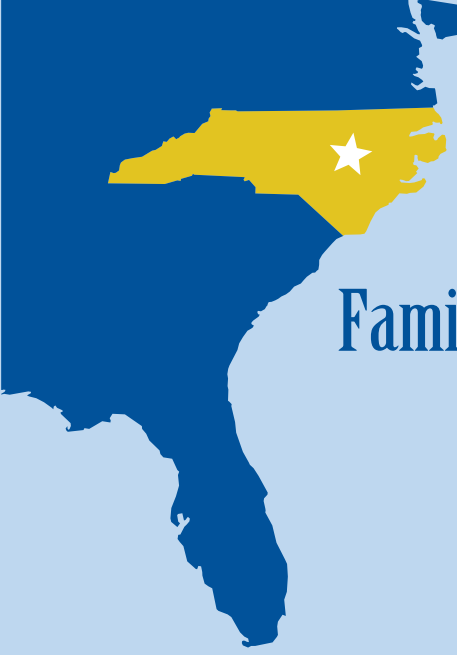
-Caregiver, receiving grocery card

**"I just wanted to say thank you
so much. This has been such a
hard time on our family. This
was such a blessing!"**

-Parent, receiving grocery card

**"Thank you! That will definitely be
able to give us some breathing room!
That took a whole weight off my
shoulders... thank you again!"**

**-Mom, receiving utility assistance to
avoid disconnection while her child is
inpatient**



Your Impact in 2017

Family Financial Assistance Program



From January 1 through December 31, Me Fine Foundation provided \$80,640 in financial assistance to **211 unique families**. Rent and mortgage expenses topped the list of greatest need (28.1% of total financial assistance) followed by vehicle expenses (22.1%), utility bills (19.1%), and hospital parking (6.7%). Other requests that Me Fine filled included gift cards for groceries, gas cards, baby needs, funeral expenses, and household needs.



Since 2004

1,500+ FAMILIES

benefited from financial support

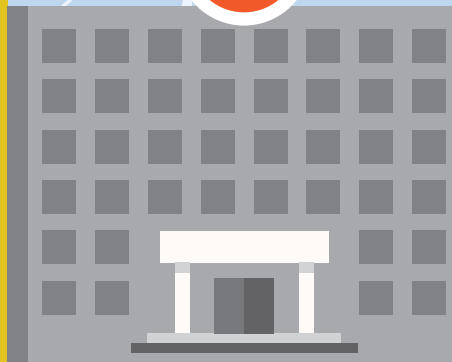
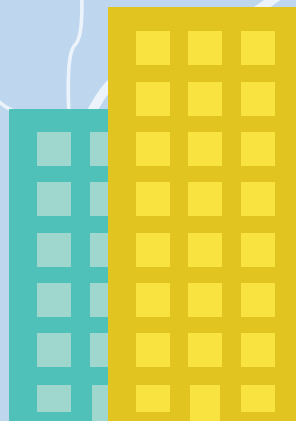
\$190



Average family request filled

Additionally, families at Me Fine's partner hospitals received **\$37,600 worth of in-kind donations**. These included toys, puzzles, games, art supplies, and other pediatric patient-specific items during Christmas in July and Hope for the Holidays.

Durham
Chapel Hill



Your Impact in 2017 Social Support Programs



Each child selects an age-appropriate toy thanks to the generous in-kind support Me Fine receives during our Hope for the Holidays program and other toy drives held throughout the year. All NICU families receive a Care Package containing specific items for their babies' special needs, including a muslin blanket, a toy rattle, a gas card, and a parking pass to help offset the costs of daily parking.

Christmas in July
Me Fine started our Christmas in July program in 2006 in order to bring extra joy into the hospital for children and families. In 2017, Santa Claus made the rounds with infants at UNC's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), patients in Duke's Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, and with pediatric patients, their siblings, and parents in the play atrium of UNC Children's Hospital.

Hope for the Holidays
Our 2017 Hope for the Holidays program was our biggest and most impactful to date! Thanks to the all who supported—whether by adopting a family or by hosting an angel tree.

Angel Trees - help to fill in the gaps for Dream Teams over the holidays while also supporting Christmas In July programs and kids' & families' needs year-round.

Here's what you were able to accomplish:

Dream Teams (individuals/families, neighbors, faith-based groups, businesses, and teams who adopted specific families for holiday gifts.) Provided up to four gifts to each child in the home, plus gift cards for caregivers.



32 FAMILIES ADOPTED



Three teams of volunteers helped hand out gifts at Duke, UNC, and the Second Hope Shop.



OVER \$32,000

raised in toys/gift cards

31 Angel Tree sites (banks, medical offices, realtors, churches, gyms, schools).

"CJ was recently diagnosed with leukemia and is currently hospitalized to initiate treatment. His parents, Rebecca and Chris, adopted him from birth and have been by his side to provide care and support. Mom, in particular, has missed work to be with CJ around the clock, which is a financial strain on the family this Christmas."

Your Impact in 2017



Gabe's Chemo Ducks was established by Gabe's My Heart, a nonprofit based in Nashville, Tennessee, to assist children and families living with childhood cancer. According to its website, "since 2004, Gabe's My Heart has provided more than 27,000 Chemo Ducks to children across the country. Gabe's My Heart continues to develop therapeutic tools for the Gabe's Chemo Duck Program to enable hospital staff and parents to better prepare children for chemotherapy and eliminate the fear of the unknown."

The Me Fine Foundation funds Gabe's Chemo Ducks to ensure all pediatric patients diagnosed with cancer at Duke and UNC Children's Hospitals received this educational and therapeutic stuffed duck. Chemo Duck's role is to be a part of the child's medical team, making the child feel better and allowing them to see how their own medicine will be delivered into their body, whether through a port or a central line.



**120 CHEMO DUCKS
Funded in 2017**

NICU Lunch & Learn

Parents whose infants are hospitalized in the Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) may skip meals in order to spend more time with their child. If parents and caregivers spend the entire day at the hospital, they have to pay out-of-pocket for food from the cafeteria or bring in their own food, which is another expense.



Long hours in the NICU can be isolating: Voices must be muted and parents in need of encouragement or support may feel uncomfortable interrupting another from their own precious time with baby.


To encourage NICU parents to build connections for mutual support, and provide free, fresh food, Me Fine began funding monthly meals at Duke and UNC Children's Hospitals. Hospital staff members use these regular gatherings to talk with parents about different issues they may encounter with a NICU infant. Parents have a chance to catch their breath and connect with others who are likely asking similar questions and experiencing the same worries. Parents and caregivers who participated are incredibly grateful for that time of fellowship.

Your Impact in 2017



Beads of Courage

We can tell our stories without uttering a single word. The Beads of Courage program offers exactly that gift to patients, siblings, and parents. Beads of Courage is an Arizona-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides "innovative, arts-in-medicine supportive care programs for children coping with serious illness, their families and the health care providers who care for them."



Participating patients receive a colorful glass bead for every poke, prick, and procedure experienced during their treatment. Siblings and parents are also encouraged to participate, with corresponding beads to show their unique challenges and achievements while witnessing the treatment of their loved one. The Me Fine Foundation even has its own special bead! Each patient who chooses to participate in Beads of Courage receives their own starter pack, which includes the Me Fine bead as well as a note explaining how these beads can help them record, share, and own their unique medical story.

We feel fortunate to be able to fund this vital emotional support program at our partner hospitals, and we look forward to expanding the impact to siblings at Duke Children's in 2018.

Teen Resource Cart

Our partners at Duke Children's made us aware of a gap in resources that they were experiencing; teens lack age-appropriate resources for distraction and play while they are undergoing treatment. We reached out to our partners at the A.J. Fletcher Foundation, and thanks to a generous grant, Me Fine was able to launch a new Teen Resource Cart for patients at Duke Children's Hospital!



"The gel pens and adult coloring from the teen cart helped me relax and pass the time."

Lea, age 18

"The teen cart is an awesome way for our teen patients to make choices when many things are out of their control."

Jess, RN, Duke Children's 5100 Unit

How You Raised Awareness



A Night to Remember...

...and a night that made an major impact on Me Fine's mission.

Our **2017 Gala**, took place at City Club of Raleigh on September 23rd, and raised more than **\$210,000!**

The Gala, presented by Centrifuge Media, celebrated Me Fine's accomplishments over the last year and served as a thank you to the amazing team of donors, allies, and advocates who had a hand in that success. The many local businesses that sponsored the event ensured a magical evening for all in attendance. **The Gala is Me Fine's signature annual fundraiser, generating nearly a third of our annual operating revenue.**

The live portion of the evening kicked off with the announcement that the organization would be **launching our first expansion in 2018, beginning services at WakeMed Children's Hospital** in the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

The **annual "Hero for Life" award** is a staple of the Gala program. It recognizes an individual who goes above and beyond to help critically ill kids and families, specifically with respect to Me Fine's mission. **Jordan Wright, a two-time cancer survivor** and longtime Foundation ally, received the 2017 honor for his long-time willingness to donate his time and talents as a professional photographer.

Local media maven and longtime Triangle resident **Sharon Delaney McCloud served as the keynote speaker** during the program. Sharon gave first-hand experience of her family's struggle with pediatric illness, sharing the story of her daughter Macie and relating how Me Fine strengthens families in similar life and death situations.



"Once again, the community has shown us just how much they care and we're incredibly thankful. Our sponsors and supporters ensure that we have an enormous impact on the children and families we serve."

Joey Powell, Executive Director

How You Raised Awareness

Music For Me Fine²⁰¹⁷

Our second Music for Me Fine, held at All Saints Chapel on April 21, featured the talented BJ Barham of American Aquarium, along with solo musicians Taylor Leonhardt and Jake Potter.



Nearly 200 guests turned out for an evening of great music and celebration, all to help raise critical funds to support Me Fine's financial assistance and emotional support programs. Attendees bid on silent auction prizes, including a trip down the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, while enjoying food, beverage, and fellowship.

Between sponsorships, ticket sales, donations, and the auction...

\$25,000+ was raised for the children and families Me Fine serves!



Thanks to ALL who made it such a special, successful evening.

How You Raised Awareness

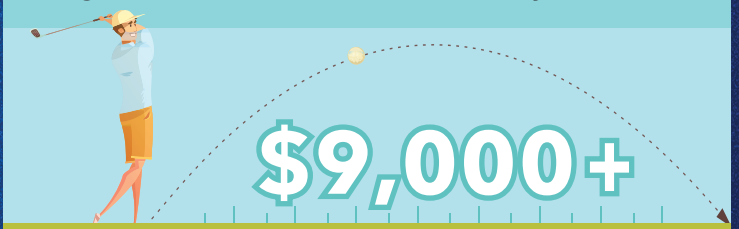
Partners + Events = Major Impact

In order to provide the resources families need to be fully present with their sick child, the organization also relies on the generosity of community partners who elect to support Me Fine's mission through fundraising or awareness events.



In 2017, **Love Is Bald**, another 501(c)3 nonprofit, selected Me Fine to be the beneficiary of proceeds from its 3rd annual Susan S. Allen Memorial Golf Tournament. Love is Bald was launched in 2010 in honor and memory of Peyton Dergay, to raise money for cancer patients and their families.

Thanks to this partnership, Love Is Bald's golf tournament successfully raised



Also, the **Junior Women's League of Smithfield** partnered with Me Fine for their September "Touch-A-Truck" event. JWL Smithfield has been an ally of Me Fine's for some time, often serving in various volunteer and fundraising capacities. In 2017, the event brought in a record **\$7,500 that benefitted Me Fine families.**



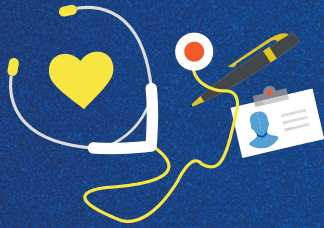
How You Gave in 2017



Major Donor: Bomani Jones

"I know that Me Fine is paying someone's light bill or providing a hotel room so a family can stay close to the hospital. That individual support gives a family in crisis immediate assistance, which is important to me. Sometimes, causes are so big and complex that it doesn't feel like you as a donor can make a difference. Me Fine shows me how my gift translates into something tangible and real for families dealing with such unimaginable situations."

Photo by Rodrigo Varela / ESPN Images



Recurring Donor: Colleen McGowan



"In 2014, I learned what an amazing organization Me Fine is from my cousin who was posting a lot about it on Facebook. Later that year, when Me Fine kicked off the \$10/month campaign to celebrate its 10th anniversary, I decided it was a no-brainer to jump in and help out. Fast forward another year and I was sitting in my first Board of Directors meeting. Being directly involved in the organization has only strengthened my desire and commitment to contribute financially. These families in crisis need and deserve the hope and help our contributions give them."



How You Gave in 2017

Corporate Partner:

Howard Perry and Walston (HPW)

**COLDWELL
BANKER**

**HOWARD PERRY
AND WALSTON**

Our local corporate partners make substantial contributions toward Me Fine's success. Local real estate leader **Coldwell-Banker: Howard, Perry and Walston has been a Me Fine supporter for years in various capacities.** In 2017, the company sponsored the Gala at the \$5,000 level, but also engaged over 800 team members in a major way by adopting four families through our Hope for the Holidays Dream Team program, contributing over \$1,800 of in-kind donations that went straight to Me Fine kids and families.

Second Hope Shop

Did you know that the Me Fine Foundation operates a successful thrift store in Princeton? Under the leadership of Mary Angel Bastin and her incredible team, Second Hope Shoppe turns gently-used donations of clothing, furniture, seasonal decor, and household items into critical funds the organization uses for financial assistance and emotional support programming. **Last year, nearly 10,000 items were donated to Second Hope Shop from January 1 to December 31!**



Me Fine's second-hand retail operation had an unprecedented year in 2017. The Second Hope Shop's annual top line revenue was up over 39% from the year prior, and net revenues contributed nearly \$40,000 back toward our ability to provide hope to children and families at our partner hospitals. Interested in organizing a thrift store drive with your friends, neighbors, or coworkers? Visit mefinefoundation.org and select "Volunteer" under the "Ways To Help" menu option.

How Your Support Fits into the Bigger Picture

Financials:

Statement of Financial Position (condensed), as of 12/31/17

Current and Other Assets	\$215,545
Fixed Assets	\$119,463
TOTAL ASSETS	\$335,008
Long-term Liabilities	\$77,249
Equity	\$237,196
Short-term Liabilities	\$20,563
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$335,008

Statement of Financial Activity (condensed), as of 12/31/17

Donations and Grants	\$337,917
Event Revenue	\$218,357
Retail	\$191,060
Miscellaneous Income	\$8,525
TOTAL REVENUES	\$681,258
Org. Performance	\$566,822
Fundraising	\$59,513
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$626,335
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$54,922



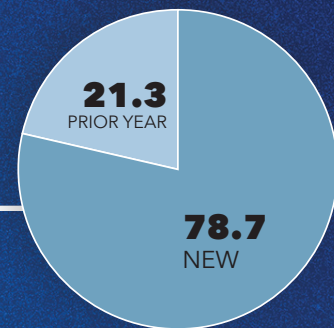
How Your Support Fits into the Bigger Picture

IMPACT by the Numbers

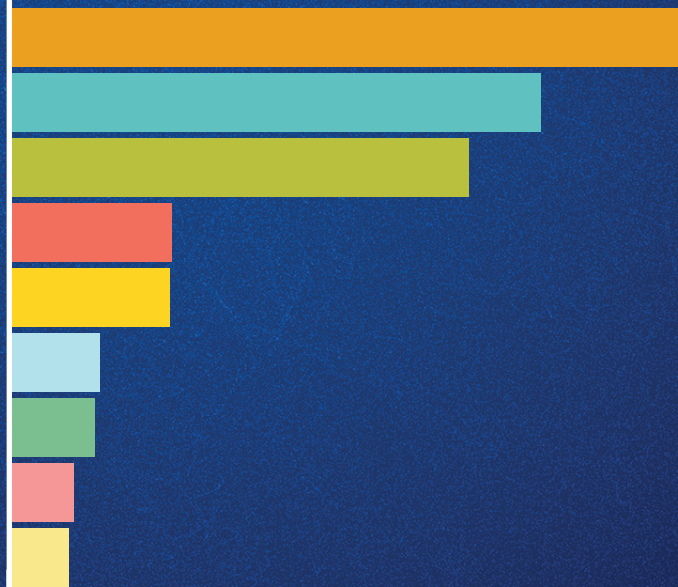
Financial Assistance:



Percentage of
New vs. Prior Families



Rent/Mortgage	28.1%
Vehicle Expense	22.1%
Utilities	19.1%
Hospital Parking	6.7%
Gift Cards	5.6%
Gas Cards	3.7%
Baby Needs	3.5%
Funeral Expenses	2.6%
Household Needs	2.4%



Patients served by Emotional Support Programs:

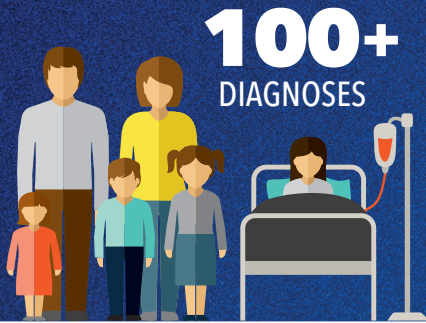
(estimated) Over

8,000



How Your Support Fits into the Bigger Picture

IMPACT by the Numbers



Average Number of Children Served Annually



African American	44.2%
Caucasian	30.4%
Latino	13.8%
Unknown	5.0%
Native American	3.9%
Multiracial	1.7%
Asian	1.1%



Continue to Provide Hope

Stay Connected

Connect with Me Fine across our digital platforms to stay updated on your impact and build greater awareness of the unique challenges that families whose children are diagnosed with critical and chronic medical conditions experience.



@ MeFineFoundation



@ MeFineNC



@ MeFineFoundation



Me Fine Foundation



MeFineFoundation.org



Volunteer

Join us in serving hundreds of children and families each year. We couldn't do it without community members like you. Me Fine delivers support to our families as they need it, and our volunteer opportunities reflect that focus. If you are interested in volunteering please email us at Volunteer@MeFineFoundation.org

You can volunteer by hosting a program drive to collect in-kind donations, such as infant needs, gift cards, or art supplies. Throughout the year, we have spaces for individuals and groups to join us in packing toys at our storage unit. We make deliveries to our hospitals at least once each quarter. Me Fine also relies on the generous assistance of volunteers at our two major events—the Me Fine Gala and Music For Me Fine. **Contact us for opportunities to support fundraising, logistics, registration, design, and more.**




Continue to Provide Hope

Second Hope Shop

5100 US Hwy 70 East, Princeton, NC 27569

Want to make a bigger impact? Coordinate a neighborhood drive by posting on social apps like NextDoor or your neighborhood email listserv. Thrift Drives are a great way to involve your work team, civic or religious group, and other groups of people. The Second Hope Shop team can even come pick up your group's donation!



 **Items that the Second Hope Shop cannot accept:** mattresses; waterbeds; computers; printers; pianos and organs; rolling infant walkers; cribs; car seats; newspapers or magazines; worn or stained furniture; ammunition and firearms; hazardous materials; or items that are broken or in need of repair.

Wish List:

new or gently-used

- Clothing (all sizes and seasons)
- Shoes
- Purses
- Jewelry
- Books
- Kitchenwares
- Appliances, large and small *(must be functional)*
- Household items
- Towels/Linens
- Home decor
- Furniture
- Electronics
- Toys
- Baby items
- Tools
- Automotive accessories

Questions?



(919) 202-0445



MaryAngel@SecondHopeShop.com



SecondHopeShop.com



[@SecondHopeShop](https://www.facebook.com/SecondHopeShop)

Who We Are



Mission:

The mission of the Me Fine Foundation is to provide hope to critically ill children and their families who are being treated at local children's hospitals through financial assistance, emotional support, and other necessary resources regardless of diagnosis, race, religion, or socioeconomic status.

2018 Board of Directors

Webb Bostic, Chair

Richard Averitte, Immediate Past Chair

Laura Brewer, Communications Chair

Bo Pulley, Finance Committee Chair

Lori Lee, Executive Member & Founder

Colleen McGowan, Me Fine Gala Chair

Jaclyn Starritt, Programs Committee Chair

Jake Connors, Development Committee Chair

Ben Steel, Music for Me Fine Chair

Jon Strickland, Executive Member

Sarah Thacker, Governance Chair

Brent Anthony, Board Member

Doug Greene, Board Member

George Diatzikis, Board Member

Greg Rotz, Board Member

Josh White, Board Member

Philip Deibel, MD, Board Member

2018 Me Fine Foundation Staff

Joey Powell, Executive Director

Mary Angel Bastin, Second Hope Shop Manager

Meredith Izlar, Program Director

Katie Todd, Development Director

Erin Pickard, Administrative Service Manager



Feeling inspired? Make another impact on the lives of children and families right now with a donation: mefinefoundation.org

