

Me Fine

2023 Impact Report
A Look Back at 2022

*New Team,
Same Mission,
Greater Need*





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Letter from the Executive Director

Since I joined Me Fine over a decade ago, the organization has faced change all around us. We've tried to always be adaptable to new situations, and assess a changing environment to find opportunities for growth. No year saw more internal change for Me Fine than our eighteenth.

Meghan Fox joined us as our new Program Director, bringing with her over a decade of experience as a Certified Child Life Specialist and an understanding of how Me Fine works from the perspective of our Hospital Referral Partners. We added Kne'Ashja Jackson as our new Outreach Coordinator, and her vision and passion for our story has upgraded the way we interact with our supporters and the public through storytelling and engagement.

Naturally, when you bring in new team members, you have an opportunity to tweak or change your proverbial playbook, and even learn from the new voices in the room. These two dynamos have absolutely invigorated the organization and have led us to new ways of helping families, growing our brand, and improving our community.

We helped a record number of families last year, due in large part to our ability to change and embrace the changes around us. As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, resources for families disappear, and population in the area grows, we're going to be called on to navigate more change and we'll need a team of support to come along with us. We hope you'll continue to find ways to be part of that team.

Humbly,

Joey Powell,
Executive Director



At Me Fine,
we have one guiding principle:
FAMILIES COME FIRST.

This means:

We prioritize family dignity, privacy,
and self-determination.

We use our mission as the litmus test
for all operational decisions.

We honor and affirm the lived
experiences of the families we serve,
in their own words whenever possible.

OUR MISSION:

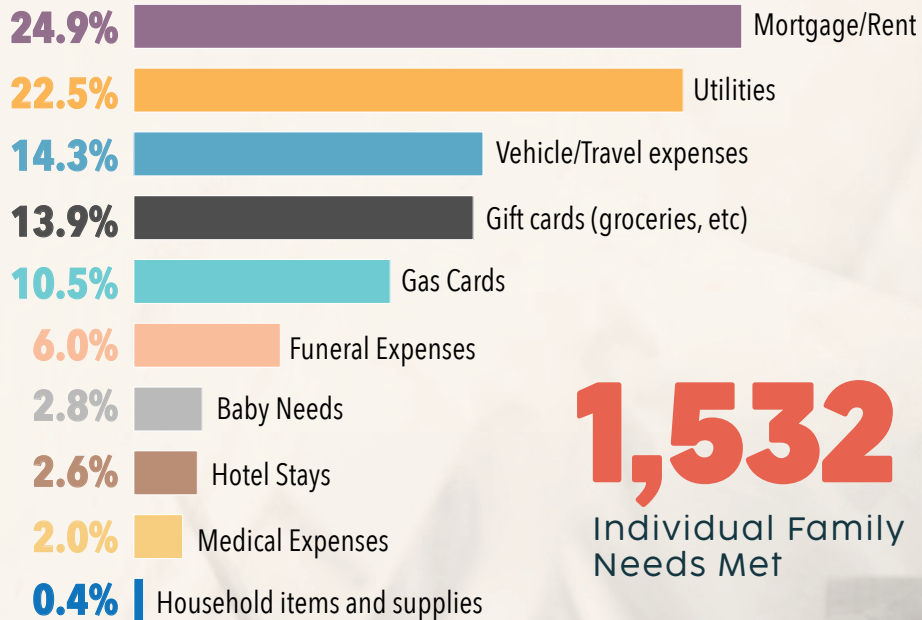
To provide hope through emotional support
and financial assistance to families whose
children are receiving care at North Carolina
partner hospitals.

OUR VISION:

To build and sustain partnerships to eliminate
barriers so families can focus on their children.

2022 in Review

WHERE THE NEEDS LIE



1,532
Individual Family Needs Met

738 Families Helped by Financial Assistance Program

Including **618** Families New to Me Fine

Families at our partner hospitals received \$48,339 of in-kind support, including gifts through our Hope for the Holidays programs, clothing and toiletries, toy deliveries to our partner hospitals, and program-specific items such as resource books and sensory kit additions.

Top Five Diagnoses served in 2022:

- Prematurity
- Congenital and Genetic
- Complex
- Neurological
- Cancer

Teamwork is...

ME FINE PROGRAMS

Me Fine is grateful to support our hospital partners through multiple emotional support programs that honor the whole family. These programs and resources provide various ways to connect with others with similar experiences, decrease anxiety and improve understanding during treatment, honor milestones and challenges, and provide normalization and comfort during a difficult time.

A comprehensive listing of our Emotional Support Programs that **Strive to do More** for pediatric families:

- Sensory Kits
- Toiletry Kits
- Emergency Clothing Kits
- Chemo Ducks
- Beads of Courage
- Pill swallowing supplies- Medi Straws, Pill Sorters
- Sibling Support Resources/Groups
- Grief/Bereavement support programs and resources
- Teen Cancer Support Group
- Teen and Family Diabetes Support Groups
- Toy Donations
- Diagnosis-Specific Resource Books
- NICU Milestone Cards
- NICU Support Groups
- NICU Caregiver Bags

Program Spotlight:

Me Fine implemented a new program in 2022. Our NICU Caregiver Bags include items of comfort and self-care to help with a parent's overall coping during their baby's lengthy hospital admission. Prematurity is the most frequent diagnosis that Me Fine supports and each of our partner hospitals have a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS IMPACT:

Me Fine's Dream Team are supporters who "adopt" families around the holidays, helping to provide the exact needs families share for the season. **This year, the Dream Team helped support 54 families including 95 parents/caregivers, 157 children (patients and siblings), distributing 570 total gifts.**



FROM A PARENT

"We just received all of the wonderful things Me Fine provided. We feel so incredibly blessed and grateful for such amazing gifts. The kids will be so excited and it takes a lot of the pressure off us as parents to have to worry about this during this difficult time. Thank you again for going above and beyond."

Teamwork is...

PARENT AND PARTNER TESTIMONIALS

"Me Fine is one of those amazing charities that actually do what they say they are going to. When I was in the hospital with my daughter, it became all about her. When I went home for a brief time, the bills never stopped. There was such a big need and I didn't know what to do. Me Fine took care of most of the needs. I literally felt a weight lift off my shoulders. I could stop worrying about all of the bills and other stuff and just focus on my daughter. That peace meant more to me than most."

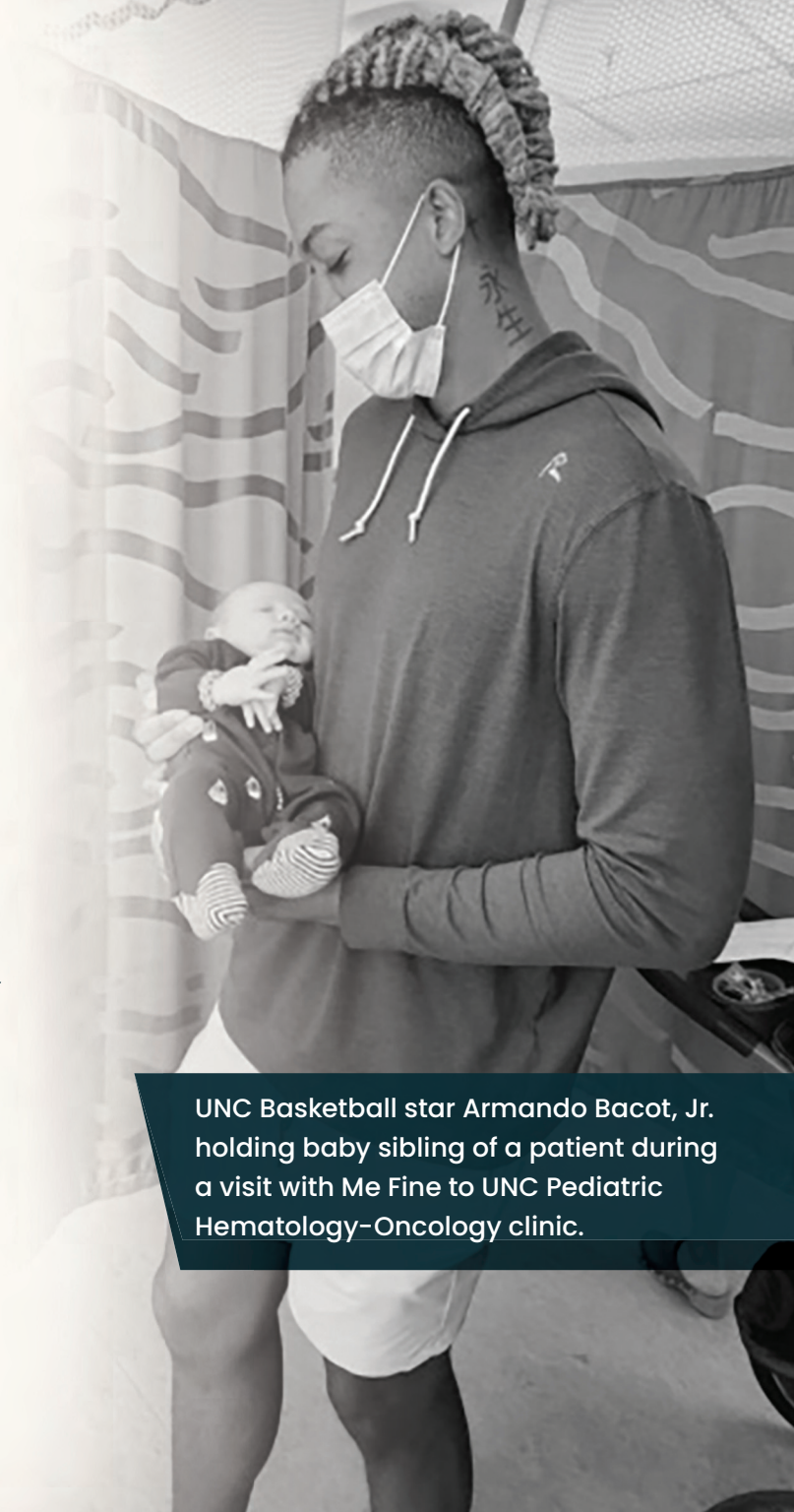
-Parent of a child in a medical crisis

"I just needed to tell you how incredibly helpful it was on Tuesday night to have the Me Fine shower kits! I had a family whose child was unexpectedly and emergently transferred to the pediatric ICU. The mom was incredibly anxious (understandably so) and after we got her child settled and we explained the plan I asked her if there was anything I could do for her. She asked was there any chance we had any shampoo and conditioner to shower. It was so nice to be able to have the premade shower kits available. I've worked at other hospitals before where giving families this simple request was never so easy. She expressed enormous gratitude for the supplies, and it was amazing to be able to give this mom the ability to care for herself during this hard time."

-RN at Hospital Partner in response to Me Fine's toiletry kit program

"We had to make an extra trip this week because my son's platelets were crazy low, which we were all bummed about. Seeing the Me Fine staff and Armando totally made our day and we left there glad that we had to come in that day!"

-Parent of a child at clinic



UNC Basketball star Armando Bacot, Jr. holding baby sibling of a patient during a visit with Me Fine to UNC Pediatric Hematology-Oncology clinic.

Wins from 2022

THE ME FINE GALA

The Me Fine Gala returned to pre-COVID levels of excitement in 2022, and the over 400 attendees showed amazing generosity as they reveled in an evening of celebration in an “Escape to Paradise” at Market Hall in downtown Raleigh.



Me Fine awarded the 2022 Hero For Life award to Child Life Specialist, Mary-Claire Derrickson from UNC Children’s Hospital. Mary-Claire is the primary Child Life Specialist for the Pediatric Cardiac ICU and Sibling Support Coordinator. Her nominator Kelly Clark said, “She is a fierce advocate...the care she provides is incomparable.” The Hero For Life award is Me Fine’s Highest Honor, and recognizes those who go above and beyond to help critically ill kids and families in ways aligning with Me Fine’s mission.



Additionally, Me Fine also acknowledged the major contributions of outgoing board member and past Board Chair Colleen McGowan with the Points of Light Presidential Service Award for her over 2,200 hours of service in the past 8 years. McGowan was the first person to receive the award from Me Fine, which included a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States.

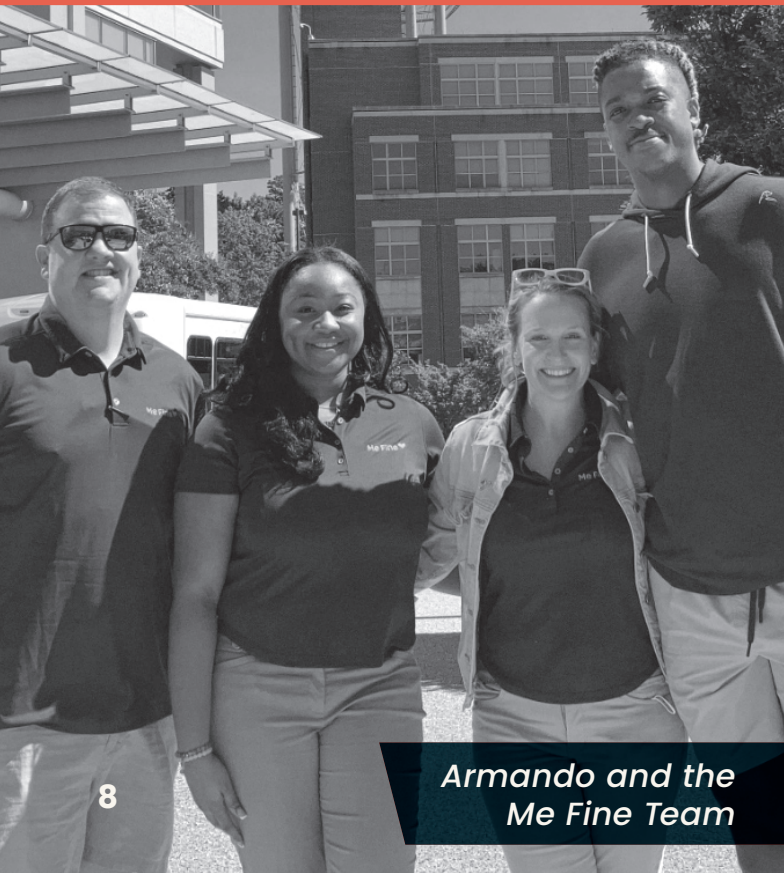
“Each year, Me Fine’s gala generates critical funding for our mission supporting children and families. We were excited to Escape to Paradise with Me Fine’s sponsors, guests, vendors, and auction donors for another unforgettable evening in 2022. Together, we packed the house at Market Hall, enjoyed a delicious tropical menu, danced to Brazilian samba beats, hosted a thrilling live auction, and broke Me Fine’s Gala fundraising record!”

–Shriya Soora and Katie Punia, Gala co-chairs



Trying A New Gameplan

Me Fine initiated a partnership with University of North Carolina Basketball Star and All-American Armando Bacot, Jr. Armando has become an official Ambassador for Me Fine, contributing to our work through hospital visits, spending time with patients, signing autographs, and providing special opportunities for our donors.



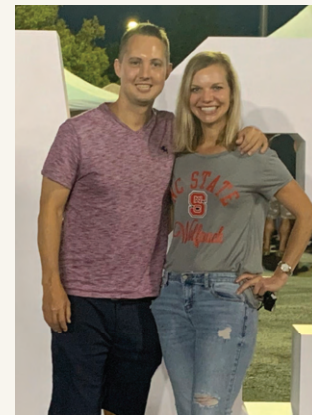
Armando and the Me Fine Team

Wins from 2022

Major Donor - Chris McConnell and Tara Stonex

"We were inspired to donate to MeFine last holiday season after seeing one of the Angel Trees. After learning more about the organization we were so impressed by all of the work they do to help local families in crisis and are blessed to be able to support such a meaningful foundation."

-Tara Stonex



Me Fine Sustainer - Tyler and Lauren Aves

"My wife worked at UNC Children's hospital and had a chance to see first hand the work you all do, and we wanted to be a part of it somehow."

- Tyler Aves

Corporate Sponsor - BridgeBank

"We were excited to support Me Fine because of the work it does within the community; It's such an amazing cause."

- Heather Kelly, Managing Director

In Kind - frankel STAFFING PARTNERS

"Frankel Staffing Partners gladly supports the Me Fine Foundation and its operations. The Me Fine Foundation fills an integral gap in our community, stepping in to assist with resources to families who are experiencing the challenges of a child's medical crisis. It's critical missions like this that need our support and we're thrilled to have seen the organization and its scope continue to grow."

- Josh Jones, Director

Financial Stats

Statement of Financial Position (condensed), as of 12/31/22

Current and Other Assets:	\$627,044.71
Fixed Assets:	\$114,074.91
Total Assets:	\$741,119.62
Long Term Liabilities:	\$16,811.31
Equity:	\$704,131.83
Short Term Liabilities:	\$20,176.48
Total Liabilities:	\$741,119.62

Statement of Financial Activity (condensed), as of 12/31/22

Donations and Grants:	\$339,473
Event Revenue:	\$189,214
Retail Proceeds:	\$39,389
Miscellaneous Income:	\$16,972
Total Revenues:	\$584,868
Org. Performance:	\$630,870
Fundraising:	\$54,441
Total Expenses	\$685,311



Team Support

VOLUNTEER – There are many unique opportunities for individuals and organizations to get involved with Me Fine. Check out some of the amazing ways you volunteered with Me Fine this year.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

Cheisi USA, Inc.

In the summer a group of volunteers from Chiesi USA, Inc. partnered with Me Fine for our new NICU Caregiver Bag program. They assembled 50 bags and wrote personalized notes for families.

Thales Academy of Apex Key Club

During the holiday season, student members of the Key Club at Thales Academy in Apex volunteered their time to create tags for our Angel Tree program. They also hosted their own Angel Tree to help collect donations for patients and families.

Daniel Sigmon

Daniel Sigmon donated his expertise and created a comprehensive internal dashboard for Me Fine Programs that allows us to track real-time data in one place.

Daniel Mo

Daniel Mo joined Me Fine staff to organize and inventory items received from our Dream Team and Angel Tree programs, and volunteered for some emotional support programs as well.

If you'd be interested in upcoming opportunities to volunteer, check out the "Get Involved" page on our website.

www.mefine.org/get-involved



Team Support



Second Hope Shop

Me Fine's thrift store, the Second Hope Shop, resells gently-used items to raise funds for our mission.

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!

Second Hope makes regular pickups around the Johnston/Wake/Durham County areas. You can schedule a pickup online or contact Mary Angel Bastin, Store Manager, during business hours.

Second Hope Shop store line - 919-202-0445

maryangel@mefine.org

www.secondhopeshop.com

Facebook @SecondHopeShop



Wish List:

Clothing - all seasons and sizes

Shoes

Household decor

Kitchenware

Purses

Jewelry

Small furniture

Electronics

Toys

Baby items

Bedding

Books - all ages, baby to adult

Items that the Second Hope Shop does NOT accept:

Mattresses/boxsprings, computers, printers, couches, executive desks, or other large furniture, tube tvs, pianos/organs, rolling infant walkers, cribs, car seats, newspapers or magazines, ammunition and firearms, non-working electronics, items that are broken or in need of repair

Patient Perspectives

E.BS Fayetteville, NC – diagnosis of prematurity, kidney failure, and congenital developmental complications which required a lengthy admission in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Me Fine helped provide much-needed assistance in utilities, gas, and grocery cards, essential baby needs including a crib, mattress and sheets to help create a safe home environment once the child was discharged. Me Fine also worked with a Dream Team donor to help support their family during the holidays. This helped the family tremendously during this significant hospitalization.

K.M Greensboro, NC – diagnosis of a congenital heart defect which required frequent weekly appointments for 6–9 months leading up to cardiac surgery. Me Fine provided much needed assistance with gas cards and transportation assistance such as Uber gift cards to help the family get to and from appointments and hospitalizations, and a phone with video capability to have reliable communication and frequent telehealth visits with their treatment team. This made a significant impact on compliance with treatment and preparing the family successfully for surgery.

C.M Wilmington, NC – diagnosis of Metastatic Osteosarcoma which treatment required frequent appointments and multiple-day hospitalizations while the family lived greater than 3 hours away from the hospital. Me Fine provided vital assistance with several utility bills and rent for their home. Me Fine also provided significant transportation assistance for the patient and family to get to the hospital for a major surgery. Without this assistance, this patient's treatment schedule would have been negatively impacted and they would not have been able to complete this much-needed surgery.



Me Fine Roster



2023 Board of Directors

San Parikh, Esq – Chair
Jen Chandler – Chair-elect
Garret Klas – Finance Chair
Shriya Soora – Events Co-Chair
Katie Punia – Events Co-Chair
Kerry Henderson – Development Chair
Katherine Hutchinson, PhD – Programs Co-Chair
Stephanie Mazze – Mar/Comms Chair, Programs Co-Chair
Jason Deibert – Board Member

Bridget Donnell, MD – Board Member
Rob Hamilton, CPA – Board Member
Kathryn Kiel – Board Member
Lori Lee – Founder, Board Member Emeritus
Allie Mitzak – Board Member
Matt Phillips – Board member
Blair Stanley – Board Member
Bryan Strothmann – Board Member

Me Fine Foundation Staff

Joey Powell, Executive Director
Meghan Fox – Program Director
Kne'Ashja Jackson – Outreach Coordinator

Heather Campbell – Finance Director
Mary Angel Bastin – Retail Operations Manager



Group shot from the Annual Me Fine Staff and Board Retreat



Give, volunteer, spread the word—whatever your heart moves you to do. **We're thankful for it.**

Me Fine 

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 @ MeFineFoundation

 @ MeFineNC

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