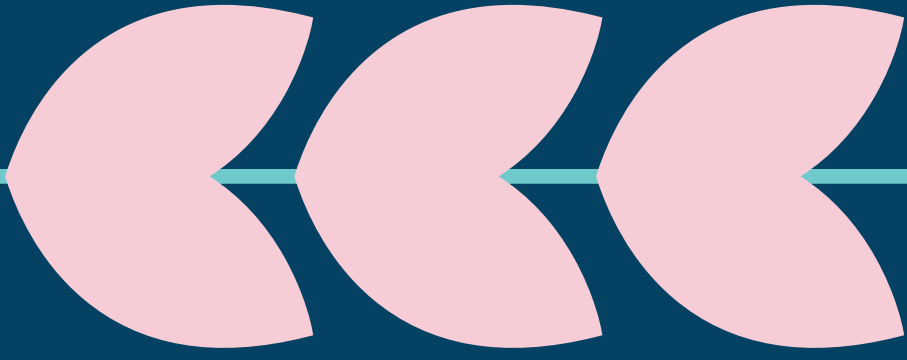




2021



IMPACT REPORT





## Advancement in Medical Care

Genny Jessee, Co-Founder and Executive Director of JJMF, presented on parental perspective at the 2021 Pediatric Epilepsy Conference: Improving Healthcare Outcomes in Childhood Epilepsy. **With 200 attendees, Genny provided important insight to healthcare providers on how they can best support parents and families of children with medically complex, neurological conditions.**



The June Jessee Memorial Foundation (JJMF) is a nonprofit organization that provides relief to help support and care for children with devastating medically complex, neurological conditions and their families, providing needed resources, services and connections to help make their lives easier.

Inspired by the bravery of June Jessee, a young girl who fearlessly faced chronic, life-limiting conditions with no specific diagnosis, the JJMF is the only U.S. nonprofit organization solely dedicated to assisting children with these undiagnosed, neurological conditions and their families.

## Reach

**265,000 +**

New readers reached through Genny's collaboration as a TODAY Parenting Team Contributor



 INSTAGRAM

75% increase in followers  
15% increase in engagement

 FACEBOOK

11% increase in followers  
15% increase in engagement

Organic growth in social media reach enabled connection with more families in need than ever before.

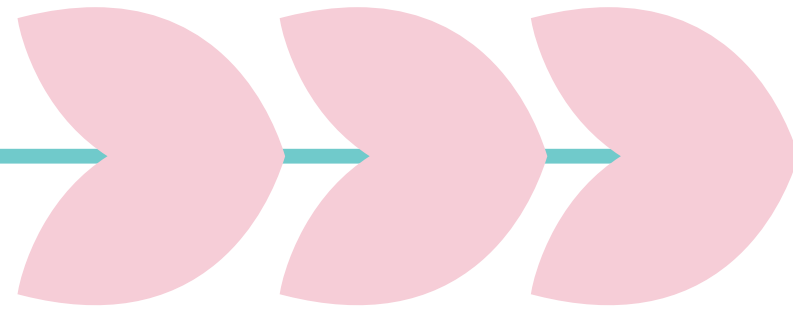
12 months of 'Sorry to Meet You this Way' blog posts by Genny Jessee, sharing her insightful experiences as a parent of a medically complex child and bereaved mother.

## Mental Health Care

The JJMF provides free mental health services for parents and caregivers of children with medically complex, neurological conditions through an existing partnership with St. Louis Children’s Hospital.

This program, established by the JJMF in 2019, funds a position for a dedicated licensed professional counselor serving families whose children are patients of the neurology department, Pediatric Advanced Care Team, and cerebral palsy clinic at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. The dedicated licensed professional counselor reaches out directly to parents, provides mental health screenings for depression and anxiety, and offers ongoing supportive therapy services to address these mental health concerns. In 2022, program expansion is planned to create a professionally-led support group and expand services via referrals from SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital and local pediatricians.

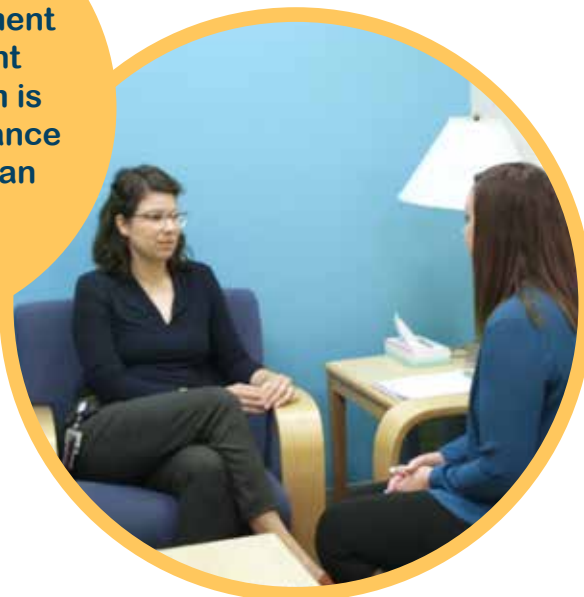
Studies have demonstrated that anxiety, depression and psychological distress are heightened in parents of medically complex children, negatively impacting a parent’s quality of life and ability to care for their children. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further increased the toll on all parents, and in particular, caregivers of medically complex children, making the need for accessible mental health services more important than ever. Without the JJMF funding this position at St. Louis Children’s Hospital, the service would not exist, making mental health care much more challenging to access for parents who desperately need it.



Over 250 free therapy sessions provided for parents and caregivers

Current engagement in the outpatient therapy program is high, with attendance rates of more than **90%**

**100%** SURVEY RESPONDENTS FOUND THE PROGRAM TO BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL



## Family Financial Assistance

Providing financial assistance is one of the most critical ways we support the care of children with undiagnosed, neurological conditions and their families.

Children with undiagnosed, neurological conditions require ongoing care from multiple primary, specialty, and other healthcare service providers, as well as in-home medical equipment and treatments to support their health and daily lives. Even families with “good” insurance, Medicaid or higher incomes can become financially overwhelmed and accumulate significant debt with the many out-of-pocket health expenses they acquire to adequately care for their child. JJMF provides relief from financial stress of necessary expenses that are not fully covered by insurance, including medical bills, therapies, specialized equipment and respite care.

**17** Families offered financial assistance



“Our family is always worried about struggles ahead. But, thanks to the financial assistance we received from JJMF, worrying was sidelined and allowed our family some time to breathe. It was definitely the breath of fresh air we needed. Thank you again!”

STEPHANIE GILLIAM, JJMF COMMUNITY PARENT



# Family Connections and Support

Families facing undiagnosed, neurological conditions have a special bond. Making connections with those who face a similar journey is deeply powerful.

Throughout the year, the JJMF provides several opportunities for parents, caregivers and families to come together, find support and fellowship, and make friends with those who understand. We also offer a private online community via the JJMF's Facebook page for parents and caregivers to ask questions and share experiences.

Our compassionate community is a place where differences are celebrated, families feel supported and understood, and relief and strength can be found from sharing our collective experiences and knowledge.



**200** Care packages delivered to families at their homes and at St. Louis Children's Hospital as part of our special Month of June celebration



Lively and fun Parent's Night Out at Katie's Pizza for parents to connect with a supportive and understanding community while taking a break from the demands of caregiving

Launch of our Self-Love Workbook Workshop for mothers of medically complex children and bereaved mothers to focus on self-care and self-compassion



Coffee Talk group connection opportunities for moms moderated by a mental health specialist focusing on important topics like self-care and respite care

Finding connection and support through a JJMF Mom's Night Out

"I was immediately welcomed with big arms and met many other moms struggling with the challenges of caring for a medically complex child. For the first time since my daughter was born, I didn't feel alone. I felt like I belonged and that others understood me and what my family was going through. The JJMF gave me the opportunity to gain this new support system."

SAMANTHA NUCKOLS, JJMF COMMUNITY PARENT



**12** Monthly virtual music therapy sessions tailored for children with medically complex, neurological conditions led by a specially-trained neurological music therapist

Plus, a special outdoor group music therapy session for families to gather as a community while singing, dancing and playing together



**12** Monthly virtual trauma-informed yoga sessions designed for parents and caregivers to connect with their emotions

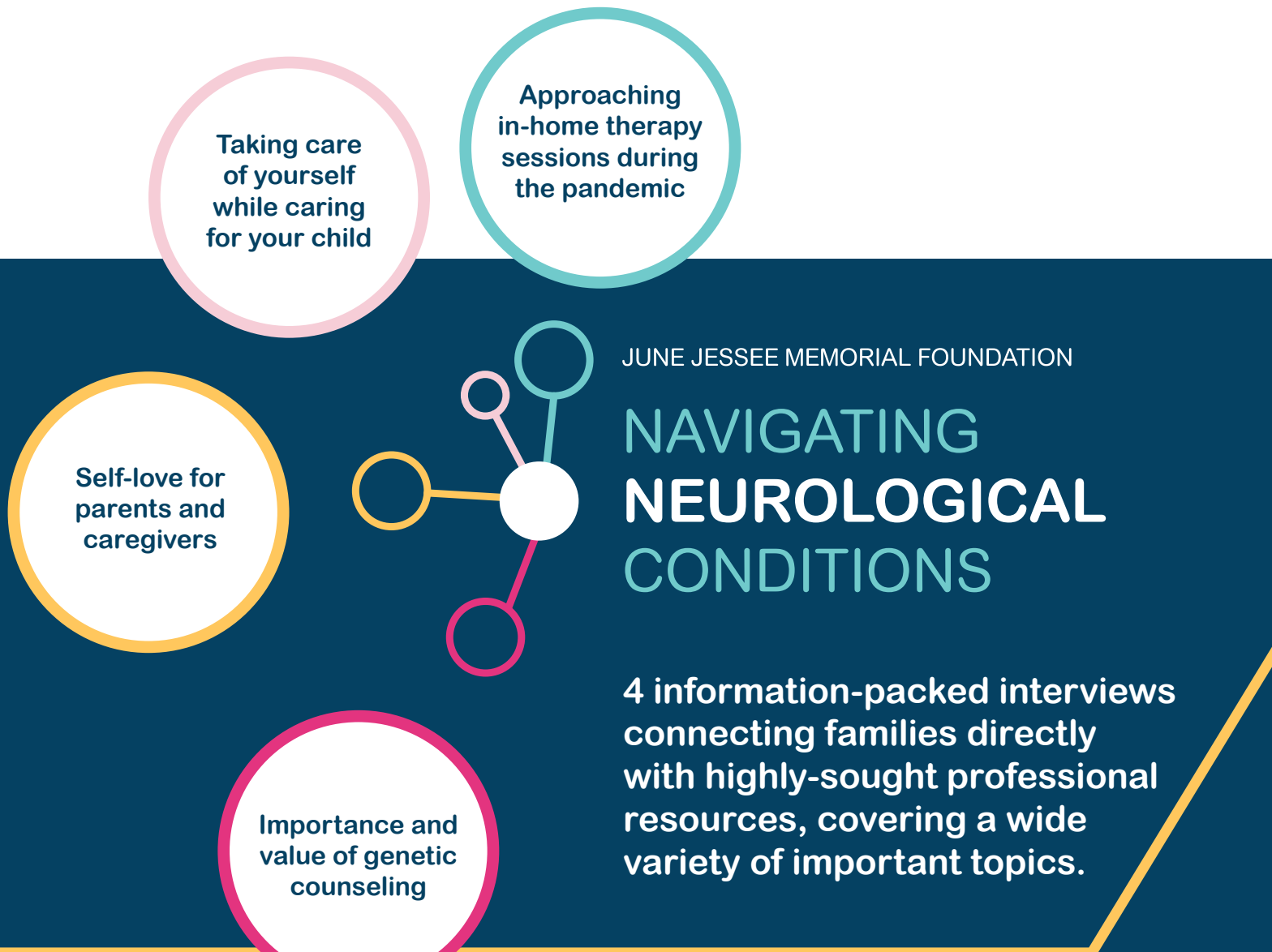
"Trauma-Informed Yoga is a practice that can create more space in the body and calm in the mind to help release blocked energy created by the imprint of trauma. When individuals experience this release, they can feel so much more open and connected to their inner wisdom." COLLEEN CAUL, TRAUMA-INFORMED YOGA TEACHER



INSPIRE Movement LLC

# Navigating Neurological Conditions

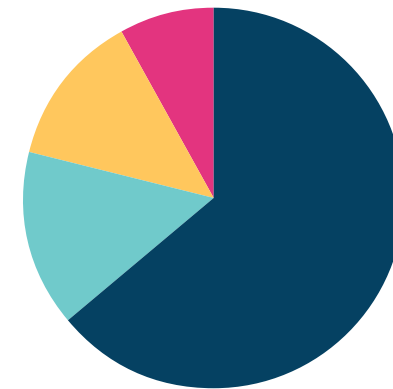
Navigating Neurological Conditions is educational programming provided by the JJMF to advance care. The JJMF seeks to improve the care of children by delivering expert advice directly to parents and caregivers, as well as by bringing awareness of their unique needs to pediatricians, medical residents and other healthcare professionals. By working together with parents, caregivers, healthcare providers and experts in the community, we can make a difference for patients and improve diagnosis and treatments.



## Over \$200,000 total in giving from 318 total donors

### 70% increase

IN GIVING OVER LAST YEAR



GIVING SOURCE

- 64% Evening of Joy
- 15% Give STL Day
- 13% Individual Giving
- 8% Program Sponsorship



An Evening of  
**JOY**

A fun-filled evening of laughter and love, An Evening of JOY raised \$140,000 enabling the JJMF to help families find moments of joy in the unknown.

**\$15,000+**

Canepa Family Foundation  
Carol and Tim Size

**\$5,000-\$14,999**

Cindy Canepa  
The Julian & Eileen Carr Family Foundation  
Emerson Charitable Trust  
Jodie and Spencer Finney  
Rachel and Jack Oliver

**\$1,000-\$4,999**

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American Family Insurance  
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Brooke and Seth Appleton  
Katherine and Nish Aravamudan  
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Brittany and Andrew Bagy  
Heather Bartling  
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