

Friends & Families of Cystic Fibrosis

Friends & Families of Cystic Fibrosis (FFCF) is an all volunteer organization that focuses on the needs of families here in West Michigan. Since 2003 we have been assisting families with everyday needs to help ease their burdens.

A typical hospital stay for a CF patient is approximately two weeks, so we bring care packages to children to help make their stay a little brighter. We also help with medical bills, utility bills, dental bills, gym memberships, medical equipment, both mortgage and rent payments, propane for heating, and much more. No need is too big or too small.

What Is Cystic Fibrosis?

Cystic fibrosis is a progressive, genetic disease that causes persistent lung infections and limits the ability to breathe over time.

In people with CF, a defective gene causes a thick, buildup of mucus in the lungs, pancreas, and other organs. In the lungs, the mucus clogs the airways and traps bacteria leading to infections, extensive lung damage, and eventually, respiratory failure. In the pancreas, the mucus prevents the release of digestive enzymes that allow the body to break down food and absorb vital nutrients.

Local Cystic Fibrosis Clinics

We are fortunate that Grand Rapids has both pediatric and adult CF Care Centers. FFCF works closely with the social workers to maintain patient needs. The Pediatric CF Care Center sees 150 children, which includes 16 sets of siblings. The Adult CF Care Center serves 165 active patients. With new advancements and treatments, there are more adults living with CF than children.

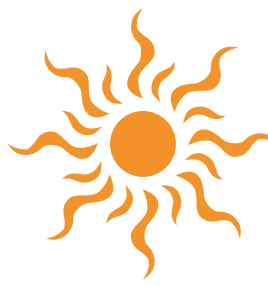
How you can make a difference

Because we are an all volunteer organization, we rely heavily on funds from our big event each year, Bid for Bachelors & Bachelorettes. We have found the last few years that this one event just isn't enough. With more patients living into adulthood, their needs are much greater, we are depleting our funds faster. Being chosen would be such a gift to our organization. This would allow us the opportunity to continue to help children, adults and their families breathe a little easier. It is our mission to bring them a small piece of joy the disease has taken away.



“ Friends and Families of Cystic Fibrosis is a vital member of our Adult CF team. FFCF has decreased the burden of CF on so many of our adult patients. They have paid for: equipment that insurance will not cover, running water to a family whose well broke, gift cards, jogging strollers, utility bills, rent and much more. Our adult patients are fortunate to have a community organization to help those with an incurable disease. ”

**– Bethany Doneth,
Adult Cystic Fibrosis Social Worker**



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“FFCF is a phenomenal resource for our families and our CF clinic. FFCF has been able to help relieve the financial burden of CF for many of our families in need. They have helped families keep a roof over their heads, have reliable transportation, keep their utilities turned on, and make sure that they have good quality air in their home through mold treatment. Through their generous financial assistance, they have even helped families stay together by supporting parents in meeting the basic needs of their children. FFCF also has a tremendous emotional impact on our kids with CF through their care packages. Being admitted to the hospital for 2 - 4 weeks at a time is devastating to these kids, especially since they have to stay confined to their hospital room the entire time to protect them from picking up another infection. Care packages start providing hope and happiness from the moment that the child makes their wish list, to receiving the care package, and through the rest of the hospitalization as they get to use their presents to help keep busy while admitted. There really are no words to adequately describe how much of a blessing FFCF is to our families with CF and our CF Care Center! ”

**- Jessica Bustraan,
LMSW Medical Social Worker**



“Our love for Friends & Families of Cystic Fibrosis is immeasurable. We couldn't even pronounce “Cystic Fibrosis” when our daughter was born. When your first child is diagnosed with a devastating genetic lung disease your heart aches with pain that is yet to be known and your world completely falls apart. How can we possibly say thank you to all who are involved with FFCF and fully explain how they have managed to make us smile when we feel absolutely devastated and overwhelmed. FFCF has been there with love, comfort, and support when we needed it most and continue to inspire smiles in the darkest moments in the fight against this horrible disease. ”

**- Liz Mullens,
CF MOM**

To learn more or volunteer,
please contact us:

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