Dear Friends,

Between 2010 and 2019, the number of new invasive melanoma cases diagnosed annually increased by 54%. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, melanoma rates are up 800% for women aged 18-35. Of the estimated 192,310 cases of melanoma diagnosed in the United States, approximately half will be invasive (penetrating the skin’s second layer). The American Cancer Society reports that more skin cancers are diagnosed than all other cancers combined. These riveting statistics make our job even more urgent.

Mollie’s Fund has many allies in our war against melanoma. Our partnerships and relationships with our peers in the melanoma community, hospital systems, schools, local governments and businesses have always been crucial to our initiatives. Our work has been facilitated and encouraged by our supportive colleagues. Collaborating with the AIM at Melanoma Foundation, we are creating resources to educate the public. We have been fortunate to enlist the guidance of eye melanoma specialists at MSKCC to guide us on our latest public resource. The IMPACT Melanoma Foundation has generously shared experiences and suggestions to improve our sunscreen dispenser programs. Like our fellow members in the NY State Cancer Prevention coalition, we are committed to increasing prevention opportunities for our fellow NY State residents. We have partnered with NYU Langone and NYU Winthrop, Eastern Long Island Hospital, St. Francis, St. Charles, Mercy Medical Center, St. Joseph’s and Good Samaritan to present initiatives for skin cancer prevention. The Women’s Dermatologic Society has supported our screening events. Our social media messages have been promoted by the Melanoma Research Alliance.

Our outreach programs are educating millions thanks to ongoing contributions and encouragement. The generosity of product donations from MD Solar Sciences and LaRoche-Posay cannot be overlooked. We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the tremendous advertising support of Area 23 and Meredith Kaim. Kudos to our local PTA Health Chairs—because of their creativity and energy Mollie’s Fund was able to coordinate a district-wide awareness initiative that also involved parent participation.

Thank you to our Boards and volunteers for their ongoing reassurance and input. And a heartfelt thank you for your unwavering support and belief that, in Mollie’s name, we are making a difference in the melanoma war!

— Jack, Maggie, Julie, Cara, Johnny and Mary
FDA Advances New Proposed Regulation to Make Sunscreens Safer and More Effective

In February, the US Food and Drug Administration issued a proposal to update regulatory requirements for over-the-counter sunscreen products. This action would ensure that companies that market sunscreen formulas without FDA approval revise their products to reflect the best options for safety and effectiveness.

According to FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D., “Broad spectrum sunscreens with SPF values of at least 15 are critical to the arsenal of tools for preventing skin cancer and protecting the skin from damage caused by the sun’s rays, yet some of the essential requirements for these preventive tools haven’t been updated in decades. Since the initial evaluation of these products, we know much more about the effects of the sun and about sunscreen’s absorption through the skin….The proposal we’ve put forward would improve quality, safety and efficacy of the sunscreens Americans use every day.”

Currently, there are 16 marketed active ingredients, 12 of which have insufficient safety data. The FDA is working closely with industry and has published several guidelines. Among the proposals are: guidelines for dosage; raising the maximum proposed SPF value from 50 to 60; requiring sunscreen with a SPF and value of 15 or higher to provide broad spectrum protection; and clearer front package labeling to include active ingredients and a skin cancer/skin aging alert. Entities that conduct sunscreen testing and record keeping also need to be evaluated. The FDA has given sunscreen manufacturers a November 2019 deadline to comply with the new labeling requirements.
Mollie’s Fund Expands Sunscreen Dispenser Program

Because 90% of all non-melanoma skin cancers and 86% of melanomas are attributed to UV radiation from the sun, sunscreen use is a vital part of an effective skin cancer prevention program. Promoting public access to sunscreen encourages sunscreen use. This year’s dispenser donations from Mollie’s Fund include select beaches and parks in the Town of Southold, the Garden City High School and Middle School, and Petrus Park in Port Washington. Cutchogue-New Suffolk Park District Commissioners David Howe, Artie Picchione and John Gardner enthusiastically endorse this donation. “Thanks to Mollie’s Fund, we can now provide our patrons with protection from the ravages of the sun plus educate our neighbors about skin cancer prevention.” The bright yellow weather resistant dispensers provide UVA-UVB sunscreen that help protect recipients from harmful rays. Managers of town parks and recreation areas that received dispensers last year have committed to maintaining the machines with sunscreen provided by Mollie’s Fund.

Skiers Need Sunscreen Too!

People often think they only need to worry about sun exposure while at the beach, but UV exposure at high elevations is significantly greater than at sea level. In fact, there is a 6-10% increase in UV exposure for every thousand feet of elevation. So when you’re skiing on the slopes at around 9,000 feet above sea level, your UV exposure jumps approximately 42%.

Tara Dickey, host coordinator of the USSA 8-14 Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, February 16th sanctioned slalom race knows well the importance of teaching kids about sun safety in the winter. After she reached out to Mollie’s Fund for help, one hundred registered skiers received sunscreen samples (courtesy of LaRoche-Posay), lip balm (donated from ChopSaver), and Mollie’s Fund “Have You Checked Your Skin Lately?” brochures.

Start at smile.amazon.com. Select Mollie Biggane Melanoma Foundation Inc. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Please share AmazonSmile with your friends.
Mollie’s Fund at NYU Langone Working to Prevent Melanoma

The NYU Langone Health Center joined forces with the Mollie Biggane Melanoma Foundation on April 18th to sponsor a community program “Skin Cancer Protection and Treatment.” Dermatologist Elizabeth Hale, MD, PhD, spoke of the importance of early detection at the Center’s Alumni Hall Auditorium. Assistant Professor Erica Friedman, MD, from the Department of Surgery at the Perlmutter Cancer Center described advances in surgical procedures based on recent research. Co-Director of the Melanoma Program and Professor of Medicine Anna Pavlick, DO, MBA, was very optimistic about recent discoveries in therapies for metastatic disease. A short overview of support services available to the melanoma patient was presented by social worker, Deborah Koeppel, LCSW-R. A Long Island resident and melanoma survivor shared his personal journey. All participants received take-home educational materials from Mollie’s Fund which they were encouraged to share with their families and care givers.

Mollie’s Fund Hosts “Lunch and Learn” for NYU Winthrop Nurses

In celebration of National Nursing Appreciation Week and in recognition of Melanoma Awareness and Prevention Month, the Mollie Biggane Melanoma Foundation hosted a “Lunch and Learn about Skin Cancer Prevention” on Friday, May 10th. Maggie Biggane welcomed the nurses and provided a short synopsis of the work of Mollie’s Fund.

Dr. Megan D. Winner, NYU Winthrop Oncology Surgeon, gave a very informative overview of the different types of skin cancer – basil, squamous and melanoma. She discussed current surgical options and treatments available. Dr. Winner stressed the necessity of taking care of all skin cancers in a timely way because their untreated advancement often produces complications.

Nurses are in an excellent position to teach their patients about skin cancer prevention. With the support of Victoria Siegel, RN, CNS, MSN, EdD, Professor of Nursing at Molloy, Mollie’s Fund has been at the forefront in educating nurses about the importance of skin cancer prevention. In her presentation, Dr. Siegel stressed the impact that a nurse can have in teaching the public about safe sun practices.

Mollie’s Fund was also delighted to sponsor a public education program on Thursday, May 10th at Woodhull in Brooklyn. Kathy Madden, RN, NP, from the NYU Langone community conducted this informative outreach.
Mollie’s Fund Offers
Free Skin Cancer Screening at Molloy

Research from the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) confirms that free skin cancer screenings save lives. It was wonderful to see seventy-nine participants take advantage of the free skin cancer screening sponsored by Mollie’s Fund and hosted at the Nursing School of Molloy College in Rockville Centre on Wednesday, April 10th.

All participants received skin cancer educational materials. Besides checking skin for suspicious lesions, dermatologists counseled participants on behaviors that may negatively affect the health of their skin. Professor Victoria Siegel, RN, EdD, spearheaded this effort on the Molloy side and recruited nursing students to help with the explanation of the SPOTme forms from the AAD. According to Dr. Siegel, “Because nurses are so involved in disease prevention, it is essential for them to have first-hand experience in this preventive program. Skin cancer impacts 1 in 5 and nurses need to be on the front line in changing this statistic.”

Dr. Ted Daly, MD (Garden City Dermatology), Dr. Laura Kruter, MD (Mariwalla Dermatology), Dr. Rachael Kushner, DO and Esther Levine, PA (Schweiger Dermatology) volunteered their services to support this program. Mollie’s Fund is greatly appreciative of their help.
GC PTA Partners with Mollie’s Fund to Educate the Community

Mollie’s Fund has long sponsored the annual Melanoma Awareness Assembly for sixth grade students at the Garden City Middle School. Thanks to the vision of Garden City PTA’s Health and Safety Committee Chairs Jennifer Schmitt and Beth Spirakis, and with the support of Mollie’s Fund, the GC PTA’s Sun Safety Program now facilitates activities for students and parents district-wide throughout April and May. The programming concludes on the Friday before Memorial Day weekend, recognized as “Don’t Fry Day” by the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention.

Parents of elementary school level children viewed the sun safety video #NEWFAMILYRULE at the All Primary Schools PTA Meeting, where “Have You Checked Your Skin Lately” brochures and sunscreen samples were distributed. Students in kindergarten and first grade classes were given “Don’t Fry Day” posters with pictures of animals explaining how they stay safe from the sun. Students participated in a coloring activity and were asked to address “How do you stay safe in the sun?”

Copies of EPA’S “Mission: Sunwise” activity books were completed by second grade students who received an incentive and a PTA sponsored ‘Garden City Trojan’ embossed UV wristband. The color change in the band is a reminder that the wearer is exposed to strong UV rays and should take protective action. The foundation also donated hats to all fifth graders for their June pool party.

During the Middle School assembly, sixth grade students viewed the Mollie’s Fund-produced “The Dark Side of the Sun” educational video. Dr. Ted Daly (GC Dermatology) reviewed sun safe behaviors and Dr. John Clarke (The Physician Musician) performed his rap song ‘Stop Melanoma!’ Students went home with a download
At the High School, the Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics Ms. Cerrone reached out to her health teachers to incorporate sun safety into their curriculum. Sophomore health students viewed “Dear 16-year-old Me.” This video produced by the David Cornfield Melanoma Fund shares personal stories about young people who engaged in risky sun behavior or ignored suspicious moles that led to a melanoma diagnosis. Health students also viewed the YouTube video “Free Killer Tan” produced by Mollie’s Fund. World Language Coordinator Mr. Giacalone and the high school Spanish teachers provided students with the Spanish version of the “Have You Checked Your Skin Lately?” brochure which provides the ABCDE’s in examining their skin.

The high school social worker Ms. Bombardiere organized students from SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and Peer Educators to assist with recognizing “Don’t Fry Day.” Parents were given UV wristbands, packets of sunscreen and “Have You Checked Your Skin Lately?” brochure cards at PTA Meetings throughout the month.

To wrap up the campaign, Mollie’s Fund sponsored sunscreen dispensers at both the Middle School and High School. Now, students participating in outdoor activities can help themselves to free sunscreen protection!
“Move for Melanoma”

Melanoma survivors Kristen Kern and Carrie Rossi organized an outreach event at Garden City’s “Crossfit” on Saturday, May 4th. Athletes of all ages and abilities were invited to participate at a great gym with a genial atmosphere in cardio exercise classes. Participants were welcomed with breakfast, raffle prizes and festive green balloons and were encouraged to sweat for Mollie’s Fund. Both Kristen and Carrie generously shared their diagnosis and treatment stories, and the event raised over $8,000 for the foundation. Mollie’s Fund was grateful for the opportunity to spread the word that melanoma is one of the most common cancers in young adults, especially young women.

“Odd Ball”

PSA Urges the Public to Self-Exam

Mollie’s Fund reunited with agency partner Area 23 to raise awareness for the necessity of life saving self-skin exams through a provocative new public service announcement film. Like previous work on “Free Killer Tan,” “Melanoma Monsters” and “Mr. Sun,” Area 23’s goal was to create skin-crawling, hair-raising and eyeball-popping content that motivates people to give their skin a second look. No stranger to industry awards, past collaborations with Mollie’s Fund have earned Area 23 a Gold Effie and Silver for youth marketing, 2017 Cannes Lions Award and MM&M’s Titanium for Best in Show. This film has been distributed to major TV networks and can also be viewed on social media. Check it out and share with your family and friends.

Go to oddball on Molliesfund YouTube page.
Mollie’s Fund in the Media

Mollie’s Fund believes that our public service announcements are a powerful tool in raising awareness about skin cancer, and we are proud of the variety of announcements we have created to capture different audiences. Yankee and Mets fans listening to live games learn sun safety tips on WFAN and WOR. 1010 WINS listeners are reminded about the value of skin checks. Weather UV reports are supplemented with our prevention message on WABC-TV and WNBC-TV. Over a million eyes view the vignettes created for Mollie’s Fund over the full summer schedule. WCBS-TV has shared our ads with their local stations throughout the United States. Through newspapers and journals we have disseminated messages to promote sun safety and encourage behavioral changes.

Social Media has enabled us to reach an even larger and more diverse audience. Mollie’s Fund has 1.4 thousand members on our Facebook Group Page and we continue to grow more followers on all our social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. We share news about our events, provide sun safety tips and let people know what’s happening in the world of skin cancer prevention. Our #oneminuteofresponsibility campaign (formerly #beshady) invites members of our community to share photos of their favorite ways to practice safe sun. We are committed to reminding the community that it takes just one minute to apply sunscreen.

Please help us continue to promote melanoma awareness by sharing your sun safe photos with us and tagging @molliesfund.
Mollie’s Fund Joins New York State Cancer Consortium

The New York State Cancer Consortium is a network of dedicated volunteers who work together to reduce the burden of cancer by promoting and implementing strategies outlined in the New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. Mollie’s Fund is proud to be participating in this effort.

Maggie Biggane and Advisory Board Member Victoria Siegel are networking with experts in skin cancer prevention to advocate for state-wide skin cancer prevention initiatives. The Skin Cancer Prevention Committee is chaired by Larisa Geskin, MD, Associate Professor of Dermatology at Columbia University Medical Center and Director of the Comprehensive Skin Cancer Center. She is both a dermatologist and an oncologist. Topics discussed include promoting outdoor sun safety with shade structures and sunscreen dispensers, conducting skin cancer screenings, implementing educational curricula and supporting changes to hospital EMR forms to reflect skin cancer prevention as indicated in the CDC guidelines.

Junior Board

On May 22nd, our Junior Board members volunteered at the Melanoma Research Alliance’s Ninth Annual Leveraged Finance Fights Melanoma event in Rockefeller Center. Since inception, this premier gathering of the finance world has raised more than $10 million for melanoma research! Advances in therapies supported by research have dramatically helped patients experience more viable outcomes.

Sun-Sensitizing Drugs

Did you know that some medications can cause sun sensitivity resulting in a rash that can spread to other parts of the body not exposed to the sun? Sun-sensitizing drugs may also aggravate existing conditions such as eczema and herpes, and may inflame scar tissue.

These common medications can make you more sensitive to the sun:

- Antibiotics, particularly tetracyclines like doxycycline and fluoroquinolones like ciprofloxacin
- Tricyclic antidepressants like amitriptyline and nortriptyline
- Older antihistamines, like promethazine
- Griseofulvin, antifungal medication
- Acne medications, like Accutane, Retin-A
- Sulfonylurea drugs for diabetes
- Hydrochlorothiazide and other thiazide diuretics
- Some heart medications for arrhythmia including amiodarone

It is important to note that not every person who uses these drugs has a reaction. If it does happen, it can be a one-time occurrence or may happen whenever that person is in the sun. Limiting time in the sun, wearing protective clothing and using sunscreen will lessen the impact if sun sensitivity occurs. Your pharmacist can best address any possible sun sensitivity as a side effect of your medications.
“Thank you once again for your generous donation of sunscreen to keep all our golfers ‘unsafe’ at Pal-O-Mine’s golf outing! Each year golfers lather up at the registration table, and later again at the Half Way House…and this year received individual bottles they can use whenever they want, all thanks to the generosity of the Mollie Biggane Melanoma Foundation! Our golfers have expressed how grateful they are each year that we provide the sunscreen since they so often forget to bring theirs!”
— Carol-Ann Guerriero, Program Director, Islandia, NY

“Mollie’s Fund has been extremely helpful in supporting our skin cancer screenings at Moffitt Cancer Center. The brochures (‘Have You Checked Your Skin Lately?’) that they provide to us are the BEST ones that we have, and the attendees LOVE them! They are easy to read and understand, and ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO KEEP UP WITH THEIR SKIN CHECKS AT HOME. It is important to us to provide a lifetime of sun safety education to each person that we see, and this is one way to ensure that we do so!”
— Teri Mitchell, Event and Project Coordinator, Tampa, FL

“I just wanted to share that Mollie’s commercial is what single handily pushed me to have my skin checked frequently. As an ICU nurse I should know better, but life got busy and I kept putting it off. I have a lot of moles and the type of skin on the spectrum that is prone to having concern. So I want to thank you and Mollie for keeping the word strong and MAKING A DIFFERENCE.”
— Sam, Traverse City, MI

“Thank you for the opportunity to share the LIFE SAVING MESSAGE of caring for your skin in the sun! This summer FCA Surf will meet over 400 families through camps and events, all will receive information from Mollie’s Fund. Thank you for partnering in the fight for lives against Melanoma!”
— Laura Matera, Ocean City, NJ

“Happy to help spread awareness. My daughter is in 6th grade and has become more responsible with sunscreen as a result of your foundation.”
— Diana LoPiccolo, Garden City, NY

“Hello, I just saw your foundation ad on CBS. I was diagnosed with melanoma in August 2017 and because of not knowing soon enough, I lost 2 toes on my right foot! I’m still fighting and checking myself. Thanks for doing what you all do!...Keep helping others with the melanoma fight the good fight!”
— Thomas Decatur

“Just saw a TV ad on NBC for Mollie’s Fund…I was so proud to know you and be a part of your effort.”
— Linda Susan Marcus, MD, Wycoff, New Jersey

“Many thanks for the sunscreen for our golf tournament...I am a Garden City resident and know well the work you do and truly appreciate your contributions to the community in your efforts with Mollie’s Fund.”
— Lauren McGowan, North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center

“It’s always such an honor to work with you.”
— Elizabeth Hale, MD

“We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the Bigganes’ generosity in providing the sun-safe hats, sunscreen and informational brochures at our 2019 Annual Golf Classic. Your kindness brought life-saving sun safety to the awareness of all in attendance. Together, we can enhance your mission to increase melanoma prevention…”
— Linda Sweeney, Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital

“So glad that you are able to continue with your outreach to the schools—making the students ambassadors for sun-safety.”
— Susan Crowmwell Lee

“…I just wanted to shoot you a quick note to let you know that the work you are doing to raise awareness especially on social media is meaningful! I went in for a regular skin check and they ended up biopsing something that looked off…Thank you for keeping cancer and proactive sun protection to mind.”
— MariCate Reeves, San Francisco, CA

“I’m so sorry for the loss of your daughter. There will be a cure someday. Until then you are saving many more lives…”
— Anne DeMaria, Dover, NH

“It is with great appreciation and gratitude that we would like to thank Mollie’s Fund for providing sunscreen and skin protection educational materials for the members of the Garden City Pool. Mollie’s Fund educates members as well as providing sunscreen in the fight against skin cancer.”
— GC Pool Staff

“It was my pleasure to help (Molloy Skin Cancer Screening) and delighted to meet you...What you are doing is changing the course of people’s lives, and I commend you for it!”
— Laura Kruter, MD, Mariwalla Dermatology
Be a “Champion for Charity” for Mollie’s Fund

Please join us December 5-7 at Champions for Charity®, a holiday extravaganza at Americana Manhasset and select Wheatley Plaza stores, Brooks Brothers, J. Crew, Funky Monkey, Tiffany & Co., Burberry, Ralph Lauren, Theory and Gucci, just to name a few! Our foundation will receive 25% of pre-tax purchases at over 70 stores and participating restaurants when you register for your CHAMPION NUMBER and designate Mollie’s Fund as your charity of choice.

Registration begins October 15! Simply call 1-800-918-6767 or visit championsforcharity.com. You can also register in person at the Concierge Office next to the Shoe Box on the south side of the Americana.

Don’t live on Long Island but want to participate? No problem. Complimentary shopping services are available. Personal shoppers can make pre-selected purchases on your behalf and ship your merchandise to you. Contact Danielle Merollo at 516-627-2277. Remember your CHAMPION NUMBER must be presented at time of purchase.

By focusing your holiday shopping on these stores you will be double gifting, allowing Mollie’s Fund to share in your generosity!