## ANNUAL REPORT TO DONORS

## FISCAL YEAR 2020-21





In a year of extraordinary challenges, the Stony Brook community came together in a remarkable way to support our students, faculty, healthcare workers and patients.



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# SOCIAL JUSTICE ENERGY EFFICIENCY CREATING OPPORTUNITY COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE MEDICAL ADVANCES OUR CULTURE THE GREATER GOOD

Dear Friend,

Stony Brook is an institution of profound opportunities. It is also one of profound excellence.

This ethos of excellence has been built brick by brick, each layer honoring Stony Brook's core values: Curiosity. Integrity. Innovation. Collaboration. These are the values that have created a vibrant and diverse academic culture offering an education that is both best in class and yet still affordable - thanks in large part to you.

The outpouring of support from you and others this past year was simply remarkable. In fact, it was one for the record books - more than \$110 million. And I assure you, your donations are being put to good use: accelerating Stony Brook's ambitions to create even more opportunities for even more of our students, delivering lifesaving patient care, and investing in faculty and the basic and medical research that will keep Stony Brook at the vanguard of what's next.

Together, with you, we are fixing our attention on the future. On an even stronger future for Stony Brook as New York's top public research university.

On behalf of my fellow Foundation Board trustees, I offer you our deepest gratitude for keeping Stony Brook strong. If this past year taught us anything, it's that it takes a dedicated community to keep us moving forward – and far beyond.

Sincerely,

MIM

Rich Gelfond, BA '76 **Chair, Stony Brook Foundation Board of Trustees** 

### A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



# **FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 FUNDRAISING RESULTS**









NEW **ENDOWED** FACULTY:

3

**GIFTS DESIGNATED TO:** 

FACULTY AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT \$64,707,628

RESEARCH

\$31,204,967

\$7,428,591

FACILITIES AND CAMPUS LIFE

\$4,727,009

\$2,129,489



SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND STUDENT SUPPORT

CAMPUS DEPARTMENT FUNDS FOR EXCELLENCE

For a copy of audited financial reports, visit stonybrookfoundation.org

### NUMBER OF GIFTS FROM:

ALUMNI

6.023

FRIENDS

4,693

FACULTY AND STAFF

1.129

CORPORATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

514

### FOUNDATIONS (INCLUDING FAMILY FOUNDATIONS)

140

12,499 TOTAL

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# BEYOND **OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL**

Seawolves are driven, talented, hardworking and ambitious. More than a third are also the first in their families to go to college, some overcoming remarkable odds to follow their dreams.

We provide the pathway for these and so many other rising stars. You help pave the way.



Stony Brook alumna and longtime supporter Myrna Chao, BS '77, MS '80, has a deep belief in social justice for all. Considering the remarkable lives her parents lived, it's no wonder.

A highly regarded professor of philosophy, Chao's father, Ivan, was once a member of a Chinese underground resistance force against the Japanese occupation of Shanghai. Chao's mother, Alice, also an accomplished educator, was a leader of the same Shanghai underground resistance force. Captured by the Japanese, she endured unspeakable torture during her imprisonment and was awarded the highest bravery commendation from the government of Chiang Kai-shek upon her release.

Through their perseverance, their careers in education and their loving guidance, Chao's parents instilled in her a steadfast conviction for promoting equality around the world.

Since graduating from Stony Brook, Chao has gone to great lengths to ensure diversity in the workplace and create opportunity for all. At Willis Towers Watson, where she is the firm's North America retirement talent leader, she founded and led the firm's Global Diversity & Inclusion Council and has worked to recruit, attract and retain diverse talent globally. As a member of the board of directors at Stony Brook's Center for Changing Systems of Power, and with her generous investment, Chao has helped propel the Center toward its mission to challenge all manifestations of inequality and promote social justice worldwide.

Now, to carry on her parents' legacy, and out of deep love and respect for them, Chao has established the Ivan and Alice Chao Fund for Social Justice at the Center for Changing Systems of Power.

Through her gift, Chao is fueling interdisciplinary research among faculty at Stony Brook and their collaborators at other universities and nongovernmental organizations. Chao's gift also will underwrite a town hall speaker series for social justice, an academic conference that will bring the world's thought leaders in social change to the Stony Brook campus each year and seed funding for research targeted at promoting social justice and equality

### **CREATING A LEGACY FOR EQUALITY**

6 6 Both my parents held a lifelong conviction of the power of education to transform the self, family, country and the world — in that order. I am deeply grateful and privileged to have them as role models. We are at a tipping point for humanity, and I am sure my parents would be proud of the transformative impact of the Center for Changing Systems of Power."

### Myrna Chao, BS '77, MS '80



For over 50 years, Stony Brook has provided New York's highpotential but underserved students the opportunity to attend the state's top public university through the Educational Opportunity Program/Advancement on Individual Merit (EOP/ AIM) Program. Through a combination of state, campus and philanthropic financial support and a proven program of academic advising, tutoring and mentorship, the program has been tremendously successful at removing barriers that stand in the way of student success.

Still, even at one of the nation's most affordable public universities and after aid provided by the state, students often face one final obstacle: a \$2,796 gap. The financial stress of that gap is a heavy burden with far-reaching consequences. Financial constraints mean students struggle to afford even basic course materials and must forgo valuable experiences that would help them compete for internships, graduate school and jobs.

For Stony Brook Class of '73 alumni Jeffrey Fox and Maureen Fox, the gap and related obstacles are a major concern - and one that is all too familiar. As an undergraduate student, Maureen Fox faced a similar struggle: She relied on a combination of scholarships, grants and loans, yet she still couldn't afford to purchase her books.

"I couldn't ask my parents for the money; they didn't have it. The book wasn't available in the library, and the professor suggested that if I couldn't afford the book, maybe I shouldn't be there," Maureen Fox recalls. "That stayed with me and had something to do with the impetus to give to the EOP/AIM Program and create our fund."

The Jeffrey R. and Maureen L. Fox Fund for Education **Opportunity helps students fill that financial gap.** The Fund also provides critical assistance with books, supplies and other expenses such as study abroad opportunities, graduate school

applications and testing preparation costs, professional and experiential learning opportunities and food and housing insecurities.

"We like to say the student is the picture and EOP/AIM is the frame," says EOP/AIM Director Pamela Matzner, who estimates that approximately 70 students are benefiting from the Foxes' generosity this fall alone.

"We both benefited from our time at Stony Brook, from the academic experience and from the scholarships and low tuition, and we were able to become successful," says Jeffrey Fox. "We want to give people like us the opportunity to get an education and move up in society because an educated society is a better society."

And that's gratifying to hear for EOP/AIM senior Anthony Machuca '22, who is pursuing degrees in psychology, sociology and public health and views the program as an essential safety net that deserves robust support.

"Every year, we are told that our EOP/AIM is facing state budget cuts, and it is so disheartening," Machuca says. "Learning that the Foxes made such a big donation to support us is a great way to start my senior year."

For the Foxes, their generous gift is just a recent example in a long list of ways they have chosen to give back. After successful careers in their chosen fields - Jeffrey Fox as an engineer and Maureen Fox working in criminal appellate law - the couple is passionate about helping underserved communities and creating educational opportunities. "Education is the most important infrastructure we have, and educational disparities have to be dealt with head-on," Maureen Fox explains.



Now retired, both Foxes maintain what they call "volunteer jobs" that allow them to do just that. In addition to mentoring engineering students across the country, Jeffrey Fox develops hands-on STEM projects for classroom teachers at Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT), while Maureen Fox works in immigration law, offering legal support and translation services. But when they decided to make a large financial commitment to a program that would have an immediate impact, they turned to their alma mater.

Machuca agrees. "I want to see the EOP/AIM Program continue long after I'm gone. I have four siblings, and we've been raised by a single mom. EOP/AIM is helping me create a path for my siblings and the people in my community."

### "We wanted to do something that would benefit society in a very significant way," Jeffrey Fox says. "We can't think of a better place for that than at Stony Brook. And someday, maybe some of the students in the program will do what we're doing and give back to Stony Brook."

# Photo by Carlton Brown, BA '97

### **ELEVATING OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO FOLLOW**

Founded in 1911 on the principle of achievement, the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity's mission is at the core of the organization: to elevate young Black men and inspire them to reach higher and dream bigger.

Alumni of Stony Brook's Pi Rho chapter of the fraternity are living its principles. Led by Thierry S. Cazeau, BA '91, MSW '94; Sean Joe, BA '91, MSW '94; and Keith Walker, BA '96, a group of 60 alumni have vowed to help others who are following in their footsteps by providing funding to establish a scholarship for underrepresented and civically engaged students.

Their support was inspired by a similar scholarship for underrepresented students from the Black and Latino Alumni Network. Following that lead, the Stony Brook Kappas Endowed Achievement Scholarship will provide both tuition and supplemental support to students who demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence and to social engagement, social responsibility and the campus and local communities.

To endow the scholarship in perpetuity, Cazeau, Joe and Walker are turning to their fraternity brothers and other members of the Stony Brook community. With over \$18,000 raised from the community on Giving Day 2021, they are well on their way.

66 **Curiosity. Integrity. Innovation. Collaboration. These are the values** that have created a vibrant and diverse academic culture offering an education that is both best in class and yet still affordable — thanks in large part to you."

Rich Gelfond, BA '76

2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT TO DONOR



Nearly a third of Stony Brook undergraduate students in 2020 were the first in their families to attend college. However, with that remarkable achievement also come persistent challenges.

As a first-generation American raised by a single mother, Stony Brook alumna Hildegarde G. Weigel, BS '61, knows those challenges firsthand. A college degree seemed to be an impossibility for Weigel, as her mother had to work multiple jobs just to pay the rent for the converted garage in which they lived. But when Weigel was admitted to Stony Brook University, where tuition was free to New York State residents at the time, she became the first in her family to enroll in college. She eventually received a scholarship to cover the cost of fees and books, which enabled her to stay in school.

One of only 25 members of Stony Brook's first-ever graduating class, Weigel earned a degree in mathematics and built a successful career as a software engineer.

Now retired, Weigel looks back on her experiences at Stony Brook as transformative, and she wants to give others the same opportunities. With a passionate belief in the power of higher education, Weigel created the Hildegarde Kurnol '61 Endowed Scholarship to support first-generation college students who are pursuing a degree in music or mathematics.

"I owe my life to Stony Brook University, for the education I received that allowed me to have a career in the mathematical field," says Weigel. "I decided to set up a scholarship to help first-generation students obtain a good education so that they too can pursue a career of their choosing."

A longtime friend of the University, Weigel also joined her fellow Class of 1961 alumni to create the First Alumni Endowed Scholarship for first-generation students at Stony Brook and has since made several gifts to help fund the scholarship.

Sophomore Jessica Jung is following in Weigel's footsteps as a first-generation student and has overcome significant challenges to attend Stony Brook. But her drive to achieve, to think bigger and pursue her twin passions in medicine and astronomy, helped her transcend those obstacles. That is, until the pandemic hit.

"COVID-19 struck my family very hard. Financially, we were struggling to meet necessary expenses, and mentally, the financial distress brought a dark cloud over all our heads. I felt I had no choice but to drop out to help my family," she says.

Then, she got the good news: She'd been awarded a Coca-Cola First Generation College Scholarship, given to a cohort of 10 first-generation students for four years. Recipients must be participants in Stony Brook's innovative Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) undergraduate program.

of financial hardship."

Support from the Coca-Cola First Generation College Scholarship helped avert the crisis for Jung. She says she is now confidently back on track and on her way to fulfilling her lifelong career aspirations in the emerging field of aerospace medicine.

\*Data from College Scorecard (includes only financial aid filers; last updated 2017). \*\*The most recent year for which the books have been closed was 2019-20.

# "When I found out I received the scholarship, I was speechless," says Jung. "It felt like a message to never give up on my education because

# 36% OF SBU UNDERGRADS ARE

**FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS\*** 

### **HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF** FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS OF ANY MAJOR PUBLIC RESEARCH **UNIVERSITY IN NORTHEASTERN U.S.\***

HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS THAN

80% **OF ALL AAU PEER INSTITUTIONS\*** 

65%-70%

OF SBU UNDERGRADS APPLY FOR **FINANCIAL AID IN A GIVEN YEAR\*\*** 

# BEYOND NEW KNOWLEDGE

Stony Brook's innovative and multidisciplinary research has and will continue to drive transformative solutions to the most complex global challenges.

With your help, we're advancing what we know and changing the world.





Spellman's own research efforts, give the company's engineers greater exposure to the latest developments in closely allied electronics fields and help train the next generation of power electronics pioneers.

And, hopefully, those highly skilled workers will become Spellman's workforce of the future.

"As a global company committed to supporting innovative technology companies around the world, we need to recruit diverse teams of the most talented people and provide career paths in a stimulating and inclusive environment," says Skeist. "We believe that by partnering with Stony Brook, we can develop unique opportunities for people with a solid grounding in electronics-related technical and business fields to learn about and explore a variety of career paths while gaining experience working with international clients."

For its part, Stony Brook is grateful for not only the generous support but also the ongoing collaboration with Spellman.

Spellman High Voltage Power Electronics Laboratory will provide seemingly endless opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration at Stony Brook, from computer science and materials science to civil engineering and even the social sciences.

Partnerships like the Spellman High Voltage Power Electronics Laboratory are critical to the success of Stony Brook's engineering programs as they integrate the University's commitment to experiential learning with real-time industry initiatives, standards and goals.

### **SUPERCHARGING THE FUTURE**

Talk to anyone connected to the new power electronics program in Stony Brook's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and it's clear they're amped.

And it's all thanks to a five-year pledge from Long Island-based Spellman High Voltage Electronics Corporation, creating the Spellman High Voltage Power Electronics Laboratory.

In the mind of Spellman CEO Loren Skeist, MD, the partnership with Stony Brook is a win-win situation.

Collaborating with SUNY Empire Innovation Associate Professor Fang Luo, PhD, and others across Stony Brook's campus will further energize



## **INVESTING EMINENT SCHOLARS AS ENDOWED FACULTY**

With so many notable scholars on our campus, Stony Brook is at the vanguard of new knowledge in a multitude of fields. Endowed chairs and professorships are key to recruiting and retaining these great minds across campus and giving them the resources they need to advance what we know for a better future.



David Thanassi, PhD, and Qingping Yao, MD, PhD, are leaders in the study and treatment of infectious and immunologic disease. With their newly endowed positions, created by the late Huayi Zhang, PhD, and Siuling Zhang, the Zhang Family Endowed Chair in Microbiology and Immunology and the Zhang Family Endowed Chair in Rheumatology, respectively, they will be better positioned to make critical lifesaving advancements in their fields.

An internationally renowned visual artist, Shimon Attie, MFA, uses contemporary media to explore new relationships between space, time, place and identity. Now, as the Charles C. Bergman Endowed Visiting Professor of Studio Art, Attie will share his talent, vision and inspiration with the next generation of young artists at Stony Brook. The professorship was established by the Pollock-Krasner Foundation in honor of the late Charles Bergman's devotion to the arts and decades-long service as chairman and CEO of the Pollock-Krasner Foundation.

Since joining Stony Brook in 2019 as a professor in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics, Stan Uryasev, PhD, has kept Stony Brook at the forefront of applied mathematics. With his investiture as the Frey Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Quantitative Finance – generously funded by alumnus and founder of Stony Brook's Quantitative Finance Program Robert Frey, BS '80, PhD '87, and his wife, Kathy – he will continue to make transformative contributions and broadly increase Stony Brook's international exposure and expertise in guantitative finance and applied mathematics.

Generous friends and alumni have endowed 69 professorships and chairs at Stony Brook to date, giving leading faculty the financial security to take risks, pursue innovative ideas and make groundbreaking discoveries. For more information, visit stonybrook.edu/endowedfaculty.

### **FUELING NEW KNOWLEDGE**



Stony Brook University's Eszter Boros, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, is one step closer to developing cancer treatments that cause significantly fewer side effects and lead to better outcomes

As the winner of the 2021 Stony Brook Discovery Prize, Boros received a \$200,000 grant from the Stony Brook Foundation for her <u>research related to</u> new imaging agents and more targeted cancer therapeutics.

Boros' lab found that radioactive imaging agents produce a small blue light flash. With additional research, Boros and her team believe they may discover ways to

use the same process in light-activated chemotherapeutics. The Discovery Prize award will enable Boros and her colleagues to extend their research with the goal of targeting the toxicity of chemotherapeutics directly at the tumor and nowhere else in the body.

Established in 2013 by the Stony Brook Foundation's Board of Trustees, the Discovery Prize is funded entirely by philanthropy. The award has become an invaluable source for Stony Brook's most promising rising stars and their pioneering research.

**66** This is what the best research universities do. They experiment, anticipate and push for the kind of curiosity-driven, forward-thinking and transformative discoveries that will ultimately advance our society in times of opportunity, challenges and need."

Maurie McInnis, Stony Brook University President

# OUR COMMUNITY GOING BEYOND

Our community has gone above and beyond to help us build the Stony Brook of tomorrow, from expanding opportunities for students and advancing the delivery of healthcare to investing in our faculty and growing our research enterprise.

Thanks to you, we're not only preparing for the future — we're helping shape it.





On May 6, 2021, more than 300 friends, alumni, faculty and staff of Stony Brook University logged on to the first-ever virtual <u>Stars of Stony Brook Gala</u>. Despite the unconventional event format, a remarkable \$1,994,000 was raised to support <u>Stony Brook Foundation Trustee Scholarships</u> at the University.

"Each year, more than 145 students benefit from scholarships funded by Gala proceeds. These Trustee Scholars are some of the most driven, the most talented, the most deserving young people you'll ever meet," says Stony Brook Foundation Chair and IMAX CEO Richard Gelfond '76. "Stony Brook offers these students an education that is best in class and yet still affordable — thanks in large part to our donors."

# IN A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER, YOU STILL SHOWED UP



SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED IN 2000, THE STARS OF STONY BROOK GALA HAS RAISED...

MORE THAN

NEARLY \$42 M FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$22.6 M** FOR CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AND OTHER CRITICAL CAMPUS INITIATIVES

## TWO DAYS OF GIVING, ONE STRONGER COMMUNITY

The Stony Brook community came together in a remarkable way this year, setting a new record for the number of philanthropic gifts in 24 hours – twice.

On October 8, Stony Brook held its Giving Day 2020, which had been postponed from the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the personal struggles many were facing at the time, alumni, faculty and staff, friends, students, parents and grateful patients stepped forward to support Stony Brook. Together, they donated 2,899 gifts, totaling more than \$300,000, to programs across campus.

Astonishingly, just six months later on April 21, 2021, donors again made a tremendous collective impact, contributing 3,335 gifts, totaling over \$370,000, to 94 participating programs.

In total, the two 24-hour fundraising events generated nearly \$700,000 in support from 47 states and 13 countries, including 1,635 donors who'd never before given to Stony Brook.

"The Stony Brook community has always been exceptional, but the support we've seen this past year far exceeded anything we could have imagined," says Deborah Lowen-Klein, senior associate vice president for advancement. "It was inspiring to see people come together and offer their support in such a significant way - not once, but twice - in an extraordinarily challenging year for everyone."



**6** I was privileged to play a small role in providing students with opportunities to engage in research. What better way to show potential donors that I believed in the C-STEP program than to offer a generous match for transfer students in STEM?"

Paul Siegel, MS '97 (retired), Former Director, S-STEM ASSETS; Assistant Director, C-STEP, LSAMP; and Lecturer, Department of Technology and Society



Total number of Stony Brook programs impacted: **118** 

# **GIVING DAY**

# **#SBUGivingDay**

# Almost

# \$700,000 raised

over two Giving Days

Donors from **47** states and **13** countries

# 1,635 new donors

For more information about Giving Day, contact Paul Muite, Executive Director of Annual Giving.

6 6 As the adviser to the Latin American Students Organization, I hold the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center near and dear to my heart. Given the opportunity to help them continue their programming and scholarship, I just knew I had to do something."

Lynda Perdomo-Ayala Administrator **Pharmacological Sciences Renaissance School of Medicine** 

2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

## **ACCELERATING OUR HIGHEST AMBITIONS**

President Maurie McInnis helped navigate Stony Brook through a worldwide pandemic, with extraordinary challenges at every turn. Yet despite the tremendous obstacles the University faced, she also saw opportunities to respond to society's needs with ingenuity, authority and purpose and to ramp up our research productivity, replenish our ranks of talent and unleash our faculty to chase their current scientific ambitions and those not yet imagined.

To accomplish these goals, the University is calling on our philanthropic partners to support the Presidential Innovation and Excellence Fund. Inspired by the Simons Foundation's \$25 million outright gift, as well as their pledge to match up to \$25 million in gifts to the fund, 43 generous friends stepped forward during the fiscal year to help the University seize this moment.

### **PRESIDENTIAL INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE FUND**



### Q: How will dollars from the Presidential Innovation and Excellence Fund advance excellence across campus?

Stony Brook is known for interdisciplinary research. We are resolute in strengthening this advantage. The funds will encourage, expand and accelerate the new discoveries, new solutions and new knowledge that are needed to address the challenges that lie ahead. We'll do it by investing in our exceptional faculty, recruiting established scholars with outstanding national and international reputations. We'll support innovative ideas that will lay the groundwork for big research awards, multi-investigator grants and groundbreaking research that uncovers promising new solutions to society's most pressing challenges.

### Q: Why is research such an integral part of your vision for Stony Brook?

Research forms the fabric of our institution. Our strong research enterprise helps us attract the brightest students and most esteemed faculty, it enhances our reputation among our peer institutions and it attracts essential external funding to the University.

Ranked as the No. 1 public university in New York State, much of our success has been fueled by our research. In a short time, Stony Brook has grown from a college for the preparation of secondary school teachers to one of the nation's most vital centers of learning and scholarship. Yet, comparatively speaking, Stony Brook is still a young research institution with unlimited potential

With the proper investments of time and resources, we can seize that potential, grow our research enterprise and drive the future of Stony Brook. We are well on our way, and I believe support from the Presidential Innovation and Excellence Fund will get us there.

### Q: Why is it important for the University to burnish our membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU)? How can we best ensure that we will maintain our standing among our esteemed AAU peers?

The AAU is higher education's imprimatur of excellence. Membership in the AAU is an endorsement of our position among America's most elite research institutions. With that prestige comes greater access to federal funding, a more prominent role in the shaping of higher education policy and increased prominence in the world of higher education. Of course, ultimately, all of these benefits strengthen our ability to transform lives through education, research and innovation.

To maintain our standing within the AAU requires that we plant our stake in research deeply and broadly. We must continue to examine and define – and live up to – our own standards for excellence. A resource-rich Presidential Innovation and Excellence Fund will provide the means to invest even more in our research enterprise and spur particularly promising initiatives that will enhance scholarship, research and creativity across the University.



### Our goal is a total impact of \$75 million.

**Innovation and Excellence Campaign \$75 M** Goal \$25 M Pledged by Simons Foundation **\$25 M** Match Challenge from Simons Foundation 

\$17.7 M Raised Toward Match

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| For more information about the Presidential Innovation and Excellence Fund, contact Justin Fincher, Vice President for Advancement

Jim and Marilyn Simons have donated \$25 million and have pledged an additional \$25 million in matching funds.



# BEYOND AHEALTHY INVESTMENT

These past two years have proven that Stony Brook is a beacon for the best medical practices and breakthrough discoveries that save lives. Now more than ever, your investments can help us provide innovative, research-based care for our community both near and far.

Because of you, we're transforming the future of healthcare.



When Long Island pathologist David Elkowitz, DO, was referred to Stony Brook's Henry Tannous, MD, for a cancerous mass surrounding many vessels and organs in his chest, Elkowitz had little reason to be hopeful. The mass, he had been told by others, was inoperable.

But Tannous, holder of the General Ting Feng Cheng Chair of Cardiothoracic Surgery, believed otherwise. A renowned expert in the research and treatment of thoracic tumors, Tannous assured Elkowitz that he could indeed perform the surgery needed to remove the tumor.

During an eight-hour procedure, Tannous and his team not only removed the entire mass, but they also preserved vital structures in Elkowitz's chest that were seemingly irreparable. Elkowitz was astonished. "Not only would my life go on, but it would continue as it had for the many years prior to my disease," he says.

With deep gratitude for Tannous' "unique combination of skill, compassion and professionalism ... and unreplicable talent," Elkowitz and his wife created the David and Stephanie Elkowitz Fund for Excellence in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery

The Elkowitzes' gift will go a long way toward expressing their gratitude. This vital funding gives Tannous the financial flexibility to keep his team at the forefront of best practices, the latest research and new surgical techniques that will lead to better outcomes.

### **CREATING EXCELLENCE IN CARE**

"With a firm but quiet confidence, Henry told me he could perform the surgery I needed," Elkowitz recalls. "He explained in great detail what he would do and how he would handle possible complications. From that moment, I implicitly trusted him."

Pictured: Dr. David Elkowitz (left) with Dr. Henry Tannous



# **IT TAKES THREE VILLAGES**

### **Three Village Community Benefits Child Life**

Every year, thousands of children and their families from the Three Village community depend on the Stony Brook Children's Hospital for medical care close to home.

With more than 180 pediatric specialties, Stony Brook Children's offers research, child-sized innovations, clinical trials and breakthrough techniques to benefit pediatric patients within the Three Villages and across Long Island.

Stony Brook Children's Child Life Program helps to meet the unique emotional and developmental needs of children during their hospital stays. Through therapeutic, educational and recreational activities, the program reduces the stress that pediatric patients and their families may experience when faced with illness, medical procedures and unfamiliar surroundings.

### **The Power of Community**

Led by two passionate siblings and a dedicated group of dads, the Three Village community has stepped forward to lend a hand to this vital program.

In 2012, 11-year-old Maddie Mastriano and her 8-year-old brother, Joseph, set up a lemonade stand in their Setauket neighborhood. As word of their venture spread, 15 of their friends decided to join in. The proceeds, they all decided, would go to Stony Brook Children's.

On that day, Maddie and Joseph learned an invaluable lesson about the power of community.

Their simple lemonade stand has grown into a movement of sorts. Each summer, children from across all Three Village towns come together to plan and operate the Three Village Kids Lemonade Stand. Volunteers make and sell lemonade, gather pledges and donations, secure sponsors and host a day of fun for the community – all to benefit the Child Life Program at Stony Brook Children's.

Since it began, the lemonade stand has generated over \$120,000 for the program, including an incredible \$30,000 through a socially distant "drive-through" event last summer. Over the nine years, more than 1,000 students in grades K-12 have volunteered, collectively earning more than 9,000 hours of community service.

A band of Three Village fathers is also harnessing the power of community. Initially a small social group on Facebook, the Three Village Dads Foundation has become a certified philanthropic foundation dedicated to the betterment of the Three Village community.

Providing such specialized programs and care for the community's children is an enormous undertaking – but thanks to many in the Three Villages, it is something Stony Brook doesn't have to do alone.

### With a vast social media presence and social network, the 1,400-member foundation hosts blood drives, clothing and food drives and events dedicated to raising money for people and institutions in need, including Stony Brook Children's. This year, the group pledged \$100,000 to the Child Life Program.

# **GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS TO FIGHT** PARKINSON'S DISEASE

When Wai Law is faced with a problem, he runs toward a solution - even if that means running the equivalent of 21 marathons in 11 days.

From June 25 to July 5, 2021, Law ran 555 miles unassisted along New York's newly completed Empire State Trail, from Buffalo to Battery Park. The reason for this herculean undertaking: to raise funds for the fight against Parkinson's disease and to honor his friend Dennis Almodovar's father, Ruben, who passed away in 2017 after living with Parkinson's for 12 years.

When he was considering where to donate the proceeds of the run, Law knew that Stony Brook's Thomas Hartman Center for Parkinson's Research would be the ideal beneficiary.

The Thomas Hartman Center for Parkinson's Research was established in 2013 within the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior with generous support from the Thomas Hartman Foundation for Parkinson's Research and the Simons Foundation. Every year, the Hartman Center awards grants to support innovative research projects at Stony Brook with the goal of advancing the understanding of Parkinson's disease and translating that research into better treatments.



\$17,000 RAISED FROM **169** SUPPORTERS Thanks to philanthropic contributions from Law and others, the Hartman Center was able to award three grants in 2021, providing invaluable funding for potentially groundbreaking research. The Department of Neurobiology and Behavior also plans to use funds from the Hartman Center to organize a symposium to showcase the Parkinson's research taking place across the department.

Last year, Law raised more than \$10,000 for the Hartman Center by running 103 miles from New Paltz to Queens in 24 hours. This year, 169 supporters from all corners of the world, from New York to Hong Kong, donated nearly \$17,000 in recognition of his extraordinary 555-mile effort.

accomplishment.

"For me, outdoor activities, running in particular, are more than exercise," he says. "They are also a powerful way to help organizations, communities and families. I run for those who can't. I run to raise funds for important medical research and I run to help pay for expenses that a family may have while dealing with a medical crisis."

For his part, Law is humbly matter-of-fact about his



# TAKING A BITE OUT OF CHILDHOOD ORAL DISEASE

### **Mother Cabrini Foundation Funds New Mobile Dental Clinic**

Tooth decay is one of the most common childhood diseases, and it often leads to speaking, chewing and sleep problems. In fact, learning can also be affected: Children who have poor oral health miss more school and receive lower grades than those who don't.

In response, Stony Brook's first mobile oral health services clinic took to the road 10 years ago. The fully equipped mobile dental clinic worked to ensure that children living in Long Island's underserved areas, many of which lacked fluoridated water, received the dental care they needed. Partnering with school districts, nonprofits, housing organizations and county and town agencies, the mobile dental clinic has treated thousands of Long Island children. For many of these children, the mobile dental clinic was their first dental health treatment

However, just as COVID-19-related closures on Long Island exacerbated the problem of untreated dental needs among underrepresented children, the mobile clinic began to show signs of decay.

Thankfully, the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation stepped in to help. The Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization with the mission to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable New Yorkers, bolster the health outcomes of targeted communities, eliminate barriers to care and bridge gaps in health services. Named in memory of a tireless advocate for immigrants, children and the underserved, the Foundation provides flexible support for new and innovative approaches that enhance health and wellness across New York State.

The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation's generous gift has allowed Stony Brook to purchase a new mobile dental clinic that will feature the latest technology, equipment and design to ensure safety, efficiency and adherence to COVID-19-related protocols. When the mobile clinic is completed in the fall of 2022, it will be deployed once again across Long Island to serve more children with more services to ensure their health, safety and well-being.

SCHOOL HOURS ARE LOST PER YEAR IN THE U.S. STONY BROOK'S FIRST-EVER MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC HAS TREATED THOUSANDS OF LONG ISLAND CHILDREN OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.

**1 in 5** 

**KIDS HAS UNTREATED** TOOTH DECAY

DUE TO UNTREATED DENTAL-RELATED ILLNESSES

**6** Programs like the mobile dental clinic enable us to reduce one of the most significant barriers to oral healthcare by bringing care directly to previously underserved patients, where they are."

**Rhona Sherwin, DDS '78 Clinical Professor and Director of Pediatric Outreach for the School** of Dental Medicine

**66** During this time of transition and recovery, the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation must seize the moment not only to meet urgent needs but to address long-standing inequities."

**Monsignor Gregory Mustaciuolo CEO**, Mother Cabrini Health Foundation

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Established in 1965, the Stony Brook Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Its primary mission is to advance the goals and strategic initiatives of Stony Brook University by raising and managing private funds. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised over \$1 billion in donations, employing best practices and procedures to ensure all gifts are wisely invested and distributed consistently with each donor's expressed intent.

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We are beyond grateful for all you have done and will continue to do through your investments in Stony Brook."



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