

He's been  
gone 10 years  
now, but...

# DANNY THOMAS MIRACLE LIVES ON

**M**ARLO THOMAS and her siblings have worked tirelessly to keep their late dad Danny Thomas' charity for sick kids going strong since he died.

It's been 10 years since Thomas, star of the hit '50s sitcom *Make Room for Daddy* and later *The Danny Thomas Show*, died of a heart attack. But St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, which he founded in Memphis, Tenn., is still helping kids battle cancer and other deadly diseases — thanks to his clan.

"My father's edict was that no child should ever be turned away from receiving medical treatment because of a family's inability to pay," says Marlo, 63, who starred in the sitcom *That Girl*.

"If a child or parent is facing an uncertain disease like cancer, they can find hope at St. Jude."

When Thomas established the hospital in 1962, it had just one doctor. Today, St. Jude operates out of seven buildings, has 2,000 employees, treats 4,000 children and costs a staggering \$600,000



## Funnyman's daughter continues his mission to save sick kids

a day to run. The hospital's research is top-notch and a St. Jude scientist won a Nobel Prize in 1996 for discoveries about the human body's immune system.

Thomas originally asked his fellow Arab-Americans to help

fund the hospital and today, its chief source of money is the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities.

While his work for St. Jude ended when he died in 1991 at age 77, Marlo and her singer-sister Terre and TV producer-brother Tony have continued to work for their dad's charity.

"St. Jude is part of the fabric of our family," explains Marlo, wife of former talk-show host Phil Donahue. "Dad never said, 'When I die, it'll be up to you guys.'"

"He told us that the hospital was his promise, not ours."

But Danny's brood believed in their dad's vision to help sick kids and have become as devoted as he was to the hospital. They now serve on the charity's board and are involved in fund-raising.

"We wanted to help continue what our father started," says Marlo. "We believe that we can change the world by helping each other."

— ROBIN MIZRAHI



Marlo Thomas and her dad