ovemark happens to be their last name, but it’s also the perfect name for the nonprofit foundation that Tiva and Jamie Lovemark have established to financially and emotionally support patients diagnosed with brain tumors at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Through their generous donations—nearly $500,000 over the past five years—the couple is making their mark and showing their devotion to patients whose journey they understand so well.

In 2002, when Tiva was a high school freshman in nearby Stamford, CT, severe headaches prompted her to have an MRI. The diagnosis: a benign cerebellar brain tumor. She consulted with doctors elsewhere who pressured her to have brain surgery immediately. She and her parents weren’t comfortable with that recommendation. Tiva was so young, an active cheerleader and gymnast, and she had no other symptoms.

Then they met with Charles Duncan, MD, FAANS, a now retired Yale neurosurgeon, who established the first dedicated pediatric neurosurgery program in Connecticut. “You feel like you’re with a family member when you’re with him,” Tiva said. “His
The generosity of the Lovemark Foundation perfectly aligns with the overarching clinical mission of our Brain Tumor Center and that is to provide the most exceptional care with compassion and support.

—Dr. Jennifer Moliterno