Wanosik said that people with Ehlers-Danlos can also be at risk for fracture fragility, particularly when the disorder is paired with a vitamin D deficiency, as it is for four of the board members’ children, including Wanosik’s daughter Zeydn.

“When you have these hyper-mobile things, and then you put it with a weakened bone state from a vitamin D deficiency, you’re asking for trouble,” Wanosik said. “Your bones are weak, so now they’re not able to just flex like they were; now they’re cracking.”

Wanosik said that the medical community is divided about whether EDS is associated with bone fractures, but Dr. Michael Holick, who diagnosed Zeydn with EDS, recently published a study that concluded it is.

Wanosik’s ordeal began on Feb. 24, 2015 when she and her husband took two-year-old Zeydn to see a doctor about the baby’s unexplained arm pain. Two weeks later, the Wanosiks were informed that Zeydn had a broken arm and three fractured fractures. The episode also included a trip to the hospital.

After a preliminary evaluation by the Missouri Department of Social Services’ Division, Zeydn’s arm was removed from the police and the Children’s Division were already on her case. When Wanosik and her husband received permission to fly Zeydn to Boston for the medical evaluation that led to her diagnosis, it was Wanosik who donated their airfare and hotel — as well as airfare for the two social workers who accompanied them on the trip.

Wanosik’s children were returned to her in August 2015, and Fractured Families asked her to join its board shortly afterward.

Almost a year and a half ago, when our case was winding down and finishing up, because I was such a strong advocate for my family with everything that we went through, that’s why they decided to pull me in.”

Although Fractured Families has existed for about three years, Wanosik said that until recently its main focus was such a strong advocate for my family with everything that we went through, that’s why they decided to pull me in.”

Wanosik said that the group’s ultimate goal is to help families pay for medical, legal and travel fees associated with cases like hers.

However, Wanosik said that experts agree that families won’t take a case if they think parents are actually abusing their children, and Fractured Families board members have their own stories to tell.

“You kind of know,” Wanosik said. “People’s stories either add up just like yours did, or they don’t at all. And sometimes we turn people away...You have to weed through it.”

Additionally, one of the board members’ husbands, who is a videographer, is currently making a documentary to educate people about EDS.

Wanosik said that the group is also advocating for improvements to the health care and child welfare systems. For example, she said that the American Academy of Pediatrics standard is that children with fractures but no redness, swelling, bruising or other signs of abuse should be tested for rickets — and that didn’t happen for Zeydn.

“Advocating for these families — I know it sounds repetitive, but it really is so important because it could save any body,” Wanosik stated.

Rebecca and Anthony Wanosik pose for a picture with their children and the Easter Bunny. Rebecca has started a group called Fractured Families to help other families that have had medical conditions mistaken for abuse.

“Advocating for these families — I know it sounds repetitive, but it really is so important because it could save any body,” Wanosik stated.