



# The Bear Facts Gazette

Published by the Children's Cancer Fund ~ Fall & Holidays 2006

## CCF's Patient Services: A Social Worker's Day In Pediatric Oncology

By CCF's Team: Barbara McLain LCSW, Rose Bartone LCSW-R and Jamie Rosenthal MSW

The concept of "Can I help?" takes on new meaning in the context of the role of the social worker. What a social worker does is probably the least understood role on the Pediatric Oncology team. I like to think of us as those professionals that fill in the blanks. The doctor and the nurse tell a family their child has a life threatening illness that will require chemotherapy, radiation therapy and perhaps surgery. The social worker comes in and helps the family figure out how they are going to keep the family going and growing in the healthiest way possible.

The Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers (APOSW) states that "Pediatric Oncology Social Work, as a specialty disci-

pline, is committed to enhancing the emotional and physical well-being of children with cancer and their families. Practice is based upon a unique body of knowledge and expertise in the areas of development and family life. Pediatric oncology social workers are clinicians, educators, advocates and researchers."

With this, we offer you a snap shot view of a typical work day.

### 8:00-9:00 am

Team Meeting. The team meets every Monday and Thursday morning. Meetings are used to discuss patients (inpatient and outpatient, consults), and just about any issue that might affect patient care and team functioning.

### 9:00 am

- Walked to my car to get items donated for a sibling of a patient in bone marrow transplant. The sibling, an infant, was actually born at the hospital a few days ago. Social worker negotiated for the infant to stay in room with mom and patient undergoing transplant as the mother has very little support, and no one to care for the infant at home. Keeping the family together in the hospital is important for the mother, new born, and patient undergoing transplant.

### From Office:

- Phone call made to Children's Clinic (Westchester Medical Center) to make well child appointment

*Continued on page 6*

## Step-by-Step Walk Raises close to \$85,000

*Details on page 5*

### New Team Website for Walk Raises over \$8,500

In his best selling business book *Good to Great*, Jim Collins writes that technology is "an accelerator of momentum, not a creator of it." When the CCF board approached us at HereNextYear to add a new component to the web site to support the 2006 Step-by-Step Walk, we agreed that the time was right.

Not for the reason of starting a new momentum, but to accelerate the participation and passion of an annual event that began nine years ago.

Our goal was to allow people to register teams through the CCF web

*Continued on page 6*

**SAVE the DATE!**  
**CCF's 15th Annual  
Dinner Dance Gala**  
**Saturday,**  
**April 28, 2007**  
**Westchester Marriott,**  
**Tarrytown, NY**



P.O. Box 658  
Millwood, NY 10546  
800-426-5413 • Fax: 503-961-0964  
www.childrenscancerfund.org

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Rose Bartone

The Bear Facts Gazette is published by the Children's Cancer Fund, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, dedicated to funding research programs in childhood cancers and providing support services that improve the quality of life for children with cancer and their families.

Carson H. Powers  
*Executive Director*

**The Bear Facts Gazette** encourages readers to contribute articles and news on how the Children's Cancer Fund's support services have made a difference in a child's life. Please forward your contribution to above address or email to: support@childrenscancerfund.org

# In Good Company

## A Message From the President



October 2006

Dear Friends,

Sometimes in life you get an opportunity to give of yourself in a way that goes beyond an ordinary expression of charity. There's more to it than the instinctive response to give of your time and/or money. Rather it's the complete benefit that you gain from getting involved.

In 2004, I was introduced to the Children's Cancer Fund by my friend, and now fellow board member, Theresa Devins. She had been actively involved in CCF - both in research and fund-raising - and asked me to participate in the planning of a new effort to raise awareness and secure donations for the Children's Cancer Fund. Our initial meetings and strategy sessions led to the development and execution of the Children's Cancer Fund Art Auction benefit. The event was a huge success and, as importantly, permitted me to gain the personal benefit of helping CCF. I was hooked!

Over the past nearly three years, my experiences with the Children's Cancer Fund have been both educational and rewarding at the same time. From the newest clinical trials, to the most advanced effective treatments, to the heart warming patient milestones, my relationship with CCF continues to grow. I have had the opportunity to meet world renowned physicians and scientists, work with dedicated board members and consciousness staff, and been introduced to won-

derful parents and families of children with cancer. Moreover, I've heard dozens of survivor stories.

As President of the Children's Cancer Fund, I believe my most important responsibility is to make a difference in the lives of children with cancer. Along with my fellow board members, dozens of volunteers, wonderful sponsors, and gracious contributors, I will focus on continuing the effective fund-raising programs that are in place, as well as create new goals and opportunities for development.

Sometimes in life you get an opportunity to give of yourself in a way that goes beyond an ordinary expression of charity. Now is the time for you to get involved in the Children's Cancer Fund. Contact me through our web site ([www.childrenscancerfund.org](http://www.childrenscancerfund.org)) with your ideas, feedback, suggestions and advice on how we can beat children's cancer together!

I hope to meet you personally at our upcoming 15th Annual Children's Cancer Fund Dinner Dance Gala on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at the Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, New York. Look for more details on our web site.

With many thanks,

John Casso  
President

This newsletter is  
published in  
proud memory of:  
*Antonine C. age: 3 years*  
*Courtney S. age: 7 years*  
*Nicholas G. age: 21 mos.*

# Creators and Implementers

We wish to thank all those that have created mini-events to fundraise for CCF in the past and those planning on joining the mini-ranks in the near future. As our cover story informs, we now have a new tool for those in a start-up mode. Here are some recent "creators and implementers," as well as those with plans on the drawing boards.

**Travis Day 2006** – The 3rd Annual Travis Day was held on Saturday July 15 from 12noon to 5PM at the Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club in Hope-well Junction; and this year the weather was kinder than last! CCF's Vice Chair-woman Kelli



*The cooks, including Jim Crocker*

Muller-Gonzalez, did a fantastic job of organizing and motivating, particularly given her responsibilities to Travis and to a soon-to-arrive baby. Travis Day 2006 raised close to \$8,500 – we thank all that served, all that came and all that gave!



*Gina & Ken, mutually in love!*

In August, we were pleased to announce to the CCF community that Aleena became the junior board member in the Gonzalez family. As of this writing, she has attended several Board meetings and so far she has been very impressive – quiet but persuasive with her smiles. Travis, of course, continues to heal, shine and smile. Kelli writes: "I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone for making this year's Travis Day a success. It could not have been possible without my "right arm," Gina Pennacchio and my parents, Tom and Patty Bucelot. Once again, the entire Travis Day committee gave it their all to create a terrific event for

the whole family to enjoy while raising money for CCF! A special thanks to Angela Fulton for creating an unforgettable program and to Jim Crocker and his gang for feeding us so well! I look forward to seeing and working with each of you next year. Sincerely, Kelli Muller-Gonzalez"



*Ang, Trav and Bryce – Buy our water!*

## Challenge Camp 2006

– This is the first year CCF has been selected by Challenge Camp and it is Challenge Camp's first annual "Challenge Camp Charitable Cause Carnival." The event was held between August 7 and 11 for campers and their families at Tuckahoe High School and raised \$2,085 for CCF. The Challenge Camp, completing its 26th summer session, is a camp aimed at the development of talented and gifted children, ages 7-14. The event, called Kid Bo\$\$ Carnival, exemplified the entrepreneurial spirit that is part of the camp's mission as the kids formed teams and created booths competing to entice their parents and visitors to spend and spend for CCF. We hope CCF can be an annual fixture in their wonderful agenda and generosity.

For information about their 27th year in 2007, visit [www.challengecamps.com](http://www.challengecamps.com) or call Carole Berman, Executive Director, at 914-779-6024.

**Dance 10 Studios** in Wethersfield, CT is planning, along with several other local dance groups, a February 7, 2007 benefit show at the Belding Theater in Hartford; they have selected CCF for donation of the proceeds. Mary Ellen

Reilly, Owner/Artistic Director, and Nathalie Inho, Office Manager, favored CCF because "we have had several children come through the studios that have battled cancer and won; fortunately, the majority of our students are very healthy. This is a great way for our dancers to help other children who have not been so fortunate." John Casso, CCF's President, is the liaison. We wish them much success, a large audience and our deep appreciation for selecting CCF. Information on tickets and dance programs can be obtained by visiting [www.dance10studios.com](http://www.dance10studios.com), e-mailing [info@dance10studios.com](mailto:info@dance10studios.com) or calling (860) 563-4707.

**NYMC's Chapter, Project Sunshine** is planning a November 30th fundraiser and has selected CCF as the beneficiary. Annually, NYMC faculty, administrators and its students put on their Project Sunshine event at the hospital. This national non-profit organization strives to provide free social, educational, and recreational services to children and families touched by life-threatening medical illnesses. Courtney Sherman is this year's NYMC Student Auction Coordinator.

Courtney writes: "Student volunteers donate their time and energy by engaging children in light and fun activities in hopes of helping them regain a sense of normalcy and encouraging healthy interactions with other children in similar situations. Our programs are aimed at easing the stress children may feel from living with a serious medical challenge or from undergoing a rough treatment regimen. Our activities include holiday parties, toy drives, and arts & crafts projects. We primarily work with the pediatric unit at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at the Westchester Medical Center, but we are always looking for new places to serve.

*Continued on page 4*

# Thank You s to:

We list here some constant donors, some new ones and others that have sent us notes. We don't list everyone here on long name lists but we try to get our thank you notes mailed to you on a timely basis throughout the year. Do send us photos and write-ups!

**Personal Management Systems** of Branford, CT for continuing programs introducing CCF to new supporters.

**Ryan Q. Lin** selected CCF for The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation donation of \$500.00 for reaching 5 years employment with The Capital Group Companies.

**Family Britches (Chappaqua and New Canaan)** for donating a page, extolling CCF's mission in their stupendous Fall Catalog. Thank you's to Rick Buggee and Bary Mishkin for giving back and getting involved.

**John Hand Memorial Golf Outing** – In June, this major supporter of CCF held its Annual Golf Outing raising \$19,900. We thank John Carraylus, Keith Maddock and all the many more that make this fundraiser topnotch. Next year's event date is June 27, 2007.

**Phyllis and Harold Smith** for their donation in memory of Barry Smith.

**Ameriprise** professionals in New Haven and Fairfield Counties, CT for raising CCF funds at seminars and for matching gifts.

**Jackie Knowles** of Thornwood, NY for a fundraiser that produced \$262.00

**Kurt Reich**, our potential Iditarod musher, who in 2005 initiated the idea of featuring CCF as a charity recipient for completing The Race (over 1,000 miles), continues to keep us up-to-date. Kurt originally planned to enter the 2007 race but needs to get his Husky teams conditioned with prep races. He is now up to 20 pups, almost all breed from Iditarod 3-4 time race winners. We wish him well and hope he can get sponsors that might allow some participation by CCF.

**Saw Mill Club** of Mount Kisco, NY for their active and generous participation in the Run/Walk.

**New foundations** supporting CCF include several anonymous ones in the North Palm Beach, FL area; **Tenet Healthcare Foundation**, Dallas, TX awarded a grant on behalf of **Lorena Melcher**, an employee at Garden Grove Hospital & Medical Center. Ms. Melcher was selected as an outstanding employee and elected CCF to receive the \$500 donation in honor of National Hospital Week and National Nurses Week; and the Avrum Katz Foundation.

**Carl V. Garofolo, Jr.** of Poughquag, NY for renewing his volunteer activities for CCF and public service announcements on his Saturday morning radio show.

**Betty's Memorial Fund** of Wappingers Falls, for the third year in a row, supported CCF with a very generous donation of \$7,000. We thank the family!

**iGive.com** now has over 650 stores that participate. Next time

you shop through iGive.com, you can turn every purchase into a donation. If you don't have a membership #, you can join for free at [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com). All you do is: 1) Login; 2) Click the "My Cause" tab for CCF info and 3) shop.

**Andy Pelham and the Red Knights Motor Cycle Club**, NY Chapter 17 (Eastchester) for their May 20, 2006 2nd Annual Ride-for-a-Cause which raised \$8,000 for CCF! This is an awesome international group; visit their national website: [www.redknightsmc.org](http://www.redknightsmc.org)

**The DeMarco Family** sends praise and gratitude to Dr. Jayabose and Nurse Kim (Vassar) for the successful treatment of Michael (an ALL patient) who finishes treatment in December. "It's impossible to truly 'thank' someone for saving your son's life. So you just pray that more research and better treatment options...a cure for childhood cancers will someday become a reality for all parents. Michael DeMarco on behalf of all his friends, family and supporters raised \$2,176 for CCF through the Run/Walk event for which we are all very joyful." Sincerely, *Mike and Dottie, Megan and Michael DeMarco*

**Bloomington's White Plains, NY** for including CCF in its October Shopping Day event. And thank you **Harriette Weingast** for soliciting ticket buyers and coordinating CCF's volunteers. P.S. Thanks also to the shoppers who supported CCF on this date.

*Continued on page 5*

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## Creators and Implementers

continued from page 3

On November 30th, 2006, Project Sunshine will be hosting our 6th Annual Holiday Benefit Auction and Concert to raise money to donate to the Children's Cancer

Fund. We ask for donations from local vendors in order to hold the billet-style auction that is accompanied by a wine and cheese reception prior to a musical concert. ATTENTION CCF Business Supporters—Any donation of auction items would be greatly appreciat-

ed. To make a donation, please contact Courtney Sherman by November 15th with a description of the item: [Courtney\\_sherman@nymc.edu](mailto:Courtney_sherman@nymc.edu) or call 858-699-0620. All donors and friends are invited to attend and take part in this wonderful event.

# Thank You s (continued from page 4)

**Valley Central Federal Credit Union** in Montgomery, NY for their 5th Consecutive yearly donation as part of the national "Care for Kids" program. And thanks to **Diane Ruggles** a member and recorder at monthly VCFCU board meetings.

**Children's Oncology Group (COG)** of Bethesda, MD for its 50th Anniversary - Congratulations for 50 years of progress in pediatric oncology cooperative research!

**Jackie & Craig Ehlers** of Pacific

Palisades, CA for donating in recognition of development of MRD testing as a diagnostic tool by Dr. Jayabose and Sharon Pine, Ph.D. Their son, Parker, is in treatment for ALL at CHLA.

## CCF's 9th Annual Step-by-Step Walk Saturday, October 14, 2006

We welcomed many teams from last year who continued their traditions of growing in size and fun – and bringing more members to CCF. And many more new ones! Thanks to the following teams and their Captains (in random order – see more team photos on page 7):

Valhalla School, Sammi K., Saw Mill Club Team, Casey's Team, Amanda's Amigos, Maria's Angels, Corrin's Angels, Hope for Jack, Team Krystle, Christina Barrera, Green Monkeys, Nick of Time, Jogging for Justin, Team Noah, Team Christina Carrera, King Family, Oya Tugal Team, Team Stefan, Team Ian, Team Wagner, Somers Boy Scouts, Team R.J., Team Barber, Team Andre Fagon, Poulin Family Team, Team Bob, Team O'Grady's, Team Gloaguen, Lyn Merkel Team, Horace Greeley Swim Team, Team Priscilla, McGrath Family, Key Club YHS, WLV, The Bjornson Team, DeMarco's Leavin' His Mark, Gilda's Girls, Maureen Farrell, Team Kayla, D&D Petrucelli, Roseanne Barrera, The Griffin Family, DeCuffa Family, Janet & Dennis McGuire, Gangemi Family, Sunset Cruises & Betty Anderson, M&M Piccone & Family, A. Lusardi, Sementz Family, Pinto Family, Cheri & Chris Hudson, The Blatz Family, G. Zanne, Willie's Boy Scouts, B. Torres-Vera, Team HOPE, Speech Language Pathology, 2 Minutes 2 Go, Annemarie Martel, Oster, Kelly, Vendenameele, Family and Friends of Nicholas William Gannon, Travis Muller, Joanne Baliatico, Natalie/Joanne Burke, Team Farrell.

Nature smiled on CCF and participants as a splendid clear day brought forth our largest attendance ever – over 750 attendees. We are thankful for all those that used our website to register and/or donate if they could not be present. As of the closing date for this newsletter, the Run/Walk raised over \$85,000. Wow! Congratulations to the Committee of Linda Brenner, Jim & Theresa Gonzalez, Nimmy Jayabose, Kathy McGrath and Cathy Poulin and to Marian Baade, who provided graphics and communications support. Andy Bale, as Grand Marshal, was fabulous.

We also wish to thank all our sponsors: Paul & Paris Trefz; Cablevison; McDonald's of Yorktown Heights, NY; 100.7 WHUD Radio; BioScrip; Pepsi; Printech; My Child's Hand; Durants Tents & Events; AtomDJs.com; Super Deli; Westchester Medical Imaging Services; Shaw's, Swift's Electrical Supply Company and Barton Orchards.

Edward Yarmchuk



Team Valhalla with over 150 students attending presented CCF with a check for over \$7,200 for donations raised by middle schoolers under the direction of teacher John Hayes



Red Knights Cycle Club Firemen, Chapter # 17 present CCF's Dr. Jay and Andy Brenner with a donation check for \$8,000

Edward Yarmchuk



## Online

continued from page 1  
site. Contributions through the web site would then be applied to each individual team. We wanted to avoid implementing a 3rd party pre-built system that would cost hundreds of dollars a month in software subscription fees and limit our flexibility. At the same time, we required a simple process for both the team originator and the contributor.

The custom program we created was the vehicle, but 18 teams and more than \$8,500 raised online for the Walk event was the result. One team raised more than \$1,000 in

just a few days and many teams brought additional donations to the event.

Perhaps the best news of all is that Children's Cancer Fund now has a proven Internet-based system in place that can be used over and over again for its future online fundraising efforts. On behalf of the staff at HereNextYear, we appreciate the opportunity to work with CCF on this project and look forward to watching your momentum build for years to come.

**By Marty Dickinson, President and CEO, HereNextYear.com**

**CCF Awareness  
Bracelets (red) are  
available for sale in  
quantities of 20**

**or more.**

E-mail us at:  
[support@childrenscancerfund.org](mailto:support@childrenscancerfund.org)

## CCF's Patient Services

continued from page 1

for newborn sibling. Patient may be here for many weeks and mother can not leave to take newborn to usual pediatrician near home. Several more phone calls were made to secure medical record number needed to make appointment.

- Phone call made to social worker in Pediatric Intensive Care to discuss options for infant to continue with mother in the event patient needs to go to Intensive Care Unit.

- Phone call to follow up on booking conference room for Remembrance Gathering. This is a memorial for staff to process and honor a child's life and death.

- Completed medical transportation request form for a patient.

### Day Hospital:

- Spoke with one of our teen patients regarding her attending Hole In The Wall Gang Camp (Paul Newman's invented charity).

### In Patient Unit:

- Introduced new social worker to her first family.

- Spoke with a mother of patient who is dying about the infection that has set in, what it may mean medically and exploring options for getting mom family support.

- Touched base with two other patients, one a teen, admitted for fever, and another school aged child in for chemotherapy. School aged child wants to buy a present for the bone marrow transplant's patient's new baby sister!

- Spoke with child life specialist regarding patient undergoing Bone Marrow Transplant (various issues, of what if patient goes to PICU, how mom is communicating with staff, how patient is adjusting etc.) Also spoke with mom regarding washing clothes in Ronald McDonald Rooms, well child appointment for the new born infant. Social Worker offered to accompany her to appointment for support and translating.

- Discussed willingness to try a relaxation technique as an adjunct to pain medication with a teenage patient. Patient has said that she can't relax! Patient is willing to try it and we agree to meet the following day to practice a relaxation exercise.

### PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit):

- Visited two families in PICU.

1st family: Provided phone card and discussed mixed feelings mother is having about decision to try bone marrow transplant.

2nd family: Patient is intubated (breathing tube). Provided support

and encouragement to parents and sibling. Family expressed anger and feelings of lack of control over child getting an infection. Discussed availability/need for Ronald McDonald Rooms.

### Back to the office in the afternoon.

- Completed medical transportation request form from the morning and secured appointment for infant tomorrow.

- Follow up call to a newly diagnosed, Spanish speaking only family, discharged yesterday regarding transportation, nursing, fever etc. Discovered family has no thermometer at home and contacted our nurse about securing one for family.

- Responded to various e-mails (Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Giant Kids)

- Another follow up call to family regarding bills they are receiving and immigration letter needed.

While this was one realistic day, no two days are ever the same. And the same way a photograph cannot give you movement or texture; the list of accomplished tasks can not adequately convey the nuances and richness of medical social work. Still, we hope that this gives the reader some insight as to what a social worker does in the Pediatric Oncology setting with the support of CCF funding.



# Camp Sunshine

*“A Free Respite Program for families living with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.”*

*Located in Casco, Maine - right off beautiful Lake Sebago*

Barbara McLain and Rose Bartone, CCF's social workers, write: "There are still openings in some programs, and there is a winter program in February (date not set yet) for those brave enough to battle the weather! Actually, sometimes the weather is better up North! Go to [www.campsunshine.org](http://www.campsunshine.org) for the full schedule, applications and information. Contact your social worker to help facilitate the application process if you are interested in attending."

## GOLFERS

**Take Note:** We would like to have volunteers to join the Golf Event Committee. The aim is to have the Golf Event in Fall 2008, renewing a CCF tradition that was curtailed several years ago. Please e-mail your interest to: [support@childrenscancerfund.org](mailto:support@childrenscancerfund.org)

## Car Donations are Big During the Holidays

If you have a clunker or just a vehicle in its teens, the easy way to donate to CCF with a car, boat + trailer or even an RV can be accomplished in minutes on our web site. But donate early, before year-end when pick-up times are most flexible.

For more info: visit our web site [www.childrenscancerfund.org](http://www.childrenscancerfund.org); e-mail us at [support@childrenscancerfund.org](mailto:support@childrenscancerfund.org) or leave a telephone message at 800-426-5413.

Go to [www.childrenscancerfund.org](http://www.childrenscancerfund.org) – more Run/Walk photos

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