



The Bear Facts Gazette

Published by the Children's Cancer Fund – Spring - Summer 2007

CCF's 15th Annual Dinner Dance Dancing Under the Stars April 28, 2007

Honoring Michael H. Gewitz, M.D. – & Celebrating The Maria Fareri Children's Hospital Nursing Staff



This year the theme of Dancing Under the Stars was complimented by a great dance band, the Hartford Jazz Orchestra, highlighted with an exhibition

by a professional ballroom dancing couple from the Fred Astaire Tarrytown Ballroom and made delicious with a great dinner and wine from the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, NY.

The end-of-the-story is that the fundraiser was a great success, the evening went smoothly, the music was nostalgic, the Victory Speaker, Casey Kaplan, inspiring, and all had a good time. (One reality point for attendees - if you had check-out concerns - too much wait-time at the close out of Silent Auction - be assured that will be fixed for next year's event). We especially thank the Dance

Committee: Linda Brenner, John Casso, Theresa Devins, Ginny Escobedo, Nimmy Jayabose, Taryn Kraimer, Robin Langdon, Michele Pasqua, Linda Peckham (photography on website and in this



Daniel Wallach and others unseen.

The beginning-of-the-story is that the evening commenced with a glass of champagne for guests as they arrived; guests then proceeded from the cocktail reception to the Silent Auction room where a great variety of items were displayed. Greeting guests were John Casso, CCF's President and



Dance Co-Chair, and Theresa Devins, Dance Co-Chair.

But most importantly, the Honorees brought focus to the real end-result of curing kids of cancer and bringing this dreaded disease nearer to its end, as well as the very important contribution made by the doctors, nurses and social workers caring for those in treatment and their families well-being. While CCF's mission is centered on results-oriented medical research, we are very fortunate to be closely associated with the new Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center and particularly its nursing staff for their unseen sacrifices and compassion.



SAVE the DATE!

**10th Annual Step-by-Step Walk at FDR Park in
Yorktown Heights, NY**

Registration 9AM; Walk starts at 10AM

Saturday, October 13, 2007

Check-out our web site: www.childrenscancerfund.org for Team Registration starting September 1st

www.childrenscancerfund.org



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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

Reflections from the Chairman:



CCF's 15th Annual Dinner Dance is a milestone in our history. Springtime is a time of renewal; a time to reflect on how the seeds of our mission are providing continuing progress toward the ultimate cures for childhood cancers; and a time to focus and how all our efforts can be expanded on a daily basis to make new breakthroughs for each child's treatment and continuing care.

Each donor, volunteer, nurse, doctor, social worker makes daily decisions that bring patients and their families the support that changes lives. When we lose one child's battle to survive this awful disease, we can only look forward to when we are confident that we will achieve the ultimate goal. This year's Dinner Dance theme of Dancing Under the Stars was a metaphor for rejoicing that our dance with destiny makes a difference – we together have the means to change the destiny of many wonderful children. For those that could not join us at our Dinner Dance, we hope you can celebrate during the coming months, wherever you may be, remembering our kids and thankful that you have made a difference.

In addition to honoring Dr. Michael Gewitz, we also celebrated that great part of our family – the Nursing Staff at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center. And what great attendance we experienced from the doctors and support staff from those affiliated with New York Medical College. What amazing contributions they all make every

day to our community ... our hospital ... our children.

Our Victory Speaker, Casey Kaplan, was fabulous; no more needs to be said, but see her story on following pages. Our hearts were warmed by Michele Pasqua's singing as part of the video presentation – what talent! Who knows, but maybe she will aim for American Idol next?

We also honor those that have been past Dinner Dance attendees but could not attend – you are forever special and we hope next year you can attend – our tentative date is April 26, 2008.

I also am greatly appreciative that Lory Pasqua made so many past Dinner Dances successful with extraordinary patience, resourcefulness, recruitment of long-term committee members and pioneering every step of the way. You were with us this year with wonderful transition support. Lory you are continually great! Thank you from all of us.



You all know that with Lory's passing-the-baton, John Casso and Theresa Devins accepted the awesome responsibility as the new Co-Chairs of this evening's fundraising event. Another new talented supporter, Taryn Kraimer, brought in new Silent Auction donors, and has agreed to take on the Emcee role for next year's Dinner Dance. John and Theresa also introduced an innovative extra-giving avenue, Fund the Future, as a spontaneous way to give as the evening came to a close.... And it was successful in contributing over expectations; thanks to a seed first-giver with a \$1,000 challenge donation. Fundraising success was their achievement and what a gift for the kids!

As you expand your relationship as

Continued on page 3

Creators and Implementers

Continued from page 2

part of CCF's family, you will come to appreciate the keys to our success - great people in the research field and patient services: Dr. Jayabose, who never stops creating successes for CCF while always giving his all to the children, is exploring ways to replicate U.S. physician research and application protocols serving in lesser developed countries where children's cancer facilities are almost non-existent; Dr. Gyeong Baeg, our new researcher, and his team have a new project on cancer genes well underway; Barbara McLain and Rose Bartone have expanded our social worker time and geographical coverage and we welcome Jaime Rosenthal in a further commitment to our work with patient services; nurse Ginny Escobedo has brought in significant new sources of funding for special patient services; three Junior Investigators with PhDs, working in university labs funded by CCF grants, have unique 3-year programs in-progress; and innumerable others, who serve the families and patients, have all contributed. All our research gets worldwide exposure via our Internet website and via prestigious medical journals that circulate globally.

Our appreciation is joyful. At this year's Dinner Dance, some of you Danced Under the Stars; we hope all our readers, in their hearts, will Dance With Our Stars and Dance For Our Stars - our children, wherever they may be.

Andy

Andy Brenner
Chairman, Children's Cancer Fund

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. Here are some recent "creators and implementers," as well as those with plans on the drawing board.

Travis Day 2007 - The 4th Annual Travis Day will be held on (TBD) at the Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club in Hopewell Junction. CCF's Vice Chairwoman Kelli Muller-Gonzalez, did a fantastic job of organizing last year's event, particularly given her responsibilities to Travis and a new baby, Aleena. Travis Day 2006 raised close to \$8,500 - we thank all that served, all that came and all that gave; we ask everyone - newcomers and veterans - to come to this year's event!



Travis-My Day is FUN!



Gina & Ken, mutually in love!

Challenge Camp 2007 - Last year the "Kid Boss" program, created by the campers raised over \$2,000. for CCF, as part of its annual "Challenge Camp Charitable Cause Carnival" in Tuckahoe, NY. The event will be held again this summer when the campers will select a charity benefiting kids. We wish them well and hope the future will bring us together again. The camp is focused on the development of talented and gifted children, ages 7-14. For information about their 27th year in 2007, visit www.challengecamps.com or call Carole Berman, Executive Director, at 914-779-6024.

John Hand Memorial Golf Outing - June 27, 2007 - This major supporter of CCF held its



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

Annual Golf Outing last year raising \$19,900. We thank John Carraylus, Keith Maddock and all the many more that make this fundraiser topnotch. Thanks to all attendees and hope to see you this June.

Butterflies for Jodie - November 24, 2007 - With a mission to honor the memory of Jodie Michelle Torigian (January 26, 1979-November 18, 2000), a group of more than 20 friends have raised, over the past years, well over \$150,000 and donated these funds to various Westchester charities, which in 2006 included CCF. "Butterflies had special significance to Jodie - they represented life, love and eternity." Thanks to all committee members and the sponsors.

This newsletter is published in proud memory of:
Carlos S. age: 2 years
Adam F. age: 20 years
John M. age: 9 years
David K. age: 20 years
Andrew P. age: 10 years
Lucia M. age: 6 years

Thank You to:

We list here some constant donors, some new ones and others that have sent us notes. Do send us photos and write-ups!

Maureen D. Piche of Katonah, NY for responding to our newsletter's "Wish List" by soliciting colleagues at Archstone Consulting, Stamford, CT for a package of VHS tapes, DVD's and electronic games for pediatric cancer patients – delivered right after Christmas!

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

WAL*Mart of Fishkill, NY for a hefty donation of \$1,000 in December 2006 with thanks to Kelli Muller-Gonzalez for community work and Travis Day.

Janet Goldman & Daughter of Pittsford, NY for her daughter's donation of bat mitzvah present money to CCF in memory of her grandmother, who died of pancreatic cancer.

The Baltimore USBC Women's Bowling Association and President, Cynthia Lloyd, for the generous, year-end 2006 collection of funds from members for CCF.

Sister Frances Irene Fair, O.P., of Bishop Dunn Memorial School in Newburgh, NY writes to Dr. Jay the following: "Lynn Hastings, a parent of Megan, who attends our school and has leukemia, has told me about the care, love and concern you show to all children. Be assured you, and the doctors will also be remembered in our daily prayers. May you all be blessed for the way you use your time and talents for others."

Family Britches (Chappaqua and New Canaan) and **Saw Mill Club** (Mt. Kisco) for continuously raising energy, awareness, and funding for CCF's family and patient services programming. Most recently they sponsored CCF president John

Casso's (seen here) "Spinning for the Cure" campaign! In addition, much appreciation goes to the customers and members of Family Britches and Saw Mill Club for their participation.



Lauren Gallinari of Tuckahoe, NY. A high school senior at Manhattan's Loyola School, hosted a dress-down day for "a minimum of \$5. at the door" (guess no school day, if you couldn't get admitted?). She writes "we raised \$1,100 for CCF" and there were no expenses! Congratulations on savvy fundraising!

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

The Many Friends and Family of Joan E. Quatchak of Franklin Park, PA for donating to CCF in her memory.

Pediatric Oncology's Winter Celebration on January 7, 2007 successfully undertaken by CCF's Babara McLain and Rose Bartone.

Elissa Beerman of Flushing, NY & Manhattan Community College Early Childhood, along with other teachers, including Tanny Rahman and Patrizia Sicilia, taught pre-schoolers how to make homemade baked goods and then have a sale that raised funds to help other less fortunate kids .

The Sweet Family (Linda, Teddy & Matthew) of Cornwall, NY for their continuing annual donation after their son Matthew's battle with ALL. They write: "Matt is in 9th grade taking AP courses, training his German shepherd puppy, playing his guitar and hiking 80 miles in NM with his Boy Scout Troop, including white water rafting, horseback riding and Black Powder shooting as in the Civil

War."

Nick Garin, Assistant Attorney General, State of NY in Poughkeepsie, NY for awarding CCF funds recovered as part of an investigation into fraudulent fundraisers using a similar name.

James Witt & the H.O.P.E. for Youth Foundation, Crompond, NY for its annual contribution to CCF.

New foundations supporting CCF include several anonymous ones in the North Palm Beach, FL area; RBS Greenwich Capital Foundation, Inc.; the Melvin Backman-Niesy Fund via The New York Community Trust; Michael A. Cohen Charitable Trust Foundation; Ushkow Charitable Fund, Inc. and the Boucher Charitable Foundation.

The Many Friends and the Gannon Family of Hyde Park, NY for donating to CCF in loving memory of Nicholas William Gannon.

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. All you do is: 1) Login; 2) Click the "My Cause" tab for CCF info and 3) shop

Stew Leonard's (Yonkers) and Eileen Spencer, who created a *CCF Wishing Well* collecting \$384.00 from donors and to Bill Frank for working with Eileen.

Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School (Yorktown Heights) and Maritza Scagnelli who advised the school's Future Business Leaders of America chapter in a Spring Jam laser show event on April 23, 2007, which raised \$550.00 for CCF.

Our 15th Dinner Dance Honoree: Michael H. Gewitz, MD

Dr. Michael H. Gewitz is Physician-in-Chief/Executive Director and Chief of Pediatric Cardiology at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center. He is also Professor and Vice Chairman of Pediatrics for New York Medical College.

Named one of the "Best Doctors in America" by American Health Magazine, Dr. Gewitz has also been included every year since inception in the America's Best Doctors publications, as well as New York Magazine's Best Doctors in New York listings, and was a driving force behind the campaign to build the new Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center.

Dr. Gewitz graduated from Yale in 1970 and received his medical degree from Hahnemann Medical



Dr. Gewitz & Dr. Newman

University, now Drexel University, in Philadelphia. He stayed on in that city for internship and residency at the University of Pennsylvania's Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), the oldest children's hospital in the United States. In Philadelphia, he met and married Judy as they began their life together 34 years ago. A year in London, as Senior Registrar in Intensive Care/Pulmonary Medicine at the world's oldest children's facility, The Hospital for Sick Children, was followed by fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology back in New

Haven at Yale.

Dr. Gewitz credits the strong support of his family for providing the energy and inspiration he has needed over the years. He is the strongest supporter of his wife, Judy's successful career as Guidance Counselor at The Alternative School in the White Plains school system, of daughter Emily, Senior Publicist at the 92nd Street YMHA, and son Andrew, a PhD student at Stanford.



Dr. & Mrs. Gewitz, the Brenners & the Jayaboses

Sources for Support

The following has been contributed by a supporter, Joanne Ramirez – thank you Joanne for caring:

Cure Search

www.curesearch.org - Very comprehensive information about specific types of cancer diagnoses, treatment and resources for patients, parents and families.

Candlelighters

www.candlelighters.org - An organization whose mission is to educate, support, serve and advocate for families of children with cancer, survivors of childhood cancer and the professionals who care for them.

CaringBridge

www.caringbridge.org - A free non-profit web service that connects family and friends to share information, love and support during a health crisis.

Care Pages

www.carepages.com - Free per-

sonal, private web pages that help families and friends communicate when someone is facing illness.

For Children:

Band-Aids and Blackboard <http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/faculty/jfleitas/bandaides/> - web site for children of all ages – divided into categories for children and teens.

The Captain Chemo

www.royalmarsden.org/captainchemo/index.asp - This an interactive comic strip/game that also teaches children about cancer and treatment.

Ability on-line Support

Network – www.ablelink.org - A free friendly web site where children and youth with disabilities and illness can meet others, make friends from all over the world and share their hopes and fears.

For Teens/Young Adults:

Steps for Living – [\[living.org\]\(http://www.stepsfor-living.org\) - Educating and empowering young adults with everyday steps for living through and beyond their darkest hours.](http://www.stepsfor-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

I [2] Y ... I'm too young for this! <http://imtooyoungforthis.org> or www.myspace.com/imtooyoungforthis - A social media resources portal for young adults with cancer.

Group Loop

www.grouploop.org – A safe place for teens with cancer and their parents to build an on-line community to find support, education and hope while dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

Planet Cancer

www.planetcancer.org – Young adult focused community offering survivor retreat programs, social networking and on-line forums with real world advice and inspiring stories.

Dr. Jay's Tribute to the Nursing Staff

We salute you, the nursing staff of the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital for your tireless and dedicated service to our children. You are always there for them — whether they are in the Emergency Department with a fever, or admitted to the pediatric floor with a newly diagnosed cancer; whether they are in the ambulatory surgery or the infusion center for a short procedure or they are critically ill in the intensive care unit, you are always there for them. You are the first to meet them and the last to leave their side. We may see them morning and afternoon, but you are the ones who spend every minute of the day with the child, making sure every call is answered, every subtle sign is recognized, every symptom is relieved, and every minute detail of the treatment is attended to. You are our eyes and our hands when we can not be with them. You are the first line of defense against a disease that no child should have to deal with.

You are there to play with them and keep them entertained when they

feel well, but you are even closer to them when they suffer from the symptoms of their disease or complications of their treatment. You not only take care of the children, but you also comfort their parents. You listen to their feelings of shock, sorrow, and hope and become their friends in need. You are at the front line bearing the most burden without ever complaining how hard it is. No one has a tougher job than yours. Yet you do it so well without ever getting the recognition you deserve.

Long before we had the state-of-the-art Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, I knew that it was because of your skills, dedication and compassion, that our children received the best care in the most compassionate and personal man-

ner. Now the beauty and comfort of this facility matches your superb care.

Without you, so many children could not have won their fight against cancer, and had a chance for their future. Without you, Westchester Medical Center and the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital could not have come this far in the care of sick children. So, on behalf of all the children whose lives you touched, and their parents and families, and on behalf of all of us at the Division of Pediatric Oncology, we salute you for your dedication and commitment towards the care of children with cancer at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.



Introducing a Dinner Dance Star - Casey Arden Kaplan – Victory Speaker for CCF's 15th Annual Dinner Dance

My name is Casey. I am 13 years old and I live in Pound Ridge, New York with my mom, dad and brother. My favorite sports are swimming, tennis, skating and skiing. I also love writing, painting, reading, playing the computer, decorating and hanging out with my friends and family.

My favorite books are the Harry Potter books; they are amazing and when I get into the books they can even make me believe that I am there.

When I grow up, I am hoping to be a surgeon. The reason for this is

that when I was seven I was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. I was treated by the best doctors there were. My main doctor was Dr. J., and he inspired me. (My only problem is that I have to get over my fear of blood.)

Some of my favorite quotes are ...

"When life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

"You gotta follow that dream, wherever that dream may lead."
— Elvis

"Here is the test to find whether your mission on Earth is finished:

if you're alive, it isn't."

— Richard Bach

Please have a good time tonight ... and just enjoy yourself.

— Casey Arden Kaplan



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 for the full schedule, applications and information. Contact your social worker to help facilitate the application process if you are interested in attending.”

CCF People News:

NEEDED: A GOLFER/ EXECUTIVE

If you know someone, perhaps newly retired, looking for a worthy cause to raise funds for via a golf event, please send us the contact info. The aim is to have a major Golf Event in Fall 2008, renewing a CCF tradition that was curtailed several years ago. Please e-mail your interest to: support@childrenscancerfund.org

Jamie Rosenthal joins CCF officially in July 2007, though she has been doing lots of volunteer tasks for multiple years, including the Dinner Dance committee.

Jaime’s career so far has been mostly gaining academic kudos and putting in extra hours in many social-worker volunteer roles. This spring she gained her Masters in Social Work from Fordham University with a 3.80 GPA, preceded by a BS in Human Services

at University of Hartford, where she was Dean’s List, President’s List and Magna Cum Laude. As an intern at Westchester Medical Center, she has provided counseling to newly diagnosed patients, helped families find needed resources and started-up a parent group for in-patients.

Welcome Jamie, we are proud to have you with us, with our patients and supporting their families.

Go to www.childrenscancerfund.org – more Dinner Dance photos

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