



The Bear Facts Gazette

Published by the Children's Cancer Fund - Summer 2009

Children's Cancer Fund Announces Establishment of Dr. Jayabose Scholarship

On Saturday, March 21st, 2009 at the 17th Annual Teddy Bear Ball, the Children's Cancer Fund Board of Directors announced the establishment of The Children's Cancer Fund Dr. Somasundaram Jayabose Scholarship to continue the lifelong commitment of Dr. Jay to improving the lives of children who are battling devastating diseases.

Dr. Jay founded the Children's Cancer Fund in 1992 at New York Medical College with a mission to fund basic-science research as well as clinical research in childhood cancer, and to provide better

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Get Your Walking Shoes Ready!

Join the Children's Cancer Fund for the 12th Annual Children's Cancer Fund Walk on Sunday, October 3rd, 2009 at FDR State Park in Yorktown Heights, New York. Bring the whole family, friends, neighbors and colleagues to show your support to help find a cure for children with cancer. Registration begins at 9:00 am, the Walk starts at 10:00 am, RAIN or SHINE!

100.7 WHUD radio personality Andy Bale will serve as Walk Marshall and Children's Cancer Fund Medical Advisor Dr. Claudio Sandoval will lead the pack of eager and dedicated walkers and Walk teams. The three mile route will be well marked with rest stops along the way. Participants will receive Walk t-shirts, lunch, and a fun and healthy exercise experience .

Support for the 11th Annual Children's Cancer Fund Walk came from Paul Trez, Brad Fund, McDonald's-Yorktown, NY, Desert Moon Grill, Accredo, PepsiCo, Barton Orchards, Shaw's, Luciano's Cafe, Westchester Medical Imaging, Super Deli of Somers, and My Child's Hand.

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2nd Annual Children's Cancer Fund Casino Night

On Friday, September 25th, 2009, beginning at 7:30pm, the Children's Cancer Fund will hold the 2nd Annual Casino Night to benefit the Children's Cancer Fund at Beckwith Pointe overlooking the Long Island Sound in New Rochelle, New York. For just \$75.00, Casino Night participants receive \$150.00 in playing chips to try their hand at Blackjack, Craps, and Roulette as well as other table games. Professional dealers, great raffle prizes and delicious hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and carving stations will round out this spectacular Vegas style event.

Special thanks in advance to Children's and Women's Physicians of Westchester Nurse Ginny Escobedo and Social Worker Jamie Rosenthal for co-chairing the 2nd Annual Children's Cancer Fund Casino Night.

Visit www.childrenscancerfund.org for more information, rules and event details. Please note: no cash prizes or winnings will be issued.

SAVE THE DATE!

September 25, 2009 - Casino Night - Beckwith Pointe, New Rochelle, NY
October 3, 2009 - Annual Walk - FDR State Park, Yorktown, NY

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.

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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

A Message From the President



Dear Friends,

The 17th Annual Children's Cancer Fund Teddy Bear Ball was a huge success! More than 360 guests – many for the first time – attended our gala event to show their support for CCF and bid farewell to our dedicated leader, Dr. Somasundaram Jayabose and his lovely wife and CCF Board member, Nimmy Jayabose. The evening was magical and memory-filled for all.

Dr. Jay's initial vision to be a part of a group of physicians who will one day cure all children with cancer is getting closer to success everyday, and the Children's Cancer Fund remains committed to being a part of it. Fortunately, Dr. Claudio Sandoval, another vital member of that visionary team, is ready to join CCF as Medical Advisor and carry on with the research and good work the Children's Cancer Fund began nearly 20 years ago.

It's remarkable to note that in that short period of time, the Children's Cancer Fund has helped lead the way

in establishing and fostering research in childhood cancers, enriched the quality of lives for hundreds of children with cancer by improving clinical and family support services, and been instrumental in raising the pediatric cure rate to nearly 80%. While we have a way to go, it's easy to see that through more targeted research and collaborations with other leaders in the field like Dr. Sandoval, the Children's Cancer Fund plays a vital role in the race toward the 100% cure rate goal.

As part of the Children's Cancer Fund family, you too can continue your effort to help improve the lives of children who are battling devastating diseases in many ways. Perhaps volunteering or donating blood is for you. Maybe you will become a bone marrow donor, sponsor a fundraising event, or make a tax-deductible contribution. Please visit www.childrenscancerfund.org for additional ways to get involved.

Whatever form your commitment takes, thank you in advance for believing in the Children's Cancer Fund and making a difference in the lives of children with cancer.

With thanks and appreciation,

John A. Casso
President

This newsletter is published in proud memory of:

Ariana Fider, age 4
Melissa Milchak, age 16
Eeva Crannell, age 16
Alvaro Hernandez, age 20
Stephanie Reyes, age 18



S. Jayabose, MD

A Message From Dr. Jay

Dear Friends:

After sixteen years of being founder, medical advisor, and board member of the Children's Cancer Fund, and working as a pediatric oncologist at Westchester Medical Center and New York Medical College, I will be leaving my positions this September with sadness, but also with a great sense of satisfaction and reward about what we have achieved together and the lessons I have learned over the years.

The reason for my leaving is because of my realization, although rather late in my career, of a less known but an important fact about the plight of children with cancer in low income countries, and a compelling need and desire within me to make a difference in the lives of these children. About 230,000 children get cancer every year around the world. Of those, 200,000 (86%) live in low income countries and only 40% of them have access to modern cancer treatment. Others get inadequate treatment or no treatment at all. Although there are many reasons for this, such as lack of infrastructure and limited funding, the single most important reason is the fact that there are very few physicians and nurses trained in pediatric oncology in these low income countries. I personally became aware of this fact only a few years ago, when I was researching the topic of cancer care in developing countries.

In 2006, my wife Nimmy and I made a trip to our home state of Tamil Nadu in southern India where we visited all four major hospitals that treat children with cancer, all clustered in the northern most part of the state. I found that of the estimated 2,600 children who develop cancer every year in that state, only about 1,000 (38%) were getting treatment at these centers while others might have been getting some treatment in hospitals not equipped to care for them or not getting any treatment at all. So Nimmy and I made a decision to try and make a difference in the life of these patients by establishing a cancer center for children in the southern part of the state where more children would have access to cancer care. To achieve this goal, we will be moving to Madurai, a city in the southern part of Tamil Nadu, India towards the end of 2009 and plan to stay there for about five years. At Meenakshi Mission Hospital and Research Center, a major medical facility in the area, we will establish a pediatric oncology center to treat and help all children with cancer and their families, and to train more young doctors and nurses in the field of pediatric oncology.

I am also very pleased and proud to tell you that many of our New York based pediatric nurses, residents, and nurses from the transfusion service, have offered to come to India on sabbatical and to help develop this new program with me. I am very confident that our plans in India will be a success because I have the knowledge and experience I have gained from so many of you - colleagues, friends, patients, and families - to take with me. But whatever I may achieve in this new endeavor, I will always remember that it is what I learned here that will continue to shape my life.

Thank you for the wonderful journey.

S. Jayabose, MD

CCF Announces a New Family Service Program

Effective June 1, 2009, the Children's Cancer Fund introduced a new Meal Card program for family members of all Pediatric Hematology-Oncology patients at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. CCF social workers distribute five complimentary meal cards to each family for redemption, at no charge, for a 1/2 sandwich, a cup of soup or small salad, and a medium fountain soda or coffee, per card, at au bon pain restaurant, Westchester Medical Center-Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. The restaurant is open every day from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm. The Meal Card program is one of the many services offered by the Children's Cancer Fund.

CCF Wishes to Thank...

For her birthday, 8 year-old **Iman Behbehani** decided to help children less fortunate than herself. With money that would have been used for her party, Iman purchased several boxes of arts and crafts supplies for the patients treated at the Outpatient Infusion Center in the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center. Her "Rolling Arts and Crafts Center" includes eight drawers of materials for children to create pictures, frames, jewelry, hats, visors, and many other fun and artistic items while receiving chemotherapy infusions. Iman's generosity and thoughtful effort has already brought many smiles and much happiness to patients and their families.

The Uniformed Fire Fighters Association of the City of New

Rochelle who raised \$6000 for CCF at their annual Car, Truck, and Bike show held last fall.

The NYMC chapter of **Project Sunshine** aims to ease the stress children may feel from living with a serious medical challenge or from undergoing a rough treatment regimen. At nearby Blythedale Children's Hospital, dedicated volunteers give of their time, energy, and talents to help create arts and crafts projects with patients and their family members. Project Sunshine volunteers also play games and read to hospitalized children at the Westchester Medical Center Pediatric Hematology-Oncology ward after they receive transfusion treatments.

As a result of their Project Sunshine 8th Annual Raffle held on December 4, 2008, \$2,444.57 was raised for CCF.

The check was presented at a recent Board meeting. Presenting the check are from left to right:



Susan Darrah, Gretchen Harmon, Julia Reid, Celia Vihtelic. CCF wishes to thank all the Project Sunshine participants of the Annual raffle: Susan Darrah, Celia Vihtelic, Laura Heacock, Erin McLaughlin, Julia Reid, Gretchen Harmon, Tiffany Perkins, Veronica Bernardo, Jennifer Ng, Todd Hayano, Katie Modzelewski, Hiran Cardoz

Scenes from the 17th Annual Teddy Bear Ball.....



Jill Doherty, Auctioneer



The Jayabose family



*Dr. Jay and his nurses:
Christina Cuffari, Lisa Silverman,
Dr. Jay and Ginny Escobedo*



Dr. Jay's biggest fans!



Dr. Jay with his posse!

CCF WISH LIST

- ♥ USB Flash Drives
(with 128MB or greater storage) with neck cord
- ♥ Entertainment Software for kids 5 years
- ♥ Norton Antivirus 2009 for 3 users
- ♥ New Toys
- ♥ Phone Cards
- ♥ Snack foods
- ♥ Gas Cards
- ♥ Bottled water
- ♥ Supermarket Cards
- ♥ Lysol wipes

Please call Barbara McLain to donate at 914-594-3402

SAVE THE DATE

18th Annual
Teddy Bear Ball
Westchester Marriott
Tarrytown, NY
Saturday, May 1, 2010

VOLUNTEERS

To become a volunteer or to start your own fundraiser, please e-mail us: support@childrenscancerfund.org

Farewell and Welcome

After more than 15 years of being Medical Advisor to the Children's Cancer Fund, I will be retiring from my post as of this September and moving on to new research opportunities in India. I am, however, very pleased to announce that my associate and a great friend, Dr. Claudio Sandoval, will be assuming the role of CCF Medical Advisor effective this fall.

Dr. Sandoval is an attending physician in the division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and a Professor of Pediatrics at New York Medical College, Valhalla, New York. He has been working very closely with me (and Dr. Tugal and Dr. Ozkaynak) at Westchester Medical Center-Maria Fareri Children's Hospital for nearly 16 years and has done an outstanding job of providing comprehensive and compassionate care for children with cancer and their families. Over the years, Dr. Sandoval has successfully completed many scientific projects at our Children's Cancer Laboratory, in collaboration with Dr. Sharon Pine and is currently collaborating with Dr. GyeongHun Baeg in active research.

I am certain that under Dr. Sandoval's guidance as Medical Advisor, the Children's Cancer Fund will continue to make great progress in research activities that will contribute greatly to the advancement in the treatment of childhood cancer.

S. Jayabose, M.D.

Chief, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology

New York Medical College - Maria Fareri Children's Hospital

CCF Hits the Race Circuit!



Jim Hopper from Central Deli and Catering in Florida, NY has a very special relationship with Rachael Rivera, a grandmother to a CCF patient. Jim has been collecting donations at his deli for CCF for some time now. The Hopper family

also is the primary sponsor of the race car you see in the picture. He recently approached Ken Busta who is the owner of the race car to see if he would be interested in supporting CCF as well by placing our logo on the car.

Ken says, "We were more than pleased and happy to do so! The logo is on the track side of the car, where all the fans in the stands can see it. We are very pleased to be involved in such a great cause and are currently and successfully seeking donations from other participants at the track. We hope that by the end of the season we can make a nice contribution!"

Chris Busta, 27 is the fantastic driver of the car. He lives in Ballston Lake, NY and has been racing for 10 years. He has achieved numerous Track Championships over the years and has multiple wins in his current Sportsman division. The car races each Friday night from April through September at **Albany Saratoga Speedway** located on Rt. 9 in Malta, NY just off Exit 12 of the Adirondack Northway (I-87). Their web site is www.cvra.com.

Additional thanks must go to the hard working crew who donates their time which consists of: Vinny Salerno from Chester NY, Charlie Barns from Vinny's crew, Ken Busta, (Chris's Dad), Elaine Busta. (Chris's Mom), Ashley Dahoda, Gary Hollinger, Brian Motyl, Jamie Walsh and Tom Walsh. Special assistance from Bruce Yarter.

2009 APOSW Conference

April 22- 26

APOSW (Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers) is an international association whose mission is to advance pediatric psychosocial oncology care through clinical social work practice, research, advocacy, education and program development. Thanks to CCF, I was able to attend this year's conference in Memphis, Tennessee, and once again have a chance to learn and network with my colleagues. The annual conference always has a wide range of topics covered both in intensive sessions and smaller break out sessions. Topics included Loss and Grief, Parent Groups, Physical Activity for Childhood Cancer Survivors, Ethical Dilemmas, Self Care, Support for Siblings, Building a Community of Young Adult Brain Tumor Survivors, Psychosocial/Family Issues Around Childhood Cancer Diagnosis, Intervention Program for Families at High Risk of Conflict/Violence in the Medical Setting, Survivorship, and Pediatric Palliative Care. In addition, there were many informative poster presentation on the above topics and more as well as Special Interest Working Groups.

Some of the things I came away with from the conference were:

- Suggestions for the psychosocial assessment form that Rose Bartone, LCSW has been working on.
- Some changes to our Sibling Day program. Getting an actual microscope for the siblings to look through and see Leukemia cells and providing a CD with the pictures of

the day for each sibling who attends. Peter Escobedo is our honorary photographer and "Big Kid", who captures our sibs in action!

- I also participated in the Complimentary/Integrative Therapies Special Interest Work Group. I chose this group because we have a working program graciously funded by the Pediatric Cancer Foundation. It was interesting to see what challenges other facilities face in incorporating services like, Massage, Reiki and Guided Imagery. I am proud to say that we are providing a high level of these services here at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. The group will continue to work via email and conference calls to establish goals.

- A small group from Memorial Slone Kettering did a presentation on the importance of celebratory events in the lives of families living with Cancer. It confirmed for me that our Family Fun Day sponsored by Giant Kids and our future plans for an annual Halloween Party are worthwhile and therapeutic.

APOSW and CCF are highly specialized organizations addressing the myriad of issues surrounding Childhood Cancer. The impact of attending the conference is most keenly felt when you return to the everyday work with renewed enthusiasm and a different perspective. It is an honor and a privilege to be a member and receive so much support from both organizations.

-Barbara McLain LCSW

Scholarship *continued from page 1*

support services that will improve the quality of life for patients and their families. With special expertise including pediatric leukemias, lymphomas, Hodgkin's Disease, Wilms' Tumor and neuroblastoma, and sickle cell disease and ITP, Dr. Jay's initial vision to be part of a group of physicians who will one day cure all children with cancer gets closer to success every day.

In response to the exciting news and honor for Dr. Jay, Teddy Bear Ball auctioneer Jill Doherty helped raised more than \$10,000 toward funding the new Scholarship. Friends, family, patients, colleagues, and others all showed their effort to help Jay - and the Children's Cancer Fund - fulfill his dream!

Visit www.childrencancerfund.org for more information or to contribute to the Dr. Somasundaram Jayabose Scholarship.

12th Annual CCF Walk *continued from page 1*

Children's Cancer Fund board member Kathie Lusardi is chairperson of the 12th Annual Children's Cancer Fund Walk. Kathie has big walking shoes to fill as she takes over the organizational reins from Nimmy Jayabose, who after 11 years of dedication and hard work is stepping down as Walk chairperson. Nimmy will be joining her husband Dr. Jay in their new life adventure and personal commitment to establish a pediatric oncology center in Madurai, India. Come join Nimmy and Dr. Jay at the Walk and wish them farewell and good luck.

For more information, event details and registration, or to become a sponsor of the 12th Annual Children's Cancer Fund Walk, please visit www.childrencancerfund.org or contact Kathie Lusardi at Kathie.Lusardi@att.net or (203) 778-5001.

Since its inception in 1998, the Children's Cancer Fund Walk has raised more than \$600,000 for research and patient services.

SAVE THE DATE

18th Annual Teddy Bear Ball

Westchester Marriott • Tarrytown, NY

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Thank you to Ron Smilowitz who graciously (and quickly) responded to our request for a new walk photographer with Ed Yarmchuk's retirement. Ron and his wife, Meg have volunteered with CCF for several years.

SAVE A LIFE:

- **Donating Blood** – A valuable way to assist is by donating blood or platelets. Call your local blood bank or Hudson Valley Blood Center at: 1-800-843-BLOOD
- **Donating Bone Marrow** – For more information about matching and donating bone marrow, call 1-800-Marrow2



I would like to make a donation of \$_____ to **Children's Cancer Fund**.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Check enclosed

*Please make checks payable and mail to: **Children's Cancer Fund, PO Box 658, Millwood, NY 10546***

Please bill my credit card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit card no. _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature _____

If you would like to make your doantion in honor or in memory of someone, or to celebrate a special occasion, please let us know and we will send an acknowledgement:

In honor of: _____ In memory of: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Donate Your Old Car to the Children's Cancer Fund

Easy, Quick, and Tax Deductible!

Vehicle does not need to be in operating condition.

Boats (with trailers), trucks and RV's are welcome.

For more information and to donate now, visit www.childrenscancerfund.org
or email your questions to: support@childrenscancerfund.org



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