



The Bear Facts Gazette

Published by the Children's Cancer Fund ~ Winter 2004

News from Our Social Worker: GIANT KIDS PROGRAM

We all know that all the kids we treat are awesome. Now we have a concrete way to honor their struggle and courage. Giant Kids is the idea of the dad of one of our patients. He is your strong, quiet type, who prefers to remain anonymous!

Mr. X approached me one day and said, "You know, from my experience in soccer, kids love trophies and medals. I am getting the biggest trophy I can find for my son. Then I thought that other kids might like something like that too." I shared that I too have often thought it would be great to find some way to recognize the end of treatment, or an especially trying medical experience, such as Bone Marrow Transplant. So we decided on a medal and a certificate. The medal itself is of good quality and impressive. This is what the body of the certificate says:

GIANT KIDS

**Awards this gold medal for enduring courage to a kid
with the heart of a SUPERHERO!**

(KID'S NAME)

**Your courage lifts up those who love you, giving them strength
to follow you on your journey to wellness. Although your path was often
difficult, your brave spirit shone brightly
for all to marvel at your victory.**

**And while your footsteps may be small,
they leave behind the footprints of a GIANT!**

Our experience with the children who have received the medal and certificate so far has been positive and often touching. Parents and other loved ones can help me ensure no one is left out by reminding me when their child is ending treatment. Also, feel free to contact me if your child has recently ended treatment and you think he/she would enjoy being recognized. I can be reached directly at 914-594-3402 or through the Pediatric Oncology office.

—Barbara McLain, CSW

SAVE THIS DATE - Saturday, March 20th
Annual Dinner Dance - Marriott Tarrytown - Call Lory Pasqua, 203-221-8248

CHILDREN'S CANCER FUND

PO Box 658, Millwood, NY 10546

800-426-5413 - Fax: 503-961-0964

www.childrenscancerfund.org

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The Bear Facts Gazette is published by the **Children's Cancer Fund**, a non-profit 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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CHILDREN'S CANCER FUND IS LOOKING FOR

BOARD MEMBERS

BECOME PART OF A WONDERFUL TEAM

of people with the same common bond – HELPING TO FIND THE CURE! Meetings take place once a month.

Requirements:

- Energy
- A positive attitude
- Hands with a sense of urgency
- Willingness to share ideas, resources and connections that will take us to the next level.
- Willingness to head-up a Committee, Project, or Fundraising event
- Willingness to be a fundraiser

For further information
please call Lory Pasqua at 203-221-8248

A POEM by TRISH ZIMMERMAN:

A party for sure
dinner, dancing, commiserating
money and wine flow.

The cause is not known
to the passerby
but, to many, the pain is real.
Moms, Dads, siblings, and friends smile
and toast through their grief.

A circus to celebrate childhood perhaps...
or clowns to
hide the tears of so many

The cause becomes evident
as the images flash on a screen
Too many, too young, too innocent, too much.
And just like the memories of a childhood circus
the joy is short-lived.

These people with clown faces on know the bigtop
is down
they watch the caravans somber down the road.

For the hopeful, joy will return
but, for others they are alone in the deserted field
all that remains is the litter, a sole balloon drifting
out of sight,
and the memories of what once was.

As the circus is the Greatest Show on Earth...
A child with cancer is and should be the greatest
cause on Earth.

In memory of my dear friend Krissy,
and her Mom, Annie

This newsletter is published
in proud memory of:

Teresa B., age 13
Matthew O., age 8
Amy P., age 11
Youba D., age 2
Nija W., age 12
Brooke W., age 9
Justin A., age 2
Matthew T., age 10
James D., age 14

A 2003 SUCCESS SETS THE STAGE FOR 2004 TO BREAK \$ RECORDS

Saturday, April 5, 2003 marked the eleventh annual Children's Cancer Fund Dinner Dance. More than four hundred people braved the chilly, rainy weather to be a part of the "Greatest Cause on Earth." The Westchester Marriott was transformed into a circus, with clowns and balloons adorning every table, and the ringmaster acting as Master of Ceremonies. Despite the festive atmosphere and the circus decorations the **Children's Cancer Fund's** mission was clear, to continue funding research programs in childhood cancers, and to provide support services that improve the quality of life to affected children and their families.

The **Children's Cancer Fund** honored the Trefz family for their outstanding dedication and support. The Trefzes are quite special; their devotion to the cause has been ever present since cancer touched their lives on August 13, 1992, when their daughter Josie, age three, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. For the past eleven years the Trefz family: Paul, Paris, Josie, Kendall, Gretchen, and Wyatt, as well as grandparents Ernest and Joan, have been tremendous supporters in a variety of ways. They have held car washes at their New York and Connecticut McDonald's Restaurants. Their family McDonald's restaurants have also provided and served all the food for CCF's annual Walkathon since its inception. They have made generous donations through the Ernest and Joan Trefz Foundation. Paul and Paris are both members of the Ronald McDonald House Board, and have been instrumental in getting a Ronald House built at Westchester Medical Center's new Children's Hospital. Their continued support and contributions are invaluable to the Children's Cancer Fund. But the highlight of the night was their daughter, Josie.

It was a pleasure to see Josie looking so healthy and happy, as she addressed the guests about her life at age three, with cancer, and her life now, at fourteen, cancer-free. Some of her words made us laugh, some cry, but her words and her presence confirm the urgency to continue searching for a cure for all childhood cancers. Every child deserves the chance grow up. Congratulations to the Trefz Family for all they have done to make this chance a reality.

The evening was wonderful! The music was spectacular and everyone danced the night away. The auction was unbelievable, with so many fabulous donations, and this year's auction yielded record-breaking bids. Thank you to all who contributed and helped to make the auction a success. A special thanks to Craig Neir Associates, who provided the entertainment, and to Arlene Rosenthal and her team for their creative decorations. Thank you to Lory Pasqua for all of her dedication and hard work. This dinner dance was a tremendous success, raising close to \$160,000 for our children, who prove to be the "Greatest Cause on Earth."

SAVE the
DATE!

12th Annual Dinner Dance
Saturday, March 20, 2004
Marriott Hotel, Tarrytown, NY

For more info, call:
Lory Pasqua
203-221-8248

A WONDERFUL EVENING

AT THE HOME OF LORY AND BILL PASQUA

A dinner and wine-tasting was among many of the exciting items at our 11th Annual Dinner Dance silent auction. We had the pleasure of hosting this amazing event at our home. We helped to dice, chop, wash dishes and serve the lucky recipients. This delicious five course meal was prepared by a former award-winning New York City chef. Each course was accompanied by very special wines hand picked for that meal. This labor of love was made possible through the hard work of Chef Neil Pardo, accompanied by Marie Pardo, Mike Ferraro, Linda Spadafora and James Spadafora. A fabulous time was once again had by all.



Chef Neil Pardo at the Pasqua's Gourmet Dinner

Please look for your chance to bid on this once-in-a-lifetime event at this year's silent auction!

—Lory and Bill Pasqua

Sarah Poulin Memorial Golf Outing

September 23rd, 2003 - The Fifth Annual Sarah Poulin Memorial Golf Outing was held at the Garrison Golf Club. The event raised over \$36,000 and all money goes to the Children's Cancer Fund. The weather did not cooperate as over 100 golfers from three countries and ten states committed to play, and 80 plus braved the torrential downpours with the hope that golf could be played. Everybody held up the good spirits as breakfast and lunch was served waiting for the weather to break. ALAS - there was no golf, but the raffle prizes were handed out and everyone who participated received a gift certificate for a round of golf.

Thanks to all the brave souls who made it to the course. We hope to see you next year on September 21st for the **Sixth Annual Sarah Poulin Memorial Golf Outing.**

Planning to be in Florida in March?

Thanks to the initiative and dreams of Ashlei Newkirk, who has always wanted to do a 5K charity event at the famed Sebring International Raceway, **CCF** will be the selected charity for the **First Annual 12 Hours of Sebring Track Trot 5K** on March 14th, starting at 7:30 AM. There will be many winners in each age group ... up to 75 years, plus a drawing for SuperTickets to the **52nd Annual 12 Hours of Sebring**, and photos with the "Miss 12 Hours" race queen.

Cans for a Cure

NEWS ON THE FRONT PAGE - On December 10th, the front page of The News-Times, Danbury Connecticut's daily newspaper, featured eight-year old Skylar Honse, daughter of Kimberly and Eddie, under the head-line "A Can-do Attitude" and the article, plus a large photo, took up half of the front-page. Skylar's project is to collect cans and bottles to raise money for **CCF**. Her mother is helping to get collection points at supermarkets, schools and other locations. Kimberly reports the garage is filling up, her phone rings all the time and now the News-Times is going to report again on how successful this effort is. WOW! Thanks from **CCF** to Skylar, Mom & Dad and all the distribution supporters and donors of cans and bottles. - small things can make a difference... but how do you measure the inspiration for others?

New at CCF in 2003...

**OUR FIRST ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
EXCLUSIVELY FOR PATIENT SERVICES!**

This is an opportunity to make a difference in a child's life...all donations go directly to Patient Services—to provide medications for uninsured children, to supply games and snacks for the treatment center, to fill the gaps for those little things that bring some brightness into a child's day. Times have changed. Take this opportunity to make a difference. Send your contributions to: Children's Cancer Fund/Patient Services, PO Box 658, Millwood, NY 10546.



I would like to make a donation of \$ _____ to the **CHILDREN'S CANCER FUND.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

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

In honor of _____ in memory of: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

Check enclosed.

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



Visa MasterCard

Signature: _____

Expiration date: _____

♥ FUNDRAISING IDEAS ♥

iGive.com – A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT CCF!

Make Your life a little easier- support CCF by doing all your internet shopping through the 470+ popular online stores at www.iGive.com

For more information, to register, and to donate to **CCF** through your shopping, visit www.iGive.com. Each new person who joins and shops means a \$5 bonus for **CCF**. Sign-up and tell your friends to sign-up, too!!

Download the **iGive Shopping Window!** Never miss out on a potential donation because you didn't know a store belonged to the **iGive Mall** (there are over 400, and more join every week)— the Shopping Window takes care of that for you! When you type the name of an **iGive** store (for example: "LandsEnd.com") into your browser and then shop, your purchase will automatically count for a donation. Downloading the new Shopping Window 3.0 (provided by TopMoxie) is fast, doesn't affect the speed of your surfing, and respects your online privacy - so get it now! It is compatible with almost all Web browsers.

HERE IS A BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE of a loving gift to **CCF**. This couple chose to make a gift to each of their wedding guests as follows:

Jack & Jill, May 22, 2004

With our love and thoughts for others, we wanted a very memorable way to say "thank you" for sharing our day as we celebrate the beginning of our new life together.

In lieu of traditional wedding gifts to our guests, we have made a donation in honor of each of you to the **Children's Cancer Fund**.

We believe that one of the greatest gifts of all is one that gives life and better chances for living to children affected by childhood cancer so that they can live longer and more joyful lives.

The mission of the **Children's Cancer Fund** is "to fund research in childhood cancers and to provide support services that improve the quality of life for children with cancer and their families."

We thank you for making our day special.

Children's Cancer Fund
PO Box 658
Millwood, NY 10546
www.childrenscancerfund.org



Do you have a special occasion coming up: significant anniversary or birthday, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or the like? Consider donations to CCF either in lieu of gifts, or perhaps as "favors" to your guests. Contact support@childrenscancerfund.org with your specific requests.



DONATE PLATELETS! Call the New York Blood Center (Elmsford) at 800-843-2566

Special Thank-You's...

Chef Celia Cerasoli, formerly of the popular **Celia's** restaurant in downtown Charleston, SC, prepared her famous homemade lasagna and other specialties with the aid of Bocci's chef Walt Przegodzinski in a fundraiser for **CCF**. Bocci's hosted the event on September 23, 2003, starting with a reception at 6PM, followed by dinner paired with wine (below). Music was provided by the Chamber Music Society of Charleston. The event was "sold out." The idea for this fundraiser originated because Celia was unable to come to **CCF's** Run/Walk in October and she wanted to support her family's team effort in honor of Michael Maraldo, who is being treated for cancer.



On February 27, 2003 The Hendrick Hudson High School Student Government in Montrose, NY raised over \$350 for **CCF's** research programs during its annual volleyball marathon. A matching donation was also made to the St. Jude's Research Hospital. Thanks to Tom McLaughlin of the Marathon's Committee for making a difference for children with cancer research!



In May, students of Brookfield High School, Brookfield, CT raised over \$1,800 through **CCF** donations collected for the Three-on-Three Basketball tournament. Thanks to Sean Snyder and Victor Moro for organizing the tournament and supporting children's cancer research.



Thanks to the Student Council & Angel Network at Putnam Valley Middle School who selected **CCF** for a donation from their fall 2003 fundraising efforts.



New High School Fundraising—In Rockville Centre, NY, on Long Island, there is a middle school that has just selected **CCF** as their charity for an up-coming fundraising campaign. In the first week, four parents and 15 members of the Honor Society signed on to the project. A write-up is now about to be in the school's newspaper and they are already cultivating seventh graders who will be next year's leaders of the event.

CCF sees a trend here that is remarkable because it is coming from the younger folks, not the oldies, and the trend is to go beyond just one-time events to annual events year-after-year. Only in America can you get such young entrepreneurial talent working hard for other less-fortunate kids. Our hats are off for Deena Sena for thinking **BIG!** (more will be reported in the next newsletter).

CALLING ALL ARTISTS...

We are looking for drawings for our 12th annual Dinner Dance Journal cover. The theme for the upcoming event is "Safari 2004...searching for a cure." To enter, you must be a patient or patient's sibling. All drawings should be done on 8½ by 11 paper and be vertical (portrait). We encourage you to use lots of color! Many of these drawings may also be made into notecards that are used to raise money for **CCF**, so get your crayons and markers and start drawing.

All pictures should be mailed to: Lory Pasqua
47 Hillspoint Road
Westport, CT 06880

We've set a deadline of February 1st. Please try to enter NOW, but we will do all we can to make sure late entries through February will be eligible for notecard consideration.

WISH LIST:

Items to be given to families
(at the discretion of
our social worker):

Phone cards

Gas cards

Supermarket cards

Items for the Day Hospital:

Snack Food

Bottled Water

Lysol Wipes

To donate any of these items
please contact
Barbara McLain
914-594-3402

2004 CCF Walk scheduled for October 9th 2004: Register 9am/Walk begins 10am
Look for details in the next issue of *The Bear Facts Gazette!*

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