

The Community Counts

A monthly newsletter for Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant patients, families and supporters



The volunteer-based Family Support Program is dedicated to caring for, serving, and lightening the burden of the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Community through a comprehensive array of services and resources.

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Happy Feet Comes to 5200

Many of you may know Mumble, the penguin from the movie "Happy Feet," as a tap dancing star. While all of his penguin friends were singing, he just couldn't stop moving his feet.



Rachel and her mom are dancing!

We have a patient on 5200 who closely resembles Mumble! Since seeing this movie, Rachel (5 years old) has become the tap dancing star of 5200. Rachel loves to move her feet around like Mumble and wanted to move them around even more after she received her very own tap shoes from her mom. Staff and families always know when Rachel is coming by the sound of her "tappy toes" moving about the unit. Wherever Rachel goes her tap shoes

go right along with her! Rachel's favorite thing about wearing her new shoes is being able to hear the "tapping sounds." Keep dancing with those "Happy Feet" Rachel!



Rachel shows off her tap shoes and happy feet!

Music Therapy is fun for all ages!

Music is one of those threads that bring people together, regardless of age. Music Therapist, Tray Batson, does just that every week on 5200 by providing an outlet for kids and adults to sing, dance, and play music together. It often is one of the most joy-filled hours on the unit as patients and caregivers have the chance to "get away" and just enjoy themselves. We stopped by Music Therapy last week to learn about kids' favorite part of their time with Tray. This is what they said: **Levi, age 2:** when Tray plays the song "The Wheels on the Bus," Levi loves it when the babies on the bus go "WahWahWah" and the mama on the bus goes "ShhShhShh." **Brooklyn, age 8:** "I like being able to sing



Kennedy claps while Tray sings!



The Connection Lounge is a packed house for music therapy!

during music time." Her favorite music artist is Carrie Underwood. **Eli, age 5:** "I love hearing the song about the motorcycles and making fun sounds." **Drew, age 12:** "I like to play the bongo drums when Tray brings the game 'Donkey Konga!'"



Malachi, Brooklyn and Tray playing the bongos as part of Donkey Konga

As you can tell, a great time was had by all!

New Kids on the Block

“New Kids on the Block” features the patients on the 5200 unit who were admitted in the past month. It is our way to honor them and help the other families get to know them.



Brooklyn, age 8
Vilas, NC



Brayden, age 9
Huntington, WV



Trevin, age 7
Huntington, WV



Bryan, age 12
Rochelle, VA

Results of “Duck” sales just released!

On November 6, 2006, local Macy’s stores in North Carolina, in partnership with the Aflac Corporation, began selling limited edition Aflac Holiday Ducks in stores and online to benefit the Duke Pediatric Blood & Marrow Transplant Family Support Program. Macy’s also sold special Aflac Duck holiday gift cards available in any denomination, and ten percent of the sale price of the cards was also donated.

In late April, the proceeds from the sale of the ducks and gift cards were released. We are excited to announce that over \$28,000 was raised throughout North Carolina! Jill Denton, Regional Sales Coordinator for Aflac and Joan Dixon, District Sales Coordinator, came to tour the PBMT unit, meet some of the kids and families and present a check to the PBMT Family Support Program. Jill and Joan were especially pleased to meet Kameron Kooshesh, a PBMT patient (see photo), who was one of the poster children for the internal Aflac duck campaign. Our sincere thanks for their visit and support!

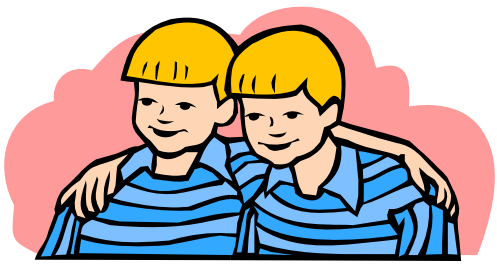
Added to the proceeds from the Macy’s/Aflac campaign was \$3400 that was sold at Duke. The in-house sales were mainly through the sponsorship of the Duke Clinical Research Institute Human Resources Department, (thanks to Mark Rumbles, HR Director and Gina Streaty, HR Program Coordinator) and the Duke Hospital Auxiliary, (thanks to Linda Moss) which facilitated several opportunities and locations for the FSP to sell the ducks. We are truly overwhelmed with the success of the “duck” sales and are grateful to Aflac and Macy’s for their generosity, as well as to our kind and generous partners, Duke Clinical Research Institute HR department and the Duke Hospital Auxiliary.

Plans have already started for this year’s campaign and we are hoping to top our proceeds from last year!



Jill Denton and Joan Dixon present the check to Dr. Kurtzberg and Jane Schroeder

A Word from Child Life: Siblings worry, too



To a child, having a brother or sister go to the hospital can be as frightening as it is for the person actually being admitted. The well child will probably face situations never experienced before. The necessity for one or both parents to be away from home may result in an uncommon separation from the well child. There will be unfamiliar settings and unfamiliar routines. Parents, relatives and friends may act very anxious or worried, and the child may hear confusing or frightening words and phrases.

There are several ways parents and caregivers can help children cope with and understand the hospitalization of their sibling. Incomplete information may create fantasies that are often worse than the real situation. Allow and encourage children to ask questions and express feelings. Give honest and understandable answers to their questions. Simple and direct answers are usually the most helpful.

Try to have contact with the healthy child on a consistent basis. Let the child know what arrangements are being made for them and be sure to let them know of any changes that may be necessary. Your health care team, including Caroline Sweezy, the Child Life Specialist, is available to provide any additional support your child may need.

Summer Sibling Party!!

Save the date! All PBMT siblings are invited to enjoy an evening of food, laughter, and fun on Tuesday, July 17th. Stay tuned for more details!

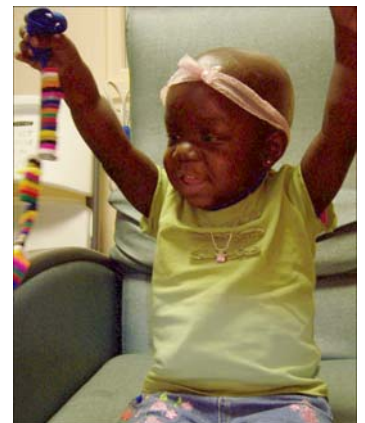
New members of the Super Steppers Club!

The halls of 5200 have been busy! There have been many patients working hard to earn footprints for their shoelaces in the Steps to Recovery Program. This month, we would like to feature those patients who have walked their way into our Super Stepper Club by earning more than 50 footprints.

Our two newest members of the Club are Jessi Leigh, and Kennedy. Jessi Leigh has earned 117 feet, a total of 585 laps, or 39 miles thus far! Jessi earned most of her feet by walking on the unit treadmill, because she could track how many miles she had walked. Jessi is trying to earn enough feet to make her shoestring as tall as she is. Kennedy has earned 59 feet, a total of 295 laps. Kennedy always made other patients and staff smile as she earned her feet. Kennedy liked to walk with her purse in hand, and would stop along the way to chat with other walkers and staff. Great job to all of our courageous and determined walkers! Keep up the great work!



Jessi Leigh



Kennedy



New Wish List on Target.com



Supporting PBMT patients and families just got easier! We are excited to unveil the Duke PBMT Family Support Program "Wish List" on Target.com. We have put over 50 different items ranging in price from \$6 to \$40 on our wish list, such as new toys for toddlers, games for school age kids, and movies for teenagers! We also have gift cards on the wish list that we'll distribute to families as needs arise and items for "Welcome Bags" to be distributed when patients are admitted to the hospital. The ideal part about this system is that it prevents us from receiving duplicates of items when we only need one. And, you don't even need to leave the comforts of your own home to support Duke PBMT!

How does it work? Logon to www.target.com. Click on "Wish List" near the top of the screen. Enter **Duke PBMT** in the "find a wish list" search engine and go from there!

If you have any questions or feedback, please let us know. Thanks for your continued support of Duke PBMT patients and families!

Winner's Circle

We are very grateful to all of the people who help support PBMT families through contributing their time, energy, and resources. We would like to thank:

- * Mauldin High School for their donation in honor of Lee Bledsoe and Beth Clayton
- * The Evanosky Foundation for their donation of DVDs
- * Kappa Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi international sorority for their donation
- * Diane and Kevin Michaelson for their donation in honor of Julia Rowe
- * Micah Tsern for his donation in honor of Matthew Tsern
- * Kelly Riley and Ebenezer Baptist Church for providing laundry detergent for PBMT families
- * Don and Beth Tomoff for their donation
- * Philip and Trish Rancer for their donation
- * Amy and Clark Morgan for their donation
- * Shashi Rao for her donation of the Happy Feet DVD
- * The family of Ally Brennan for their donations
- * Kelly Riley for providing PICU bags
- * Chris Sundberg for her donation and for the books for PBMT kids
- * The family of Alex Thompson for their donations of gift cards, toys, games, clothes and toiletry items
- * Paula Haste and BB&T for their donation of discharge bags
- * Steve Kearney for his donation
- * Joseph Philipose for his donation

The following groups who contributed to our Community Meals program for the month of June:

West Raleigh Exchange Club	Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church
St Luke's Episcopal Church	Apex United Methodist Church
East Chapel Hill High School	Macedonia Baptist Church
The Little Red Foundation	

The Community Counts is a monthly newsletter produced by the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Family Support Program, distributed free to patients, their families, volunteers, and staff.

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www.cancer.duke.edu/PBMT/support/family.asp

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If we have inadvertently left you off our Winner's Circle, please let us know!