

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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Patients celebrate milestones on 5200



Maureen celebrates "sweet 16"

The months of September and October included some special birthday celebrations on 5200 this year. In September, patients, their families, and staff gathered together in the Connection to celebrate David's 21st birthday. David really wanted the focus to be on the other kids so he asked for bright decorations, favors, and chocolate and vanilla cupcakes. When asked about his birthday party David said, "Even though the hospital is not conventionally where you would think of spending your 21st birthday, the love shown by people I had just met over the course of a few months meant more to me than anything I could have asked for. It made me question what I could have done for others to have others do so much for me. All in all I was grateful and it was everything I could have asked for and more."

In October, the unit gathered again to celebrate Maureen's 16th birthday party. After reading what David wrote about his birthday, Maureen said she felt the exact same way. She described the party as "awesome" and commented on how fun it was to share the moment with the other patients and families. Not only were the celebrations filled with decorations, cake, and a piñata, but they were also filled with love, hope, and fun memories for all.



David opens his 21st birthday present!

Family Support adds new staff member!

In our March 2007 newsletter, we shared with you the great news about the Aflac Corporation donation. Aflac's corporate philanthropy is pediatric cancer. Last year they partnered with the Duke PBMT FSP to sell Aflac Holiday Ducks. The funds from these sales enabled us to develop a new position, PBMT Program Coordinator for Children. We had several worthy and talented applicants both from inside and outside the University. Our top choice was Caroline Sweezy, who at the time was the Child Life Specialist on 5200. Caroline has all the skills we were looking for, including excellent communication skills, a great work ethic, a wonderfully sunny attitude and a strong desire to support the PBMT kids and their families. She will direct all Children's Programming and will work closely with the new Child Life Specialist and our Child Psychologist, Kristi Hardy. We hope to expand services to the outpatient setting and increase services in the inpatient setting. We are grateful to the Aflac Corporation for providing us with this opportunity.



Caroline Sweezy has transitioned from the Child Life Specialist on 5200 to the Coordinator for PBMT Children under the Family Support Program

New Kids on the block



*Meighan, age 19
Greensboro, NC*



*Khaliel, age 10
Newport News, VA*



*JT, age 2
Charlotte, NC*

“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.



*Elizabeth, age 5
King, NC*



*Jacob, age 6
Elkton, MD*



*Christopher, age 14
Amarillo, TX*



*Gabrielle, age 9
Denver, NC*

Durham community reaches out to benefit PBMT

Two local organizations have hosted individual fundraisers over the past 6 weeks to benefit the Family Support Program. We are grateful for the ways in which the Durham community has embraced us through the years!

On Saturday, September 15, over 150 happy and excited folks gathered around the pool on a gorgeous evening at the Evergreens Apartment complex for a luau and benefit for the Duke PBMT Family Support Program. The music was great, the food was outstanding (Carrabba’s Italian Grill) and the hospitality couldn’t be matched. In addition to the benefit, Robin Robinson sold Silpada Jewelry and donated all profits to the Family Support Program. All in all, over \$2200 was raised! Many thanks to Natalie Cook, Joe Eisler, Shena Williams and Robin Robinson for the great job!

On Thursday, October 18 at the Hope Valley Country Club, the Durham Regional Association of Realtors (DRAR) and the Triangle Mortgage Lenders Association (TMLA) sponsored a Charity Auction. Through the personal efforts of Renee Piere, a longtime Family Support Program supporter, the Duke PBMT was chosen as one of the charities. Lindsey Kearns, Assistant Director for the Duke PBMT Family Support Program was in attendance as our representative. The evening began with an hour of socializing and placing bids for the Silent Auction. A live auction also took place and when the evening was through, over \$8000 was raised with the proceeds to benefit Duke PBMT and another local organization. Our thanks to the DRAR and TMLA, and especially Renee Piere for her outstanding efforts on our behalf!

Another walker joins the club!



The halls of 5200 have been a busy place over the last month! Yet another walker has made it into the prestigious “Super Steppers Club” by walking laps on 5200. Maureen completed the 250 laps necessary to make it into the club just before she was discharged from the hospital.

Way to go, Maureen, for your great efforts while you were on 5200! We hope you continue to walk “laps” in the outpatient setting!

Salon Day brings a new look to 5200

If you understand the phrase “look good, feel good” then you know exactly what we’re talking about when we say that 4 women were transformed on 5200 with the return of Salon Day. Local stylist Kellie Gates from the Garden Salon spent the day on 5200 doing highlights, haircuts and trims for caregivers on 5200. The Parent Space was literally transformed into a Salon for the day as women were seen leaving the area with foil and towels on their heads! One mom, Priscilla, took advantage of Kellie’s services by cutting over 10 inches of her hair off to donate to “Locks of Love.”



Priscilla shows off her new hair cut and her hair that will be donated to Locks of Love

Salon Day has been on hiatus since spring as we sought to find a new stylist. We are grateful to have found the stylists at the Garden Salon, who provide their services at no cost to parents and caregivers.



Stylist Kellie Gates from the Garden Salon cuts caregiver's hair on 5200

One serious walker

Every Wednesday, I attend the PBMT Medical Conference where we review the status and plan of each patient. When we talked about Dylan last week, one of the first pieces of information was “he walked 5 miles before 11 am.” In and of itself, that kind of walking is extraordinary. But if I told you that he walked that kind of mileage nearly every day, I wouldn’t be far from the truth! Very few of us as healthy adults don’t even fathom getting that much exercise before 11 am, much less to be pushing an IV pole or to be interrupted to start a new medicine. But Dylan has literally redefined what it means to walk laps in the hospital.

In his time on 5200, Dylan has walked 4,580 laps, which is equivalent to **305 miles**—the distance from Durham to Baltimore! He has inspired young toddlers and older teenagers to walk laps, as evidence by the trail of IV poles wandering through the hall at any given time. His courage, strength and perseverance has been a reminder to us all of how remarkable every single patient we encounter on 5200 truly is. Way to go, Dylan, keep up the great work!!



Dylan shows off some of his 900+ footprints he's earned to date!

2007 Aflac Holiday Ducks have arrived!

Once again, the Family Support Program has been chosen as the beneficiary of the Aflac/Macy’s Holiday Duck sales. We are excited to share that this year’s theme is “Night Before Christmas” and ducks can be purchased at local Macy’s stores or by contacting the Family Support Program beginning November 6th. Large ducks cost \$15 and small ducks cost \$10. Last year’s duck sales of over \$28,000 enabled us to create a new position within our program (see front page).



“Night before Christmas” ducks benefit FSP

We are grateful to Aflac for their awareness of pediatric illnesses and continued support of our program. We hope to spread the Aflac Duck cheer this Holiday Season!

Hilliard Foundation provides grant to Family Support

For the second consecutive year, the Hilliard Family Foundation has provided a grant to the PBMT Family Support Program. They are a private foundation that supports innovative projects in the areas of healthcare, environmental preservation, fine arts and education.

Last month, the Hilliard Foundation awarded the Duke PBMT Family Support Program a gift totaling \$10,900 to underwrite several programs and resources that the FSP directs. We are so grateful to the Hilliard Family Foundation for their continued generosity. Their support and dedication has significantly impacted the ability of the Family Support Program to provide quality care and resources to patients and families. Thank you!!

Winner's Circle

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

- * The Duke Hospital Auxiliary for their donation of Birthday balloons, and toiletry items for our "In Case You Forgot Basket"
- * Belinda Lankford for her donation of toiletry items
- * Melanie Taylor for her donation of DVDs
- * The Museum of Life and Science for their donation of family passes

The individuals and organizations who made monetary donations:

- * The Evergreens at Mount Moriah
- * The Hilliard Family Foundation
- * Steve Kearney
- * Mary Rogers
- * Chris Sundberg

Those who made gifts through our Target.com Wish list:

- * Friends and family of Bailey Bihn
- * Jim and Kristy Crooks
- * Michelle Emanuel
- * Kerri Gasper *In honor of Bailey and Dakota*
- * The Ryan P. Kishbaugh Foundation
- * Pete McCorry

Those who donated quilts and fleece blankets for patient welcome bags:

- * Project Linus
- * The ladies from the Peninsula Public Library
- * Dr. Ron and Joyce Snyder

Those who contributed to our Community Meals program last month:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Apex United Methodist Church | St Luke's Episcopal Church |
| Little Red Foundation | Trinity Ave Presbyterian Church |
| Macedonia Baptist Church | West Raleigh Exchange Club |

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

Wish List

We are in need of the following items:

- * Hardees Coupons
- * Gift cards: Wal-Mart, Food Lion, and BP gas cards
- * Photo Paper
- * We have specific toys, DVD's, and games listed on our Target.com Wish List. Enter "Duke PBMT" (first name) "Family Support" (last name)" in the "Find a Wish List" search engine and go from there.

Many thanks for your support!!

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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