

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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Endings and New Beginnings

The Duke PBMT Family Support Program is in the midst of transition. Jane Schroeder, who has been the Director of the program since its beginning in May 1997, is retiring in May. Under Jane's leadership, FSP has grown from a few programs to over 20; has expanded its staff from one to four; has matched over 650 families with a Best Buddy; has provided financial support to families; and has provided a meaningful "reunion" for families at the Rainbow of Heroes Walk. Jane's vision and awareness has enabled Family Support to become a truly singular organization. We say goodbye to a valued team member, friend, and colleague. Join us at the Rainbow of Heroes Walk (see below) to send Jane off in style!

Stepping into the director's position is Lindsey Kearns, who has been Assistant Director for the past four years. She has already undertaken the leadership role with the Family Support Program as she and Jane work through a time of transition.

FSP will be welcoming a new staff member, Scott Mofield, to the team in early April. Stay tuned for your next issue of "Community Counts" for a full introduction of Scott!

Again, a heartfelt thanks to Jane for all of her years of hard work and kudos and congratulations to Lindsey and Scott on their new positions.

Rainbow of Heroes Walk!

The 8th Annual Rainbow of Heroes Walk will be held on Saturday, May 3rd from 9 am- 2pm. It is a walk commemorating and celebrating all of the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant patients and their families. The Walk also serves as a primary fundraiser for the PBMT Family Support Program.

In honor of our inpatient unit, 5200, we walk 5200 yards around the track at the Duke Center for Living. We carry balloons in honor or memory of children who have been through or are currently in the program. As a finale to the Walk, we have a giant balloon release, creating a rainbow-colored skyline in honor of all of our brave heroes.

During the day, there are various activities and carnival-type games for kids of all ages and many of the area mascots stop by to visit. During the walk, there is music, as well as dedications and inspirational messages. The top fundraisers are recognized with prizes for their hard work. A light breakfast and a BBQ lunch will be served to all participants.

The inpatient celebration will be held on Friday, April 25th which includes a carnival, a balloon release honoring all patients on the PBMT unit, a Ben and Jerry's ice cream party as well as other activities. Patients on 5200 will also have an opportunity to earn paper footprints for the laps they walk during the month of April.

Please visit us at: www.rainbowofheroeswalk.org for additional information, including online donations! We hope to see you there!



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.



*Dalton, age 3
Bessemer City, NC*



*Emma, age 1
Princeton, WV*



*Laura, age 7
Roseboro, NC*



*Darian, age 10
West Palm Beach, FL*



*Jami, age 11
Winston-Salem, NC*

Hendrick Pit Crew makes a stop on 5200

Once again, we are incredibly grateful to have a special relationship with the Hendrick Marrow Program's "Pit Crews for Kids." They recently visited 5200 on Saturday, March 15 and brought an abundance of fun and laughter to the patients and their families as they gave out personalized gifts and NASCAR memorabilia. Dalton (age 4) got the chance to play "catch" with some of the Pit Crew guys in the hallway. Everyone agreed that professional baseball players better watch out when it comes to Dalton's talent for sports!! Olivia (age 3) was filled with excitement when she received one of her favorite things - A Dora Dance DVD! Laura (age 7) couldn't help but smile when the Pit Crew surprised her with a new Pokemon game! The unit always seems a little brighter when the Pit Crew visits. They come 4 times a year and they are dedicated to bringing awareness to others about the needs of families that go through bone marrow and stem cell transplant. The people that make up "Pit Crews for Kids" really care for our families and continue to stay connected with them long after their visits through email and patient websites. We thank them for their continued support and giving spirits!



*David visits with the
Pit Crew guys*



*Emma loves
her puzzle*



*Kalen with her new
Jeff Gordon shirt!*



*Laura shows off her
new Pokemon game*



*Henrique's bag is
as big as he is!*



*Dalton
pitches in
the hall*

Scenes from 5200



Jaxsen shows the volcano he built during science



Kyra celebrates St. Patrick's Day by sporting green hair!



Jose is covered by silly string during his discharge parade!



The latest way to get toddlers to fall asleep... put them in the car and take them for a ride! Andrea and Joey are fast asleep in their cars.



Left: Laura is ready for the Easter egg hunt!

Right: Cal plays the drum in music therapy; Emma plays with a slinky



Outpatient Egg Hunt

PBMT outpatients and families joined 3 members of our psychosocial team (Katie Vogel, Caroline Sweezy, & Susan Trout) for a fun afternoon of "egg hunting and decorating" on Sunday, March 16 at Duke Gardens. Participants were greeted with a field full of brightly colored, prize-filled eggs to find and baskets to collect them in. One of the highlights of the afternoon was when the kids got the chance to decorate eggs and hide some for their parents to find. This gave the parents a chance to have some time together with one of our social workers, Susan Trout. 11 outpatient families attended this event for a total of 39 people...WOW! We are excited about the great response to outpatient activities and we look forward to the upcoming events at Duke Gardens:

- * April 27 - Music with Tray
- * May 6 - Paperhand Puppet Intervention Show and Parade



Patients and siblings gather to decorate eggs



Parents met with Susan, PBMT social worker while the kids were playing



Dylan and his family enjoyed their time at Duke Gardens



Nicholas and his dad hunt for eggs!



Colby's family poses for a picture



Chris and his parents enjoyed the great weather



Rachel helps her brother, Nathan, during the egg hunt



Trevin gives the day a thumbs up!

Super Steppers join the club!

Three new patients have walked their way into the prestigious "Super Steppers" Club by earning over 50 footprints in the Steps to Recovery Program. A footprint is earned by walking or riding 5 laps in the hallways of 5200. Jose, Kyra and Nicholas are our newest members of the club. Jose earned 63 feet (315 laps), while Kyra earned 178 feet (890 laps) and Nicholas earned 82 feet (410 laps). Great job to these three patients and to all of our dedicated walkers - keep up the hard work!



Jose



Kyra



Nicholas

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:

- * Norma Ferrell and Marie Lloyd for providing massage for caregivers on 5200
- * Kellie Gates for cutting caregivers' hair on Salon Day
- * Jordan Komisarow for his donation in honor of his great aunt and uncle's 60th wedding anniversary
- * Project Linus for their donation of laundry bags and quilts
- * The Kearney family for assembling and delivering discharge bags
- * The family of Ariella Horenstein for their donation of Barney DVDs
- * The family of Nate Gavin for their donation
- * Hendrick Pit Crew for Kids for their quarterly visit to our patients on 5200

Those who contributed to our Community Meals program last month:

- * Apex United Methodist Church
- * Little Red Foundation
- * Macedonia Baptist Church
- * St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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:

- * Photo paper
- * Gift cards: Wal-Mart, Food Lion, and BP gas cards
- * Playing cards
- * 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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