



Spotlight on the MeFine Foundation

There are many people and organizations that help support the families on the 5200 unit. Some have decided to contribute what they can after having a life changing event in their own lives and some are inspired to help after hearing about the patients and families in our program. Here is one family's story.

The Folden Lee family founded the Me Fine Foundation in memory of their son Folden Lee IV, who underwent a cord blood transplant in 2004. While at Duke, Lori and Folden III, saw other families suffer through hardships in addition to their child's illness and wanted to help. The name "MeFine" was chosen because, no matter what the treatment or how bad things were, if anyone asked Folden how was he doing, he would reply, "ME FINE!!"

The mission of MeFine is to assist other families whose children are treated at Duke or UNC. The MeFine Foundation has assisted Duke in a variety of way. They have contributed many of the items in the Duke discharge bag. They have helped families by purchasing such items as diapers, baby wipes, and cleaners. In addition, they have also provided meals, monetary support and emotional support. The MeFine Foundation relies solely on donations from individuals and corporations. The board of directors are volunteer, and many people volunteer their time and energy to support the foundation. MeFine continues to be a major resource for PBMT families.

Thank you to the MeFine Foundation and all the volunteers who give their time and resources to the families on the 5200 unit.

An Insiders Look at the 5200 Bone Marrow Unit

Amber Soulvie, Child Life Specialist, sat down with 11 year old Josh to help gain insight as to what life on 5200 is like for him. Here is what he said:

- Q: *What was work-up like while you were getting ready for transplant?*
A: It was kind of scary because I wasn't used to the doctors and all the new people. The rooms and hallways were all new too.
- Q: *Was it different on 5200 then you thought it would be?*
A: Yeah. The rooms were more colorful, and everything was more child friendly than I thought it would be.
- Q: *What makes being up here easier for you?*
A: I brought lots of things that I like to do. Like video games and movies. I brought lots of pictures from home too.
- Q: *What is something you like about 5200?*
A: Probably all the activities, like BINGO.
- Q: *What is the hardest part of getting a bone marrow transplant?*
A: Being away from home. You miss your friends. I miss playing around with them in the snow.
- Q: *What advice would you give to someone that is just starting to get ready to come to transplant?*
A: Bring lots of toys to play with. Bring games and movies. If you like to have stuffed animals it is nice to have them with you too.



Josh shares
his experience

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.



Marie, age 17
Adel, GA



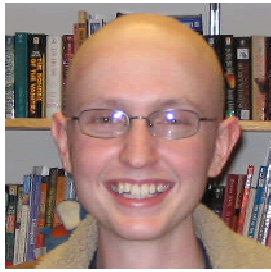
Eren, age 12
Charlotte, NC



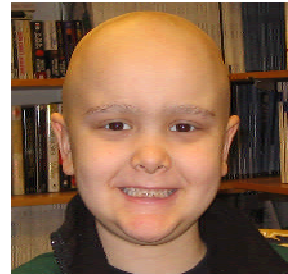
Daphne, age 9
Durban, South Africa



Lane, age 11 months
Fort Bragg, NC



Matt, age 18
Graham, NC



Zach, age 8
St. Albans, VT

Newest Members of the Super Steppers Club!

In this edition of Community Counts we want to recognize a "whopping" 4 new Super Steppers. Patients who earn more than 50 footprints (250 laps) become members of the Super Steppers Club and receive a t-shirt with their photo on it. Zoe and Alexia have earned 50 feet so far. Jashaia, who is now outpatient earned 52 footprints. And Cooper, also outpatient, earned 94 feet. All patients work very hard to earn each of their footprints. Great job to all of our Super Steppers! That brings our total number of Super Steppers to 30!



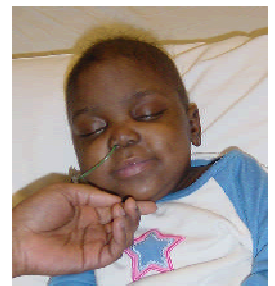
Cooper poses with his collection of footprints



Alexia is all smiles about her feet



Zoe examines all her feet



Jashaia is happy to have earned 52 feet

Spotlight on ArtMates and Button Day



Josh is working hard on his St Patrick's Day art project



Button Man (Zach) is here to pass out buttons



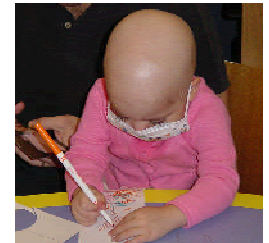
Daphne and her Mom are laughing at all the excitement



Bryce is ready to pass out his buttons



Button day is a great time to talk to other caregivers



Alexia is making a one of a kind button



Dakota is having fun in art



Zoe, her Mom and her Dad work together



Cooper is thinking hard about what he is going to do next



Artwork created by Sam, age 16, in Arts for Life. Arts for Life is facilitated by Mary Margaret and is held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2-4 in the Connection Lounge.

Winners 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:

- * The MeFine Foundation and Ampaw and G'Rose for providing lunch for families on 5200
- * Mrs. Geraldine Cole, Ms. Betty Hall and Ms. Bonnie Turner from the Woman's Ministry Department of the Hillsborough Church of God for the donation of Line holders for patients
- * The Ryland Group Inc. for the donation in honor of Joseph Sabella
- * Bill Marcella of Body Healing, NC for weekly massages to caregivers
- * Jan Shelton for her donation of quilts for the 2006 Rainbow of Heroes Walk
- * Project Linus for their donation of quilts for patients

The groups who contributed to our Community Meals program for the month of March. Several of the groups below are committed to bringing a meal to the PBMT unit on a monthly basis (*):

- West Raleigh Exchange Club*
- Macedonia Baptist Church*
- Haw River Christian Church*
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church*
- East Chapel Hill High School Honor Society*

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

What We Wish For...

We are in need of the the following items:

- * WalMart/Target Gift Cards
- * Grocery Store Gift Cards
- * Disposable Cameras
- * Restaurant coupons
- * Parking passes
- * Playstation 2 memory cards
- * Word search books, cross word puzzles

2006 Rainbow Of Heroes Walk requests:

- * 10x10 tents

If you can donate an item, please contact Jane Schroeder at 919-668-1128 or by email at schro005@mc.duke.edu

The Community Council 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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Additional and archived newsletters may be downloaded from our website: www.cancer.duke.edu/PBMT/support/family.asp

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