

The Community Counts

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



February 2006

The Evanosky Foundation "connects" with the Duke Team!

Being able to keep in touch with families and friends via email or personal websites is critical for the well being of PBMT families. Over the past few years, the Ryan Kishbaugh Foundation, Cassie's Courage and the American Cancer Society's Red Sword Guild have purchased several laptops to support families with this need. These laptops have made a huge difference for many families. Until now, we have not been able to offer a laptop to every family. This has all changed as the Evanosky Foundation has teamed with Hewlett Packard (who drastically lowered the price of the laptops) and Mark Coen, an account executive for computer supplier Carotek (who has donated a laser printer) to supply laptops for all 16 patient rooms. This will enable every family who comes to the Duke PBMT to "stay connected" to their friends and family.

Bob Evanosky, Dad to PBMT patient Jack, as well as reps from HP and Carotek were at Duke for the presentation of the laptops. "Having lived on 5200 for several months, we recognize that maintaining a positive outlook is critical. A laptop will help parents, their children and their families to all stay connected and get the support they need during this challenging time," commented Bob. "Our laptop was a lifesaver," said Sonya Evanosky. "We couldn't imagine our stay on the unit without one, and we want to make sure that other families are able to use a laptop, too."

We are grateful to all the individuals and foundations who have supported the efforts to keep our families in touch with their loved ones.



Jane Schroeder, Duke Family Support, Jana Campbell, Hewlett Packard,
Bob Evanosky, Mark Coen, Carotek,
Dr. Suhag Parikh, Duke PBMT and Barb Hoskins, Evanosky Foundation.

Save the Date!

May 6th 2006

The 2006 Rainbow of Heroes Walk will be held on Saturday, May 6th at the Duke Center for Living. The event is to honor PBMT patients, families, staff, and friends of the program. It also serves as the year's largest fundraiser for the PBMT Family Support Program. Be sure to mark your calendar!! For more info go to www.rainbowofheroeswalk.org

Best Buddies and Rainbow Volunteers

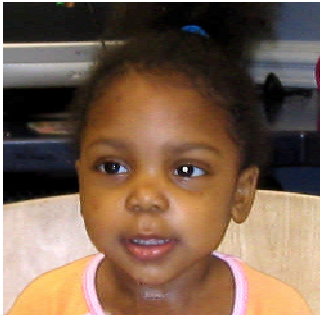
There is no doubt that volunteers are an essential piece of the PBMT team. We are pleased to note that last month, our 500th family was matched with a Best Buddy since the program began in 1997. Best Buddies are matched in a one on one situation with a patient and his/her family throughout their time in Durham. Last week, a new class of Best Buddies completed twelve hours of intensive training, which covered topics from medical information, communication, communicating with children, grief and loss, psychosocial effects of the transplant process, volunteer policies, and healthcare and volunteer roles.

Our newer, yet very well received program called Rainbow Volunteers also completed another training. This new program will provide PBMT families an array of services, they will assist with general Connection upkeep, do bedside activities with the kids, and provide respite for the caregivers. Rainbow Volunteers volunteer their time in three hour shifts, from 12 to 9 pm, every day of the week. They are recognizable by the white tee shirts that say PBMT Rainbow Volunteer on the back.

We are grateful to all of the PBMT staff and Duke professionals who volunteered their time to prepare our volunteers for their experiences on the PBMT unit, as well as the volunteers who help keep our programs afloat!

New Kids on the Block

"New Kids on the Block" is a monthly column that features the new patients on the 5200 unit. It is a way to honor them and to help the other families get to know them.



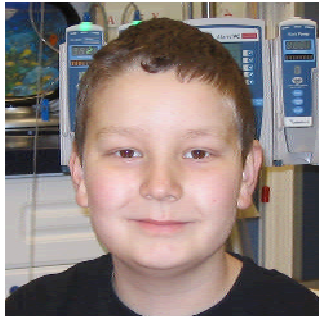
Jashaia, age 2
Hartford, CT



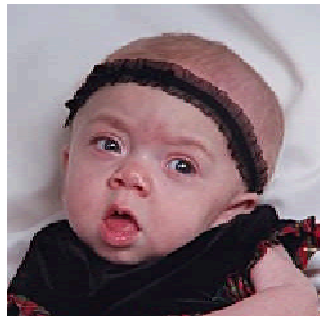
Zoe, age 2
King Mountain, NC



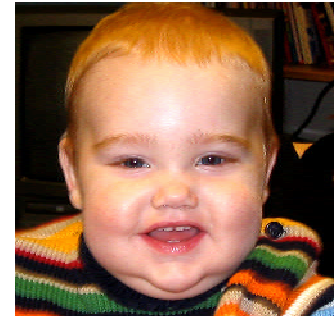
Dakota, age 6
Olmsted Falls, OH



Jesse, age 12
Easley, SC



Hailey, age 7 months
Chesapeake, VA

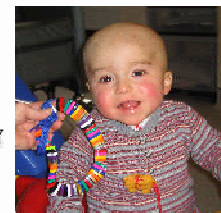


Bryce, age 1
Lynchburg, VA

Newest Members of the Super Steppers Club!

In each newsletter we recognize patients who have walked their way into a club called the Super Steppers. Patients earning 50 footprints or more (the equivalent of 250 laps on 5200!) become members of this elite club. Not only do they get the satisfaction of doing a great job, but they are also rewarded with a tee shirt with their picture on it! This shirt is a coveted reward. Many patients are encouraged to work hard after seeing another patient wearing their shirt.

In this edition of Community Counts we want to recognize two new Super Steppers. Nate has earned 189 feet to date, and is still earning more at an impressive rate. That is a total of 954 laps! Kaleb has earned 55 footprints, a total of 330 laps! All Steppers work very hard to earn each of their footprints. Great job to all our Super Steppers!



Nate has happily
earned his 100
feet!

Kaleb
is proud of all
his feet





Duke Men's Basketball players make a visit to the PBMT unit



Ivan and his Dad pose with the Duke Basketball players

This month brought some local celebrities to the PBMT Unit. Members of the Duke Men's Basketball team came armed with smiles and team pictures for the kids to enjoy. The kids and parents enjoyed this special time to get autographs and have their pictures taken with players from one of the top ranked teams in the NCAA. Thank you to the Blue Devils for taking time out of their busy schedule to make this extra special visit!



Kaleb plays basketball with JJ Redick and Demarcus Nelson from the Duke Basketball team



Shreya watches Patrick Davidson and JJ Redick do a little art



Every one gets together for a group picture



Ashleigh is showing Greg Paulus how to make a mask



Love According to kids



"When you fall in love, I think you're supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn't supposed to be so painful."

—Harlen, age 8

"To get a girl to fall in love with you... take her out to eat. Make sure it's something she likes to eat. French fries usually works for me." —Bart, age 9

"It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need somebody to clean up after them." —Lynette, age 9

"Love; No one is sure why it happens, but I heard it has something to do with how you smell. That's why perfume and deodorant are so popular." —Jan, age 9

"Lovers hold hands to make sure their rings don't fall off because they paid good money for them." —Dave, age 8

"I'm not rushing into being in love. I'm finding fourth grade hard enough." —Regina, age 10

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." —Nikka, age 6

"Marriage is when you get to keep your girl and don't have to give her back to her parents" —Eric, age 6

"Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good too." —Greg, age 8

"Yell out that you love them at the top of your lungs ... and don't worry if their parents are right there." —Manuel, age 8

Winners Circle

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

- * Mozell Pope for her donation of afghans
- * Donald Moore for his donation to the Racing Heroes Fund
- * The family of Whitney Little, a former Best Buddy for their donation
- * Anne Stempler and Golden Corral for their donation
- * The family of Meredith Powell for their donation of gift cards
- * The Red Sword Guild for their donation to purchase trays for the discharge bags
- * The Carol and Keith Powers Family for their donation in memory of Brad Shuller
- * Lillie Merritt for her donation of laundry bags
- * Melissa Prue and her 4th grade class for their donation
- * Beverly Bennett for her donation in honor of Alberta Tilly
- * Steve Byers and Grocery Boy for their donation to the Racing Heroes Fund
- * Oakwood Corp. Housing for their donation of streamers and paintbrushes
- * Wendy Goodman and Xerox for printing the Rainbow Volunteer brochure

The groups who contributed to our Community Meals program for the month of December. 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*

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
- * Restaurant coupons
- * Parking passes
- * 16 Webcams

2006 Rainbow Of Heroes Walk requests:

- * 10x10 tents
- * Cambro 5 gallon beverage dispenser
- * 1 Coleman ultimate extreme 50 qt cooler on wheels

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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