

The Community Counts

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



October 2006

Townhouse Donated for PBMT Family's Use

A local couple has donated their townhouse to PBMT for a family to use while they are in Durham. The couple learned about the PBMT unit and the challenges families face when their friend's daughter was diagnosed with leukemia and received a transplant at Duke.

The two-bedroom, two-bathroom townhouse is located about 10 minutes from Duke Hospital and allows a family to stay in Durham rent-free. The couple wishes to remain anonymous, but made this comment about the townhouse: "We had talked about how great it would be if we could do something like this because we knew the location of the townhouse was ideal for patients at Duke. We were able to furnish and equip the townhouse with all of the basics through a lot of help from our family and friends. We knew it was going to be a lot of work but we also knew it was going to be a "labor of love." We sent out letters to about 15 of our family members and closest friends sharing with them what we were doing and asking them to keep us in mind if they had any gently used furniture that they were getting rid of. The calls and emails started to come in and before long we had the place about 65% furnished."

The couple worked with PBMT social workers, Marion Kalbacker and Susan Trout, Family Support Program Director, Jane Schroeder, and Housing Coordinator, Barbara Chance to make sure everything was in place before making it available to a PBMT family. The townhouse has been occupied by a PBMT family since mid-August.



Outside View



The living room is nice and spacious



Cassie's Courage Foundation

In March 2001, Cassie was diagnosed with leukemia and learned that she needed a bone marrow transplant. She came to Duke for a transplant and was treated for several months during 2001 and 2002. While on 5200 she often said that the kindness of everyone around her helped make each day a little bit easier. The little things people did for her made her smile.

Jackie and Anthony Schembari founded Cassie's Courage in honor of Cassie to help raise awareness about bone marrow donation and transplantation. Cassie's Courage has continued in her memory to help bring a smile to the faces of those continuing to endure the stresses of transplant. Since 2002, Cassie's Courage has organized bone marrow drives to get donors on the national registry, held fund-raisers to raise money, and increased awareness of bone marrow transplant in her home town of Louisville, Ky.

While on 5200, Cassie always wore crazy ladybug house shoes that made everyone smile when they saw her in them. To this day, the ladybug logo encourages the efforts of Cassie Courage's members. You will find them around everywhere, as the ladybugs are the GLUE of the efforts of the Cassie's Courage Foundation—they bring smiles to the faces of foundation members as they continue their efforts to support families and bring awareness of need.

We are greatly appreciative and indebted to the continued support of the Cassie's Courage Foundation. Funds raised by Cassie's Courage have provided laptop computers, gift certificates for food and gas cards for the patients and families of 5200.

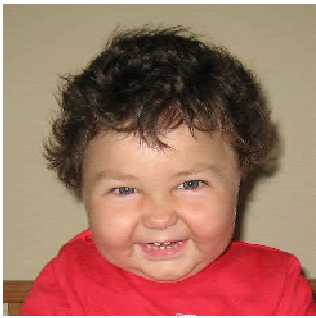
New Kids on the Block



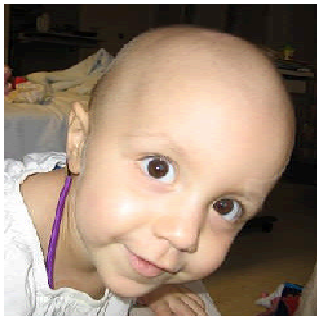
Louis, age 3
Norfolk, VA



Lee, age 11
Columbia, SC



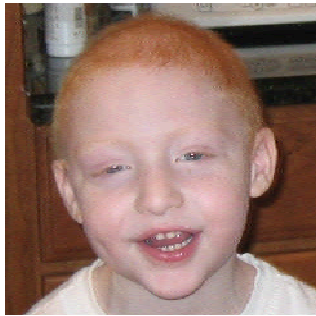
Donovan, age 1
New Whiteland, IN



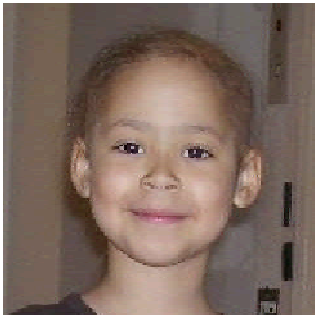
Althea, age 2
Chapel Hill, NC



Bryce, age 1
Webster, MA



Josh, age 5
Gaithersburg, MD



Amber, age 7
Wake Forest, 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.

Newest Members of the Super Steppers Club!

In this edition of Community Counts we want to recognize 2 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. Kallie, who is now outpatient worked very hard to earn all of her 53 footprints. Julia, who is also outpatient, earned 51 feet, a total of 255 laps. All patients work very hard to earn each of their footprints. Great job to all of our Super Steppers!



Julia worked hard to
earn her 50 feet



Kallie is showing
off her feet

The Family Support Program launches two new programs and brings back an old favorite!

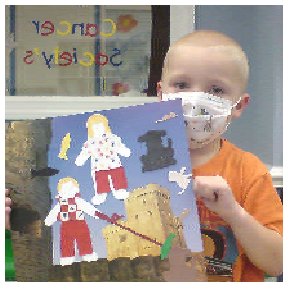
The Family Support Program, in collaboration with the Duke Child Life Program and the Durham Hospital School Program, will be starting a "StoryTime" hour once a week on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00. The target age group is preschool to early school age. Each meeting one or two books will be shared. This mission of StoryTime is to engage young children in an environment that is supportive and builds upon communication, sharing, and imagination through reading.

CellMates is a support group for PBMT patients that was offered for many years. It has undergone some changes to make it more appropriate to the changes in our patient population. This program will be for older school age children and teenagers. It will serve as a time to get together and share about PBMT experiences.

Once a month, beginning in October, the Family Support Program will hold a Movie Night on the 5200 unit. In October, we will see "Monsters, Inc" (Halloween theme), November will bring "Chicken Little" (Thanksgiving theme) and December, "The Polar Express". All movies will be shown on a big screen. Popcorn and drinks will be available. All are welcome, but better reserve your seat as we expect this to be popular!

Activities on 5200

Every day at 2:00 there is a different activity in the Hope Lodge Connection. Here are some photos from last month.



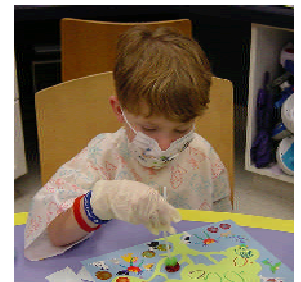
Jason, Madison's brother shows his artwork



Hamad, Ahmed's brother is having fun in art



Amber is working hard on her picture



Evan, Kyle's brother is trying to make his picture just right



Kyle made a very colorful tree



Kallie is paying close attention to the project



Arts for Life is a great time to get together and have some fun



Briahna is on her way to the day's activity

Activity Passport

Upon admission to 5200, each age-appropriate child receives an Activity Passport, which they "present" when they attend one of the daily group activities. By attending these activities each child earns a sticker, which can be redeemed for a prize. We have had a lot of patients earning stickers and this month, one patient redeemed his stickers and earned six prizes! That's a lot of stickers! Kyle earned his stickers by coming to as many activities as possible. Good job Kyle and all the patients who come daily activities!



Kyle enjoys getting his stickers and redeeming them for prizes.

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:

- * Phyliss Strawn for the donation of pillowcases for patient welcome bags
- * Laura Marhoeffer for the donation in honor of Jessie Aufman's Birthday
- * Kelly Riley and the Co-ed Sunday School Class at Ebenezer Baptist Church for their donation of laundry detergent
- * Kathy Potter for her donation
- * Kelly Riley for her donation of PICU bags
- * Barbara McEnderfer and the Bahama Mamas for their donation of knitted hats
- * Chris Sundberg for her donation
- * Candy Walter for providing weekly massage for caregivers
- * Ashley Nguyen for providing her services for Salon Day for caregivers
- * The following groups who contributed to our Community Meals program for the month of September:

West Raleigh Exchange Club
Macedonia Baptist Church
Haw River Christian Church
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Apex United Methodist Church

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:

- * Parking passes
- * Newly released DVDs
- * Playing cards for patient welcome bags
- * Treasure Box toys and Bingo prizes
- * DVD's for movie night. "Monsters Inc", "Polar Express", Disney's "Starring Chip and Dale", "Chicken Little", "Bambi", "Cars" (released 10/7/06)

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

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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Additional and archived newsletters may be downloaded from our website:

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

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