

The Community Counts

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



September 2006



Bear Necessities
PEDIATRIC CANCER FOUNDATION

Foundation helps to cover "Bear Necessities"

The PBMT Family Support Program grant application to Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation was approved and the Family Support Program's Racing Heroes Fund was awarded \$5000 for calling cards and gas cards for PBMT families. Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation, Inc. (BNPCF) is a 501 (c)(3) organization founded in late 1992 by Kathleen A. Casey, President. The foundation is named in memory of her eight year old son, Barrett "Bear" Krupa, who died after a courageous five and a half year battle with Wilms Tumor, a pediatric cancer.

Prior to his death on January 3, 1993, Bear and his mother discussed and planned the formation of BNPCF. During his long stay in the hospital, Bear expressed more concern for other pediatric cancer patients than he did for himself. He and his mother learned of the many hidden needs of both patient and family members. Simple things like having games to play with would go a long way to lightening the heavy burden the children face. Likewise, support for basic family needs help remove undue stresses on an already overwhelming situation.

Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation provides funding for information and Support Service Grants to pediatric cancer facilities that are serving the "immediate needs" of pediatric cancer patients and their families. The Family Support Program is very grateful to Kathleen Casey and the entire Bear Necessities Foundation for their commitment and vision to serve families at this most difficult time in their lives.

Santa visits 5200!

We're not sure if Rudolph's footsteps were heard on top of Duke Hospital but a special visitor made his rounds on 5200 at the end of July. Santa was in the area after his summer vacation in Hawaii and stopped by to visit patients and deliver gifts on the PBMT unit before returning to the North Pole. The Me Fine Foundation collected toys and gifts from donors and vacation bible school classes in partnership with Santa. Santa and Me Fine worked with Caroline Swezey, our child life specialist to individualize gifts for each patient. During Santa's visit, you might not have recognized him as he was not in his usual red suit, but opted for a Hawaiian shirt and shorts. A few patients who heard he was coming even managed to leave milk and cookies for him!

Our thanks to Me Fine's Associate Director Lisa Brown, and her three volunteers for providing a wonderful afternoon. Me Fine Foundation (and Santa) looks forward to doing this again in the future and for that we are grateful!



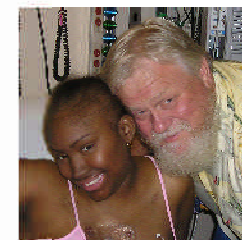
Santa and Brittany's
Dad pose for a picture



Santa is visiting
with Briahna.



Santa is snacking
on some cookies



Verselle and Santa smile
for the camera.

New Kids on the Block

"New Kids on the Block"

Features the patients on the S200 unit who were admitted in the past month.
It is our way to honor them and help the other families get to know them.



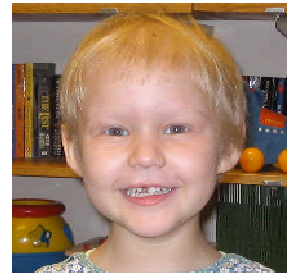
Melanie, age 3 months
Danbury, CT



Ariella, age 7
Monsey, NY



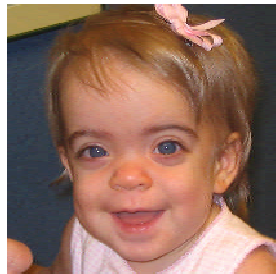
Beth, age 17
Greenville, SC



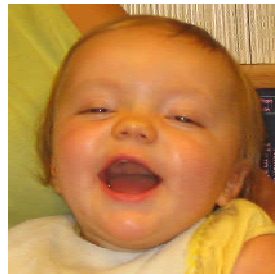
Rachel, age 4
Burke, VA



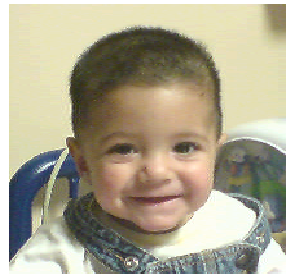
Allyson, age 25
Newton, MA



Kallie, age 11 months
Harahan, LA



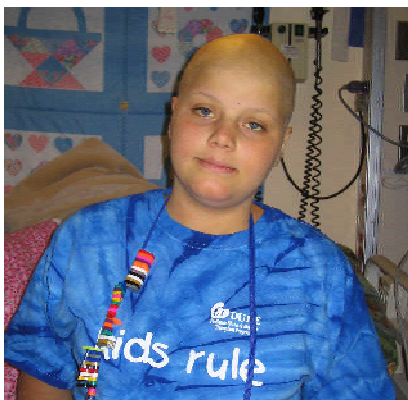
Madison, age 11 months
Algonquin, IL



Ahmed, age 4 months
United Arab Emirates

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. Ashleigh, who is now outpatient worked very hard to earn all of her 101 footprints. Sarah, who is also outpatient, earned 70 feet, a total of 350 laps. All patients work very hard to earn each of their footprints. Great job to all of our Super Steppers!



Ashleigh has worked
hard
to earn her feet



Sarah is happy to
show off all the feet
she has earned

Best Buddies and Rainbow Volunteers

As fall approaches, we will be training two new groups of volunteers. The new Best Buddies will complete twelve hours of intensive training, which covers topics from medical information, communication, communicating with children, grief and loss, psychosocial effects of the transplant process, volunteer policies, and healthcare and volunteer roles.

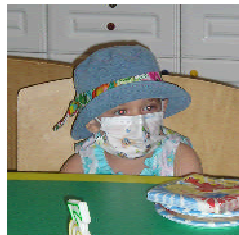
We will also be training a new group of Rainbow Volunteers. This program provides PBMT families an array of services, assist with general Connection upkeep, do bedside activities with the kids, and provide respite for caregivers. Rainbow Volunteers will be volunteering their time in three hour shifts, 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. Please don't hesitate to ask them for help. We look forward to seeing all of the new volunteers on the unit!

We are grateful to all of the PBMT staff and Duke professionals who volunteer their time to prepare our volunteers for their experiences on the PBMT unit.

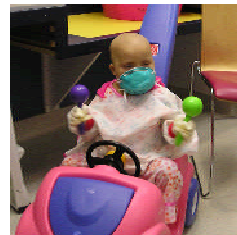
Activity Time on 5200



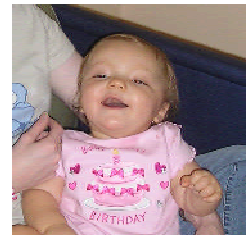
Julia is pretending she has a "bucket head"



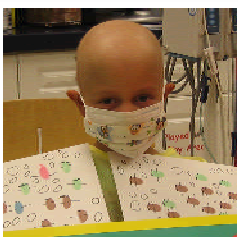
Kaitlyn is waiting for the fun to begin



Briahna is "groovin" to the music



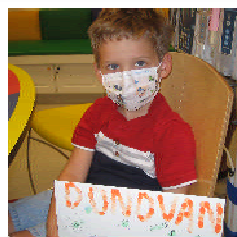
Madison is having a good time



Ilke shows her finger print fish



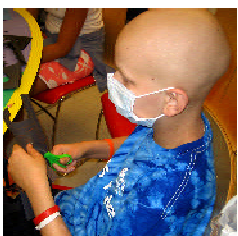
Kallie and her Dad are finished with their project



Donovan, Kallie's brother, spelled his name with his finger prints



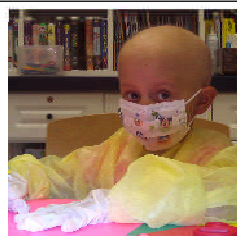
Kyle is working hard on his picture



Jesse is being careful cutting out his name



Julia is working to make her picture just right



"Are you talking to me?" Ilke takes a minute to check things out



Sarah is proud of her new picture

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:

- * Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation for their grant to the Racing Heroes Fund for phone cards and gas cards
- * Andy Weinhold for his donation of a 2005 ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia
- * Chris Sundberg for her donation of children's books and quilts
- * Blue Mood beads, Cousins Corp, and AC Moore for their discount on new beads for the PBMT Bead Program
- * Marsha Beard for her donation of laundry bags
- * The family of Ilke Yilmazer for the donation of Birthday banners
- * Linda Moss and the Duke Hospital Auxiliary for the donation of balloons for the Sibling party
- * Duke Charitable Grants for their donation to the 2007 Rainbow of Heroes Walk
- * The Grandmother of Julia Rowe for her donation of items for the "In Case you Forgot Basket"
- * Alan Herosian for the donation of parking passes
- * Anne Stanton and Natalie Hunt for the "Enjoy the City" Triangle Area Coupon Books and to Alan Herosian and Jenny Edmunds for making this contact.
- * Latane Hurdle Grove for their donation to the Racing Heroes Fund in memory of Cassie Schembari
- * Edward Paige and Marjorie for their donation to the Racing Heroes fund in honor of Jessica Aufman's Birthday
- * Jackie and Anthony Schembari of Cassie's Courage for their donation of BP gas cards, KFC gift coupons, Burger King coupons, and Wendy's coupons
- * Sharon Martin and Pilgrims Sunday School Class for providing dinner for PBMT Families
- * 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 August:
 - 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
- * Individualized pillowcases
- * Newly released DVDs
- * Travel size items for the "In Case you Forgot Basket" such as travel sized shampoo, mouthwash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, pain relievers, and feminine products.
- * Treasure Box toys and Bingo prizes

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.

Editors: Jane Schroeder

Lindsey Kearns

Rachel Tripp

Family Support Program, DUMC 3350, North Pavilion, Suite 1400, Durham, NC 27710

Phone : 919-668-1128 or email schro005@mc.duke.edu

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

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