

Outlook

The Newsletter of the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation



Spring
2009

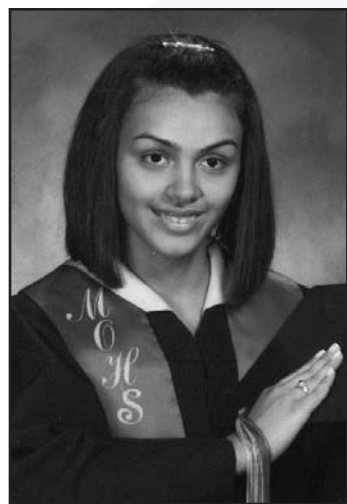
Created in collaboration with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of New Jersey- proud partners in support of kids with cancer. www.ioofnj.org

ABOVE and Beyond

Laura Savage may be one of ECF's newer additions, but this Caseworker plunged right in with her zeal and enthusiasm. Laura demonstrates time and time again that she will go to any length to fulfill the needs of her families. Her extraordinary efforts have resulted in families receiving donations of grocery gift cards, a Razor Scooter, Wii Disney Sing It and Guitar Hero games, and a unique hand-crafted belt from BeRibbon. And all it takes is a heartfelt request.



It all started with the collection of grocery gift cards at the birthday parties of both of her daughters, Keira and Alexandra. Laura asked all the children to bring a grocery gift card for one of ECF's families. And they did! She collected nearly \$400 at the first party, and \$450 at the second! Laura was thrilled to be able to distribute these to her families, and to share the remainder with other families served by the Northern Regional Center. She also secured a donation of a huge bag of VHS and DVD movies from Ridgewood Brownie Troop 1350.



Laura's creativity didn't end there. After visiting with Jessica's family in Morris County, she penned a letter to Nintendo, asking them to donate a game or two to this 17-year old girl who was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a malignant bone tumor, in July 2008. As she wrote in her letter, "Jessica recently had her leg amputated and is going for lung surgery this week. She has been extremely brave and courageous. Her treatment and recovery will take many months. It would be great for her to be able to play with her four siblings like any average teenager. The Wii games are basically her only request. Jessica loves music and would be thrilled. It would be a gift that she will be able to give her entire family. Like many of my patients she feels bad about the pain her diagnosis has caused her mother and siblings."

To which Nintendo responded by donating both games to Jessica.

Less than a month later, Laura contacted Marlene Torres at Razor with the following request: "I am working with the family a 12-year old girl named Rowan who recently had a recurrence of her leukemia, originally diagnosed in 2003. She had to have a bone marrow transplant, and the donor was her brother. Finally she is in remission but faces several complications, including a compromised immune system and social challenges. Her birthday is coming up, and this family's resources are completely depleted. We are trying to get her a Bella Razor Electric Scooter." To which Ms. Torres replied, "Is it OK if we send her an early birthday present? We will be more than happy to send her a Pocket Mod Bella." Pictured, is Rowan's pink scooter!

Laura's most recent venture into the world of development was borne out of a home visit with Felipe's family. Felipe is a one-year old Bergen County boy who has a less common form of leukemia. He is being raised by a single mom, Maria, to whom Laura has been providing supportive counseling. Laura noticed that Maria kept admiring her belt which was a one-of-a-kind hand-crafted item. With Maria's birthday rapidly approaching, Laura sprung into action and contacted Mary Sue Dwyer of BeRibbon, a local artist who makes these belts and sells them at boutiques. As Ms. Dwyer told Laura, "I was more than thrilled to donate some to Maria as a birthday surprise."



We don't know what's up Laura's sleeve, but we eagerly await her next mission.

Suzie Cordially Invites you to a Private Mother's Day Tea Party

My name is Suzie and I am the mother of a child with cancer. My son, Jake, was diagnosed at age six with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Jake's journey ahead would consist of bone marrow biopsies/aspirations, lumbar punctures, blood draws, x-rays, scans and chemotherapy. After many delays and hospital stays, Jake completed 3 years of treatment. He began his new life after cancer. However, on January 16, 2007, a year and a half after completing treatment, we were told Jake's cancer was back. His brother Colton wasn't a bone marrow match for Jake so it was decided chemotherapy would be the course of treatment. A year and a half later, it was clear that Jake's treatment wasn't going according to plan and it was decided that Jake would receive an unrelated bone marrow transplant due to the many delays in treatment. On July 29, 2008, Jake received a bone marrow transplant. The road to recover has been long and hard but he is back in school and is enjoying all his favorite activities.

Our family could not have gotten through this difficult journey without the support we received from the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. The emotional support, financial support and food deliveries are valuable services that allowed us to focus on Jake's care. It truly does take a village to raise a child. We can't thank the staff and the many volunteers enough for what they have done for us. If I were asked to give advice to a newly diagnosed patient's family, I would say, "Accept the help and just say thank you!"

This Mother's Day, you can help provide services to over 200 NJ families like mine, whose children are battling cancer. Best of all, you can do this without even leaving your kitchen table! All you have to do is enjoy a cup of tea on Mother's Day, in honor of the mothers who are facing the enormous challenges of caring for a child with cancer. As you honor these moms, please take a moment to send a contribution to ECF in the envelope provided. No gift is too small.

On behalf of all ECF moms, past and present, happy Mother's Day and thank you!



Five Simple Ways Your Group Can Provide Cancer Support to ECF Families:

❁ **Create a frozen food pantry** at your church, synagogue, or meeting site, and ask your members to drop off cooked meals for the family that can be reheated. ECF's Regional Directors can help you arrange for delivery to the families to help them even more with managing their time.

❁ **Ask your members to send greeting cards and well wishes to a child with cancer**, by visiting: www.compassionatecommunications.com. Your purchase of cards will directly benefit ECF while bringing a smile to the face of a child.

❁ **Help the parents of a child with cancer with chores** such as grocery shopping, housekeeping, yard work, or even watching the children, especially the siblings who may need extra attention and care while their brother or sister is in treatment.

❁ **Host a fundraiser and donate the proceeds to the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation.** One of ECF's Caseworkers asked each child who attended her daughter's birthday party to bring a grocery gift card instead of a present. Other ideas are to have a yard sale, clear out your clutter on eBay and donate the proceeds to ECF, or have a car wash or bake sale. This will help us ensure services today and in the future for all who need our help.

❁ **Arrange for limo vouchers or taxi vouchers.** Whether a family has to commute 2 hours or 20 minutes to the hospital, an on-call limo service or taxi vouchers can help alleviate the added problem and often high cost of parking a car for several hours in a hospital parking lot.



It's simple to send your well wishes to ECF kids. Visit:

www.compassionatecommunications.com

and be sure to click on the link that brings you the faces of the ECF kids who are waiting to hear from you!



Wedding Fundraiser – The Newest Trend?

Newlyweds Adam Abensohn and Dana Coppolino of New York City, celebrated their nuptials by making a \$5000 memorial gift to ECF. You see, Dana lost her brother, Stephen, many years ago, to cancer. Since then, the Coppolino family, and now the Abensohn family as well, have been loyal supporters of other families dealing with these heart-wrenching circumstances. We applaud the bride and groom for reaching out to others. Their gift is being used to provide support to families in the Northern Region. Thank you, and we all wish you many, many years of health and happiness!



The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey has provided a grant of \$10,000 to support ECF's programs, for the 2nd year in a row. We are extremely grateful for their support and we look forward to a continued partnership!



Please help kids with cancer by using iGive for shopping on the Internet. Before you go directly to a website to make a purchase, visit: www.iGive.com and be sure to designate the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation as your charity. You can also use this as your search engine to benefit ECF families. It's easy and free.

Eighth Annual Charity Ball Honors Preferred Health Mate



Preferred Health Mate CEO and ECF Board Member Joel Markel and his wife, Stephanie

ECF's Eastern Regional Center's Eighth Annual Charity Ball was held on Saturday, February 21, at Monmouth Beach's renowned Channel Club. ECF honored Preferred Health Mate (PHM) whose CEO, Joel Markel, has been a long time ECF dad, friend, supporter, and now board member. The employees of PHM have been involved in supporting ECF since the inception of the home health care business in 1993. PHM is known for providing services with compassion and for taking that extra step to make sure to care for their patients in a way you would care for your own family member.

Also attending this year's event were return guests Brendan and his parents, former recipients of ECF's services and now volunteers; Karen and Tony Salerno, ECF parents; Case Manager Gilberto Velasquez; former ECF Board President Michael Walsh; and current Board members Bharat Gurnani, John Kwasnik and Tom James, who auctioned a dozen of his original paintings to benefit ECF.

In addition to the money raised by ticket sales, auctions, and the casino night, ECF was presented with over \$3000 from the staff of PHM in honor of Joel Markel's birthday, \$2500 from the Blue Knights "Blue Thunder" Motorcycle Run held in May, and over \$3000 from Joe Mercadante raised at the Long Branch Columbus Day Parade.

Key Committee member Debbie Somerville (L) of PHM, with attendees Angela Billemeier and Cynthia Spencer.



Who Can Resist an Afternoon of Chocolate?

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the 2nd Annual Chocolate Lover's Delight was held on Sunday, February 8th at the Sakima Country Club in Carney's Point. Attendees were treated to a luncheon, a smorgasbord of delectable desserts, and a centerpiece chocolate fountain. There was also an auction table, a 50/50 raffle, and entertainment by students from the McAleer School of Irish Dance and the Broesler School of Irish Dance. Of the 12 dancers, one is ranked 5th in the world, and several compete both nationally and internationally.



Attending were General Manager Michael Drager of NuStar, and ECF Board Treasurer Steven Wooton. Contributing to an already successful afternoon, the fact that Zachary and his family, recipients of ECF's support, were able to be there, made this an even more meaningful time for all. Their Caseworker, Kim Cranstoun, addressed the crowd. Volunteer Event Coordinator Peg Kirsch and her team of helpers did an outstanding job in putting this event together, along with staff liaison and Southern Regional Director Laurie Ehrlich. Nearly \$6,000 was raised to help families in this part of New Jersey.

Board Treasurer Steven Wooton with sons Joseph (L) and Steven Jr. (R).

ECF Kids... Where Are They Now? Jonnine DeLoatch Talks with ECF, 20 years later!



How long ago did your family receive services from ECF?

My family and I received services in 1986. I believe that we received services for at least one year.

How old were you at the time, and what was your diagnosis?

I was 14 and I was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma.

Can you give some examples of what ECF did to help your family?

ECF provided my family with counseling and also answered any questions that my family had regarding my illness and navigating through the system.

My family was blessed to have excellent insurance coverage because both my parents worked for the State of NY. ECF provided my family with an air conditioner because I had serious issues dealing with heat.

Can you tell us a little bit about your personal experience with cancer?

Cancer is really hard. Don't let anybody fool you. My biggest issue was getting through the chemotherapy because I had some serious side effects. I threw up a lot and my body usually caught some type of infection so there was a period when I usually only had one great week out of the month. I used to only remember the bad things about cancer but now I focus on what cancer has taught me.



It was really hard to be a teenager and have cancer. Looks are so important to you at that age and all of sudden a guy in a white coat comes in and alters your life and now you have to deal with losing your hair everywhere, your skin is always dry, you don't feel well at all... The biggest challenge with cancer is not giving up. My message is just

keep your head up and continue to PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens).

Cancer really sucks but you have to learn to deal with having cancer. Cancer will always stay with you and it becomes a permanent part of your life.

How old are you now, and what have you been doing with your life since that time?

I am now 37 years old and well. I graduated from William Paterson College with a BA in Psychology and Dramatic Arts. I also received an MPA from New York University. I currently work at William Paterson University. I love performing in community theater. I am a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. where I serve as the Chair of Arts and Letters. I also serve on the Board for 4G's Book Club. I love to read, hang out with good friends, shop, and spend time with my family.

Really, I have just been living life. I guess I try to be in the moment that I am in.

How and why did you become a volunteer for ECF?

I called David Johnson one day and told him that I wanted to speak to organizations about ECF. I became a volunteer because when someone helps you it's important to give back. The fact that I am a survivor for twenty years is a testimony to the fact that children with cancer will live and thrive and become great adults! I think that I give a unique perspective that shows the people who donate that ECF is vital to our survival.

In what capacity do you volunteer?

I have volunteered at the Northern Regional Center in Midland Park but the most important thing is that I talk to organizations interested in learning about ECF.

Who are your role models and why?

My grandmother because she taught me the power of prayer.

My mother because she taught me that faith sees the invisible, faith believes the impossible and faith receives the incredible.

My father because he taught me to KIM (Keep it moving!). He also made me believe that I can do anything and has been my personal chauffeur for every trip to Memorial Sloan Kettering.

But really my parents are my role models because they raised me! I can admit now that I had a very strong personality but with a little bit of humor and a stiff drink every now and then my parents held on....Okay I think I am exaggerating about the stiff drink because they don't drink...I have a very vivid imagination.

Seriously my parents just have stood by me through thick and thin and for that I am eternally grateful.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

On an island living in a villa with a cook and maid. Seriously, I'm not sure. I am on a personal journey of self discovery so whatever God has in store for me next...He will let me know.

Johnson & Johnson Hosts Holiday Party and Shoebox Contest for ECF Families

Johnson & Johnson Corporation in New Brunswick invited area families served by ECF to attend their first Pizza Party and Shoebox Contest on Wednesday, December 03, 2008. Four teams of personnel from J&J created gifts inside of shoeboxes for ECF families, which were then critiqued and judged by a team of two ECF kids and their moms as well as two J&J employees. The boxes were filled with a variety of holiday treats for children ranging in age from two to twelve. Meanwhile, the crowd was treated to a luncheon of pizza, soda, fruit, and homemade brownies.

Representing ECF were Barbara Kopel, Central Regional Director, Carol Davis, Managing Director, and volunteer Roger Post, Vice President of Rentacrate. The coordinator from J&J Sherry (WeiQun) Cai, CFA, Finance Manager - Enterprise/Competitor Analysis, told ECF, "Out of all the events I hosted so far in J&J, this one will have a special place in my heart forever. I will never forget Steven's big smile when he got the stereo system. And seeing little Lizzie and her mom opening the boxes with "wows" and smiles and walking away with all the big balloons all over her little head ... It's beyond anything I could have imagined."

Sherry went on to say, "When I thanked the security guard downstairs after the party, she told me that all the families were just so happy when they left. It's just priceless that we are able to bring so much joy to these kids and families. They truly deserve it."



Steven and his mom enjoying the J&J afternoon party.

Dozens of employees were involved in this festive occasion, as this new and exciting relationship between ECF and J&J is being forged.



Richwood Odd Fellows Host ECF Party

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, French Lodge 89 of Richwood, sponsored the annual Holiday Party for ECF families in the Southern at the Richwood Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. The children were entertained by Ronald McDonald, Jack the Balloon Man, Steve the Magician - and of course Santa Claus made a visit with gifts for all. There was also music along with plenty of pizza and hoagies. Students from Gloucester County College also helped with crafts, face painting and Santa's gifts.



ECF gratefully acknowledges the **Valero Energy Foundation's** gift of \$33,000, raised at the Valero Benefit for Children Golf Classic. ECF families from the Southern Region have been recipients of Valero Refining Company's generosity for the past decade.

Thank you to John Pickering, VP and General Manager, Lisa Lindsey, Lead Community Relations Specialist, and all the employees who helped make this happen!



Reflections from the Managing Director:

Dear Friends,

Last Christmas Eve, while many of us were celebrating, I received the following email from a Caseworker. Mrs. H is the mother of a child with cancer.

“Carol, the H family is in bad financial condition. Mrs. H was held up by a man with a gun and he took all her money. She is on unpaid leave from her job as she is so upset. It happened in North Philly. They are about to shut off her electric.”

There is no denying the challenges many families are facing today. For many of ECF’s parents, the ordeal of helping their child battle cancer has become even more of a hardship because of a lost job and mounting health care costs. But to add this to the mix is unthinkable!

This is why we need your support now for our Emergency Family Assistance Fund.

ECF is determined to provide whatever means we can to help our kids and their families. However, like many other organizations we have had to tighten our belts while making certain that we do not compromise our services to the families.

It is almost impossible to imagine the financial strain put on a family who has a child with cancer. In good times it is difficult – in tough times it is almost impossible. I have now seen both scenarios firsthand and at no other point in ECF’s 26 years of service has there been a bigger need for emergency family assistance.

The latest statistics from the State of New Jersey predicted that cancer would strike almost 11,000 children nationwide in 2008. In New Jersey alone, between 1979 and 2005, there were 10,262 cases among children up to 19 years old. And, as you probably know, New Jersey rates are even higher than nationwide rates.

We certainly saw our share of those kids, and we continue to see more each week. But these children and their families are never just ‘cases’ to the ECF team. They need emergency relief from these difficult times, and I am going to do all I can to make sure that they get it. Your help is critical in making this happen.

Please read this edition of Outlook to get closer to who we are, what we do, and to the families we support. You will learn about Laura, one of ECF’s extraordinary Caseworkers whose efforts to help families are outstanding. There is also a story about Jonnine, a former ECF kid who is now a young adult volunteering at the Northern Regional Center. And read about some of the incredible events that the Regional Directors have put together for our supporters. I am especially excited about the Mother’s Day Tea fundraisers, happening on a statewide level, and helping us raise awareness and funds.

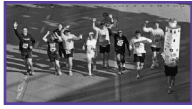
Especially in these challenging economic times, ECF kids and their families need you.

Thank you for being a friend,



Carol Davis, MA, LPC
Managing Director

Events



NJ Marathon Weekend

Friday, May 1, 2009 – Sunday, May 3, 2009
Long Branch, NJ

A weekend of events, including a marathon and half marathon, with proceeds designated for ECF.

Volunteer, watch, or run!
<http://njmarathon.org/>



16th Annual MSO (Mutual Service Office) Golf Outing

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Event begins at 11:00 A.M.

Center Valley Golf Club, Center Valley, PA

All proceeds from hole sponsorships will benefit ECF



Mother's Day Tea

Ongoing seasonal statewide events to honor ECF moms.

Find a regional event near you or participate privately.

See this edition of Outlook for more information, or log onto:

www.emmanuelcancer.org



Northern Wine Tasting

Spring date and time TBA

End of the Vine, Franklin Lakes, NJ

Sample a variety of wines and bid on original art to benefit ECF.

\$40 admission



Mitchell McAllister 2nd Annual Walk

Sunday, June 7, 2009

Ocean City Boardwalk, Ocean City, NJ

Registration begins at 8:00 A.M.

\$20 entry fee



Skate4Cancer

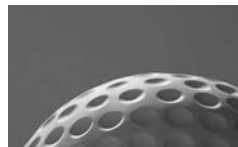
Sunday, September 13, 2009

7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

South Amboy Arena, South Amboy, NJ

Skate the night away, sponsored by Called to Inspire Ministries

\$10.00 admission (does not include roller skates or roller blades)



Fourth Annual Eastern Regional Golf Outing

Monday, September 21, 2009

Peddle Golf Club, Hightstown, NJ

Tee-off at 9:00 A.M.

Breakfast, lunch, auctions and prizes included with your admission.

\$150 individual



Blue Knights NJ XV Frost on the Pumpkin Run

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Motorcycle ride through scenic Monmouth County

<http://blueknights15.com/>



12th Annual Celebration of Champions Annual Golf Event

Monday, October 5, 2009

10:30 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Suburban Golf Club, Union, NJ

Play a round of golf at one of NJ's premiere courses.

Included are lunch, dinner, and auction.

\$325 individual or \$1300 foursome



Long Branch Columbus Day Parade

Sunday, October 11, 2009

Parade begins at Broadway and Route 36, and continues up Broadway.

Parade begins at 8:00 A.M.

Enter your float, sponsor the event, or just come and watch. Free admission



Celebrate Italian Style!

Friday, October 16, 2009

6:30 P.M. – 11:00 P.M.

RiverWinds Community Center, West Deptford, NJ

Dinner, auction, dancing and good Italian fun.

We Remember

**Michael, Anthony,
Rufus, Alyssa**

They will forever
be in our hearts

Underwriting for this edition of Outlook was provided by:
Cox Printers of Linden, NJ (<http://www.coxprinters.com/>)

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www.emmanuelcancer.org