

Outlook

The Newsletter of the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation



Spring 2007

Parents of ECF Kid Honored at Sixth Annual Charity Ball

After Joel and Stephanie Markel experienced a series of catastrophic losses to their family, they never imagined that another tragedy would strike again so soon—this time, even closer to home. After months of tests and hospital stays, the Markels received the worst news of all—their newborn baby, Ryan, was diagnosed with liver cancer and cerebral palsy.

“From the day he was born, Ryan spent most of his life in the hospital. While we were fortunate enough to take him home for a short while, we had trouble finding pediatric nurses to help care for him. Most healthcare agencies didn’t have nurses trained for this level of sickness. As a result, we started advertising and created our own nursing staff for him,” said Joel.

Despite their tireless efforts, Ryan, just 10-months-old, passed away shortly after his diagnosis.

“While this was one of the most tragic experiences of my life, what helped us get through it was our Emmanuel Cancer Foundation Caseworker. She came through with some of the most thoughtful and touching gestures, including arranging to have kosher meals for me during my stays at the hospital. Through all the pain of Ryan’s sickness, it was the emotional support from our Caseworker that helped strengthen us and gave us the ability to go on. Thank you for such a precious gift,” said Stephanie.

“No matter what was happening in our family, we kept thinking ‘lightning never strikes twice in the same place’ so we must be over the worst. I guess we were wrong!”

Joel Markel



This year, ECF honored Stephanie and Joel Markel at the Sixth Annual Charity Ball, held on Saturday, February 3, at the Channel Club. “Choosing to honor the Markels was an easy decision,” said Carol Davis, Managing Director of ECF. “Since that time, both Joel and Stephanie have supported ECF both financially and personally. We were thrilled to have the opportunity to honor their contributions.”

The Charity Ball—coordinated by Eastern Regional Director, Joann Passantino, Chairperson Ellen Gelpke, and a dedicated committee—was the most successful fundraiser in the history of ECF events, netting nearly \$60,000. The gala dinner-dance and casino night sold out due to the dedication of Honorees Joel and Stephanie.

Joel’s company, Preferred HealthMate, and its affiliates (Atlas Home Health Care, HealthMate, and Stouffers Home Health Care) were Diamond Sponsors and played a major role in planning the evening. Joel’s nephew, Russell Herman, and brother, Jonathan, made significant contributions to the event; Russell was a Diamond Sponsor and dedicated the casino portion of the evening to Joel’s mother, Lily Markel. In addition, the 2005 Honoree, Sorrentino Development Corporation, was the Ball’s Platinum Sponsor.

Notably, the Markels were honored for their magnanimous efforts by Governor Corzine, the Mayors of Brick and Marlboro, Monmouth County Freeholder, Barbara McMorro, and Ocean County Freeholder, Jack Kelly. Freeholder McMorro and Manasquan Councilman Michael Magnan were in attendance.

It was because of Joel and Stephanie’s superb leadership and the assistance of their extended family and colleagues that the Charity Ball was a night to remember for all in attendance.

See more pictures from the Charity Ball online at: www.emmanuel-cancer.org/photogallery

We Remember...

ALICE DANISIA
KYWUAN LAURA
MITCH

Forever in
Our Hearts



Letters from the Kids

Holiday Reflections

Dear ECF,

Hi, my name is Laura. When I was 13, I was diagnosed with a brain tumor. When I had surgery, the doctors said they had to leave a little bit of the tumor in my head because it was too dangerous to take all of it out.

After almost two years, we got bad news again; my tumor was bigger, so I had to start chemotherapy to prevent it from growing any more. I felt very sad seeing my mother crying when they told us, but I just kept telling myself that it was going to be OK.

I got a lot of side effects at first but then I got used to it. I would like to thank the people of Emmanuel Cancer Foundation for all their help and support.

Love, Laura

PS. I would like to tell all the children and families who have illnesses and need treatment, good luck and have faith. Trust me, everything is going to work out.

Thanks to the Independent Order of Oddfellows for their support as the sponsor of printing for this newsletter.



Dear Friends:

Now that the holidays are over, I want to take time to reflect on the generosity of our loyal donors, corporations, and new friends who showed their support to ECF in 2006.

- **WalMart** – stores across the state supported ECF by contributing generously to events, providing matching grants and gifts totaling an impressive \$17,561 through November 28, 2006.
- **The Independent Order of Odd Fellows of New Jersey (IOOF NJ)** – partnered with ECF by contributing \$30,000 to help sustain ECF services and to promote awareness of childhood cancer.
- **CB Richard Ellis, Sweetwater Construction, JBA and Sorrentino Development Corporation along with others** demonstrated their support as sponsors, contributing over \$40,725 for the 2006 Annual Celebration of Champions Golf Outings.
- **Radio stations The Point, The Breeze, WJRZ and Z100** showed their support by announcing events, hosting Kids on the air and broadcasting ECF Kid's stories.

- **Valero Refining and Franklin Lakes and Wyckoff Chapters of the Newcomers and Neighbors Club** selected ECF to be the recipient of proceeds from two innovative events: **Dancing with the Gloucester County Stars and Northern Regional Casino Night.**
- **Concord Truss Company, Wheelaborator, Pennsylvania Business Bank, Valero Refining, Century 21-Rauh & Johns,** and others sponsored the Southern Regional Center's Annual Casino Party, raising over \$7000 for ECF.

As we transition from winter into spring, please keep in mind that ECF families must battle pediatric cancer year round. Please take a moment now to support them.

Remember, every dollar counts.

We appreciate your continued support and ask that you share this newsletter with your friends so that we can share our accomplishments with even more people.

Sincerely,

Carol Davis, MA, LPC
Managing Director

ECF Board of Trustees

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Another Success Story from an ECF Kid

"I was diagnosed at age thirteen and became one of the first families that benefited from the generosity of the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation"



Surviving pediatric cancer is not an experience you will have a fond memory of, like your first love or your first win, but as strange as it sounds, someday, somehow, you are able to look back at it in a positive light. It is a hell of a character builder.

In 1983 when I was diagnosed with stage IVB Hodgkin's, my chances for survival were not good. The chemo protocol that was supposed to last one year ended up lasting almost two because my blood counts often were not good enough for me to get treatment.

After the treatments were finished, I was happier than ever! I was back in school, feeling pretty good, breathing fresh air and loving every minute of it. Unfortunately, that didn't last long. This time the relapse came with a worse prognosis than the first time!

This second bout was physically tougher. But mentally, I had a much better attitude. My theory was *'I have looked death in the eye once before. I wouldn't have a problem doing it again.'*

Fortunately, I responded well and was able to finish high school on time and continue onto college. Times were a little tough at college as I realized that the constant one on one attention I received in middle school and high school during the five years I battled cancer didn't prepare me for working on my own. In the end, I persevered and graduated on time with a degree in Commerce and Engineering (Engineering Management).

*High school graduation - 1988.
Mom, Keith and Dad*

Today, I am proud to report that I am doing great, living in a suburb of Atlanta with my wife and twin babies who keep us extremely busy! I have a great job and everyday think about how fortunate I am to be alive and well.

I think the moral of this story is this:

Life can become normal again - whatever that means. For me, it means I can live my life without the negative impact of pediatric cancer. I think that my battle with cancer helped me learn how to prioritize what is critical and what isn't. I won't say that I am devoid of all the side effects of having cancer at such a young age, but I will say that I have found ways to manage those side effects so that they don't bother me. I wasn't sure I'd be able to have kids, but I do!



*October 2006
Keith, wife Katie, Eka and Hadley*

For me it was an enlightening demonstration of how good people really are. I am forever grateful to my family, friends and strangers who helped me and my family through that very difficult time.

*Keith Platt
Former ECF Kid*





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Preparations Underway for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (CCAM)

Dress Down Day

This year, Lauren Alexanderson, Executive Assistant and former ECF kid is introducing a new event for CCAM. Her vision is to encourage private and parochial schools across New Jersey to designate one day in September as **Dress Down Day**. Students and teachers will be asked to contribute \$1 for the privilege of "dressing down." All proceeds will go to support ECF's children and families.

*"When I was undergoing chemotherapy in fifth grade, my school held a **Dress Down Day** to support me and my family. It felt so good to know that I had so many people in my corner during that difficult time. Later, I attended a private high school that had a strict dress code, and I recall our **Dress Down Days** fondly. Not only was it fun to wear more comfortable clothes to school, but it was nice to start my day knowing that I—as a student—had given back,"* said Lauren

ECF hopes that **Dress Down Day** will teach children about alternative ways that they can help their peers. For more information about **Dress Down Day** or if you know of a school that would like to participate, please contact Lauren Alexanderson by phone, at 908-322-4323 x10, or by email, at lauren@emmanuelcancer.org.

Upcoming Spring Events

April 2007

Bachelor-Bachelorette Auction

Colorado Café, Watchung

Contact: Ximena Gutierrez,

Central Regional Director

Phone: 908-322-4323 ext. 17

Email: ximena@emmanuelcancer.org

Wine and Art Night

End of Vine, Franklin Lakes

Contact: David Johnson

Northern Regional Director

Phone: 201-612-8118

Email: david@emmanuelcancer.org

June 2007

Walk/Bike-A-Thon

Boardwalk, Ocean City

Contact: Laurel Nuschke,

Greater Atlantic Regional Director

Phone: 609-927-0422

Email: laurel@emmanuelcancer.org

Dog Walk 4 Kids with Cancer

Duck Pond, Ridgewood

Contact: David Johnson

Northern Regional Director

Phone: 201-612-8118

Email: david@emmanuelcancer.org

H&R Block Supports ECF

This year, H&R Block will donate \$25 to ECF for every client referred. It's fast and easy to participate: Contact your Regional Director and ask for an H&R Block referral form. For more information call 1-800-HRBLOCK or visit www.hrblock.com

Holiday Party



I can't really explain how special it felt to have all those little eyes look at me in wonderment. It was unbelievable how they all want to touch me and shake my hands and follow me around. I loved every minute of it. Looking into all of those innocent eyes as they all marvel at seeing Santa was something I thought about all weekend."

Rich Cali

ECF Volunteer dressed as Santa at the 2006 Holiday Party





Donor Thanks

Notably, the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation received **\$287,487.10** in financial support for the period from September 1, 2006 through January 31, 2007.

We are so grateful to the individuals, corporations, foundations, schools, churches, and service organizations, who made generous financial and in-kind donations in support of ECF's children and families. Special thanks to the schools and churches that ran food and toy drives for ECF's kids for the holidays.

Every effort is made to recognize contributors correctly. We regret any errors or omissions and request that they be brought to our attention by calling the Development Office at 908-322-4323 x15.

Gifts of \$10,000 and above

Estate of Alice K. Harding, Leitner Family Foundation, Thomas H. Hamilton Foundation, Valero Refining Company

Gifts between \$5000-\$9999

ANONYMOUS, CB Richard Ellis, JBA Associates, Louis J. &

Fannie Roncoli Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. James Setteducato, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Vizzoni, Sweetwater Construction Corporation, The Danellie Foundation

Gifts between \$1000-\$4999

Bill Wahl Supply, Inc., Cardinal Real Estate Services, Inc., Century 21-Rauh & Johns, Century Group, Community Foundation of New Jersey, Concord Roof Truss Company, Contemporary Club of Ho-Ho-Kus, Dr. and Mrs. Carlo M. Nalin, Dr. and Mrs. Frank R. Besson, D.M.D., Estate of Jessie M. Brooks, Fanwood Presbyterian Church, Franklin Lakes Lions Club, Hinman Family Foundation, Industrial Cooling Corporation, Megavideo Productions, Movin' On Cruisers, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. Dan Rauh, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Jennifer I. Crusco, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Nicholas, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Riccardi, Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Hooker, Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Badenhause, Mr. and Mrs. Wade J. Schwartz, Mr. Daniel J. Brestle, Mr. Jay Peller, Mr. John F. Kwasnik, Esq., Mr. John F. Rubinetti, III, Mr. Paul Mutterer, Mr. Raymond J. Ventrice,

Special thanks to:

- § Tracey Riccardi for coordinating the Wyckoff and Franklin Lakes New Comers and Neighbors Casino Night event for the Northern Region.
- § Joel and Stephanie Markel for their guidance and leadership in planning the Charity Ball.
- § Valero Refining for their extraordinary demonstration of support for ECF's children and families and their recent donation of \$30,000 to the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation.





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Donor Thanks

Sr., Mrs. Elaina Crema, Mrs. Marilyn E. Garrod, Ms. Elizabeth Cultraro, Ms. Judith Vernon, **Pennsylvania Business Bank**, Power Solutions, **Seaview Show Management Inc.**, Shrewsbury Foundation, **Sorrentino Development Corporation**, St. Elizabeth's Church, **The Charity League**, The David P and Tracey L Gerber Family Foundation, **The Westfield Foundation**, Valero Refining Company, **Wal-Mart #2108**, **Wal-Mart #2195**, **Wal-Mart #2825**, **Wal-Mart #5111**, **Whelebrator Technologies, Inc.**, Zetatemp

Gifts between \$500-\$999

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Memorial Contributions

Total received from memorial or tribute gifts: **\$32,661.50**

Vehicle Contributions

Total received through vehicle donations to ECF: **\$9,467.50**

For your ongoing thoughtfulness

Antioch Baptist Church, Dr. Geraldine Savidge Martin, **Dr. and Mrs. Gerard Lowen**, Employees of Builders' General Supply Company, **Healthcare Collection Specialists, Inc.**, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, **Most Blessed Sacrament Church**, Mr. Franklin Yeich, **Mr. Kevin Bayne**, Mr. Louis Francis, **Mr. Robert Truhan**, Mr. Shane Dargan, **Mr. and Mrs. Craig T. McPhee**, Mr. and Mrs. H. Pete Peters, **Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Molenstra**, Mr. and Mrs. Rick & Lisa Stammerjohann, **Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Wiener**, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Mahieu, **Mr. and Mrs. Ronald J. Barresi**, Mr. and Mrs. A. William Gross, III, **Mr. and Mrs. William A. Emmrich, Jr.**, Mr. and Mrs. William P. Santamore, **Mrs. Adriana Hoover**, Mrs. Annemarie Bowman, **Mrs. Helen Morella**, Mrs. Marilyn Garrod, **Mrs. Mary M. Provissiero**, Mrs. Maureen K. Hogan, **Ms. Charlene Ng**, Ms. Joanne Ramirez, **Walmart Stores of New Jersey**, Wilson Park Seniors

