

NOTES FROM OUR FAMILIES

You will always have a very special place in our hearts for all you did years ago (2003) when Daniel was diagnosed. update: Daniel is off treatment 5yrs and can now go for yearly checkups! thinking of you today and often.
Love +
Dannny, Susanna
Alexa + Daniel



and this comes to bring you all the thanks that you deserve so much.
On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to thank you all so much for everything you have and are doing for us. The gift card especially means a lot.
Thank you,
Chris



THE COMMUNITY REACHES OUT



ECF BOARD PRESIDENT **JOEL MARKEL** has teamed up with **Lou Russo** and **Liz Jeressi** from The Morning Show at 94.3 The Point to do a monthly segment featuring an ECF kid. The first show kicked off with 17-year old **Chris Nolze (CJ)**, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor when he was 11 years old, and although he had many complications and is still dealing with medical issues, he is now a cancer-free high school graduate.

CJ and his mom, **Angela**, were delighted to have this opportunity. During the show Joel had promised to fulfill a wish for CJ, who asked if he and his mom could have a new deck put on their house. The employees of Joel's company, Preferred Home Health Care & Nursing Services, Inc., came through with a gift card that enabled them to get their deck, just in time for CJ's graduation party.

As Angela told us, "I am still in shock from yesterday. I couldn't believe Joel gave Chris a deck. Then, DJ Lou called and told me about the phone calls that came after we left. I cried all day. You have helped us so much. Thank you!"

Lou attended CJ's graduation ceremony, where CJ was a featured speaker, and arranged to get CJ the iPad he had wanted so badly!



CJ's Caseworker, **Ilene**, was at CJ's graduation party, and the two of them took time out for a photo op. Sometimes, it's all about the fun.

Outlook

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EMMANUEL CANCER FOUNDATION



autumn 2013

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

30 YEARS LATER...

ECF Founders Susan and Joseph Vizzoni Share Their Story

as written by Susan Vizzoni

MANNY (aka Emmanuel) was born on January 14, 1974. He was diagnosed with cancer on February 5, 1981 and he died on April 5, 1981. He was sick only two months! I often compare that short fatal illness to watching your child run into the street and get hit by a truck, only in slow motion.



young children understood how serious it was. When I told him that he didn't have leukemia he was so relieved. Then I had to tell him he did have cancer but that word didn't mean much to him. I explained it's like telling someone they have a "dog" but that doesn't mean it's a St. Bernard or Chihuahua. Either way there was medicine for it. He then asked what would happen if the medicine didn't work. My response was we would deal with that if and when that happened.

Every test, every procedure, only confirmed more and more bad news. We were so shocked and helpless. I also remember Manny asking me before his exploratory surgery if I would tell him the truth. I promised him I would be the one person in the entire world that would answer all of his questions with total truth and this did calm him some. It was a huge burden for me but one I was willing to take on. I felt if he was smart enough to ask a question he deserved a truthful answer.

At seven years old Manny was astute enough to know what that meant. Towards the end as he was feeling worse, he emotionally withdrew from us I believe in order to spare us his despair.

After the surgery he asked if he had leukemia. At the time "fight childhood leukemia" was often featured in ads on TV and even

At the time, Burkitt's lymphoma had only a 5% survival rate. Joe and I take comfort in the fact that that statistic has changed dramatically for the better now. We pray that there eventually will no longer be a need for ECF.



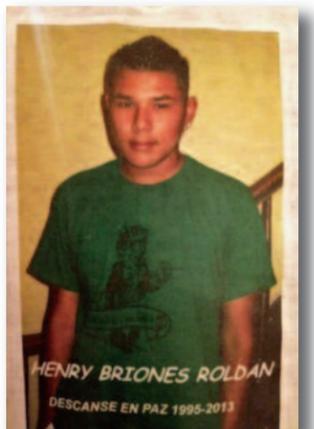
You Helped These Families

WHEN CASEWORKER MALINA let us know that **Leslie** was in need of a wheelchair, we put the word out on our Facebook page and you responded! We received help from several generous donors, including one ECF mom, Angela, and her son, Chris. (There is more about this amazing mother and son, and about Malina, in this edition of Outlook).



After Leslie's wheelchair was delivered to her door, Malina told ECF, "It has made a tremendous difference to this family. Leslie went for her clinical trial again on Thursday and has been experiencing awful side effects. Being able to move her from the bedroom to the bathroom with the wheelchair is a gift that could not have come at a better time."

FACEBOOK was also a great way to get the word out about **Henry**. With no treatment options left, Henry was at home and was looking for a distraction from the gravity of his illness. Through your generosity, we were able to get him an Xbox game which he really enjoyed. We can all take some satisfaction in the knowledge that we made his last days a little brighter. Tragically, Henry lost his battle with cancer on June 2, 2013.



If you want to learn more about ECF kids, upcoming events, or volunteer activities, visit us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/EmmanuelCancerFoundation



REFLECTIONS from the Managing Director

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled and proud to celebrate **ECF's 30th year** of providing free services to so many families in New Jersey who have benefitted from our programs. With your support we continue to assist families throughout the state in so many ways. But the best part of this celebration is keeping up with the triumphs of all the children, some of whom are now adults.

In this edition of *Outlook* you will learn more about **Chris and his mom** who are recipients of our services while simultaneously helping other families, and about some of the families you have helped, like **Leslie's** and **Henry's**. Each of our families has a unique and compelling tale to tell, and I am honored to be able to share their stories with you.

During our 30 years, ECF has provided free assistance to nearly 2000 families. Services begin where hospitals leave off, at home, where families find themselves isolated and missing the supportive network found in a medical setting.

To refer a family in need simply call ECF's Headquarters Office at **(908) 322-4323, ext. 16**.

ECF is able to provide its unique services for free thanks to contributions from the community and countless volunteers. Opportunities to help at ECF are endless; please visit ECF's website at www.emmanuelcancer.org, or call **(908) 322-4323** to learn more. To help commemorate this milestone anniversary and to keep up with our kids in-between issues of *Outlook*, please "like" ECF on Facebook: www.facebook.com/EmmanuelCancerFoundation.

Carol Davis

CAROL DAVIS, MA, LPC
Managing Director

PS. As we enter our fourth decade of service, your contribution of any size will help kids with cancer. For your convenience, we have enclosed a return envelope.

A vehicle donation is a smart way to go!



Live in New Jersey, New York City or Southeast Pennsylvania?

Donate your unwanted, used vehicle to benefit ECF.

Visit Vehicle Management Services at:

<http://www.vehiclemanagementservices.com>

or call: **1-866-435-7242** for more information.

Be sure to mention the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation!

the faces of ECF

MALINA MULERO GARCIA, LSW, is ECF's newest bilingual Caseworker, and she is very excited to be a part of the ECF team. Malina graduated from Columbia University School of Social Work in 2001 and has extensive experience in working with children, adolescents and families. She also holds a Post-Master's Certificate in Advanced Clinical Practice from NYU.



As Malina states, "Working at ECF has been an opportunity to join such dedicated families on their journey through their child's illness and to work alongside caring volunteers and resourceful staff." Her Case Manager tell us, "Malina uses her excellent clinical skills to serve the needs of the children and families. Her background in mental health services has proven to be an asset for the organization.

When not attending to the needs of ECF families, Malina enjoys spending her free time hiking, biking, reading and listening to interesting podcasts with her family.



When we grant holiday wishes for ECF kids, we also do the same for their siblings. If you would like to become a wish-grantor, please contact your nearest Regional Center. You can grant a single wish, or take on an entire family. Your company can even provide gifts for kids in their town or the county. *Feel free to get creative!*

To You



FROM THE DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

THE SUMMER MONTHS can be a stressful time for many nonprofits. Fundraising is typically slow, so some organizations struggle to meet their financial obligations. This can mean a reduction in operating hours or even worse, a cut-back in services. But not at ECF! Thanks to the community's extreme generosity, we've been able to maintain our high level of individualized services for all families - even during the summer months.

Here are some examples of the donations we've received since the last edition of *Outlook*:

- At their annual dinner, the **Independent Order of Odd Fellows of New Jersey** once again awarded ECF with a generous donation in support of statewide services.
- For the third consecutive year, the **Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation** gave ECF a grant to be used specifically for Emergency Financial Assistance to families.
- Regional grants were given by: the **Thomas H. Hamilton Foundation** (Southern), **The Woman's Club of Ridgewood** (Northern), and **The Westfield Foundation** (Central).
- **Kohl's Cares** gave a grant to match employee volunteer hours.
- Several organizations, like the **Junior Woman's Club of Westfield** and **MSO, Inc.**, held events to benefit ECF.
- Other organizations, such as **Builder's General Supply Company**, donated semi-monthly as they have been doing for many years.
- Our faithful individual donors gave in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$5000 - *it all adds up!*

It's because of each and every donor and volunteer that we have been able to offer our services for 30 summers and 30 years! *We hope you know how much you are appreciated.*

The Impact of Your VOLUNTEER HOURS



THE SHOCKING NEWS of her own grandson's cancer diagnosis only served to strengthen the commitment of long-time volunteer **Betty Dworkin** from ECF's Eastern Region. For over 20 years she has devoted herself to meeting the needs of our families by delivering groceries, hosting her own fundraisers, volunteering at events, and filling holiday wishes. Even today, you'll often see her on ECF's Facebook page, offering to do whatever it takes. As Betty told us, *"I believe there is no other organization in the area*

that does what we do. When Tony was diagnosed I realized how very important ECF must be to many families."

VOLUNTEER IVETTE MARTINEZ heard Zipporah, the Southern Regional Director, talking to another guest at the Center's open house and jumped right in to save the day. She donated a much-needed mattress and bed frame for ECF kid, **Michael!**



A very benevolent couple has been anonymously donating gift cards and contributions monthly to help families in the Northern Region. This has been going on for years, and the impact of their generosity has been a great help to so many ECF kids. For several families, it has enabled us to provide specific baby supplies, such as formula and diapers that we don't ordinarily have on our pantry shelves, as well as other personal care items.



YOGI, ECF's official therapy dog, just turned five. His mom, Central Regional volunteer **Joan Jambor**, recently took him to visit one of ECF's kids, and brings him to ECF family events, like the Frito Lay Carnival and the Holiday Party. The children are always delighted to see him as evidenced by their priceless smiles.

Let us
remember...



**Juliana
Emily**

**Tyreek
Mya
Henry**

**Giovanni
Anthony**