

# Outlook

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EMMANUEL CANCER FOUNDATION



autumn 2014

Created in collaboration with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of New Jersey – proud partners in support of kids with cancer. [www.ioof.org](http://www.ioof.org)

## MEET CHELSEY

**TWELVE-YEAR OLD CHELSEY** was diagnosed with brain cancer five years ago, when she was just seven. After completing surgery to remove her tumor, followed by chemotherapy and radiation treatments, Chelsey was finally on the road to recovery. Caseworker Amy had her first meeting with the family several months after Chelsey's diagnosis, and five years later, ECF continues to support them, as they deal with the long-term effects on both Chelsey and her family.

During this time, in addition to the ongoing emotional support provided by Amy, ECF has filled holiday wishes for Chelsey and her siblings, sent the family to see *Sesame Street Live*, as well as *Annie* and *The Lion King* on Broadway, provided them with

groceries, and helped the family with bills when they were struggling with the enormous costs that ensue after a diagnosis of pediatric cancer.

Chelsey's mom, Tara, who has been a speaker at ECF fundraisers, recently told Amy, "Thank you so much for *The Lion King* tickets! The show was outstanding, the kids were amazed! I would have never been able in the near future to afford them the opportunity to experience the show! Thanks so much!"

As Chelsey continues to live the life of any other 12-year old, including attending her first school dance and playing softball, ECF will be there for as long as we are needed.



## FAMILIES WHO GIVE BACK

WHILE WE NEVER ASK FOR OR EXPECT ANYTHING, some ECF families like to show their appreciation for the support they receive from us and do so in a variety of ways...

**AFTER** reading the last issue of *Outlook*, **TARA'S** parents from Gloucester County sent us a contribution. We helped this family several years ago, when Tara was a young teenager who had just been diagnosed with leukemia. We hope you are doing well, Tara.

**BEFORE** her 1st birthday, **GIZA** was diagnosed with bilateral retinoblastoma. We are delighted that she just celebrated her one-year anniversary of being cancer-free! Her mom, Rebecca, always so appreciative of ECF's services, was pleased to address the attendees of the Northern Region's Annual Bash. Her words were heartwarming and well-received, and mother and daughter enjoyed a nice night out.



**YEAR** after year, Marie McAllister hosts a walk for friends and family, benefitting ECF and honoring the memory of her son, **MITCHELL**.

She also attends ECF events in the Southern Region, with unwavering support. She was last seen at the Southern Region's own inaugural 5K Walk, with friends and family. Thank you, all!



## Working Together to Help Families

**GABRIELLA** was diagnosed with leukemia two months prior to her sixth birthday. She lives with her parents and two brothers in Bergen County. As she was turning seven, ECF Caseworker Caitlin made sure this would be a birthday to remember by getting tickets donated for the family to see *The Lion King* on Broadway. Then she connected Gabriella with the S.H.A.R.E

Foundation, who arranged for Gabriella and her family to have a backstage tour with the cast members in addition to some special surprises.

**Gabriella's mom wrote:** "Thank you! We had an amazing time today! She even got cupcakes and the cast members sang her Happy Birthday! They got to hang with the kids from the cast. It was truly amazing!"

**ECF** kid **ZACK** looks happy in the company of the girls from the Duffy Confirmation Group at Our Lady of Mount Carmel at their recent Bagel Breakfast fundraiser. Eleven girls raised \$2500, exceeding their original fundraising goal by more than double! In addition to the Bagel Breakfast, these enterprising young ladies sold chocolate lollipops. They granted Zack's wish for headphones, and the rest of the proceeds went to support ECF families. According to Zack, "Having cancer has been difficult. The only thing that has made it easier is all the amazing help from so many amazing people. Getting these headphones really helps me relax. Thank you to the girls of Mount Carmel's Parish for being so generous." Along with his loving family and dog, we are all rallying for Zack!



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

## the faces of ECF

### CASEWORKER EILEEN APPELBAUM



began her career as an elementary school teacher, but after starting her family and then losing her four-year old daughter to cancer, she returned to school for a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology at the College of St. Elizabeth. Her goal was to work with families and provide bereavement counseling. Through the years, she has volunteered for the American Cancer Society and Morristown Memorial Hospital Cancer Center, trained and volunteered for St. Barnabas Hospice and Palliative Care Center in bereavement, and was a bereavement coordinator for a hospice. She now "finds fulfillment in working with ECF families." During her leisure time, she enjoys her family, especially her young grandson, as well as traveling, reading and working on needlepoint.

## REFLECTIONS from the Managing Director



### Dear Friends,

I am frequently asked how families come to us, and I find that the answer to that question has changed greatly over the past decade. While ECF used to rely mainly on social workers at various hospitals to make referrals, we now find that in many cases friends and family reach out to us directly after doing an Internet search, or that they are referred to us by those in the community who are aware of our programs. But when Northern Regional Director Laura told me the following story, it was a first:

*A mom wandered into the Northern Regional Center this morning with her eleven-year old daughter, who has ovarian cancer. They walked out with two toys, a box of the girl's favorite cereal, and a birthday bag.*

Caseworker Caitlin is now working with Laura to provide this family with ECF's

ongoing services, and we have added them to our list of families in New Jersey who we are proud to support. You can read about other ECF kids in this issue of **Outlook**, and learn more about some of the dedicated volunteers, individuals, and community groups that make it all possible.

*Carol Davis*

**CAROL DAVIS, MA, LPC**  
Managing Director

**PS.** Don't miss news and updates on ECF kids. It's easy to "like" ECF on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EmmanuelCancerFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelCancerFoundation). And remember that your contribution of any size will help kids with cancer. For your convenience, we have enclosed a return envelope.  
**Thank you!**

## DOLLARS for DOERS (DFD)

Corporate volunteer grants, also known as Dollars for Doers grants, are programs established by companies to encourage their employees to get involved in community service.

Through volunteer grant programs, a company gives money to nonprofit organizations based on how many hours its employees spend volunteering. Nonprofit organizations benefit from the employee's service and from the additional grant the company awards them.

Check with your Human Resources Department. Some companies that offer this program include: **Verizon, Wal-Mart, Wachovia, Best Buy, Becton Dickinson, Kohl's, Time Warner, Sam's Club, Morgan Stanley**, and many more!



Last year, volunteers delivered a record 3404 bags of groceries to families. Volunteers also stock the four ECF food pantries, and prepare bags and bags of food and other items for delivery each month.

*Let us  
remember...*



**Damiyah • Sebastian • Fraentz**

# To You



## FROM THE DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

**H**OW CAN IT BE that another summer has come and gone? For nonprofits like ECF which rely on the community for volunteer assistance and financial support, the summer can be difficult. While children continue to fight cancer and families look to ECF for services, funding is typically tight and volunteers are often on vacation, making service delivery more challenging. But, as you may have guessed while reading this edition of **Outlook**, summer was not a problem this year at ECF. You, our community, came out in record numbers to ensure that ECF had the financial resources and manpower needed to provide continuous services throughout the summer months. We can't thank you enough!

While every donation deserves recognition, we'd like to acknowledge grants that we received in the past six months:

For more than two decades, the **Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF)** of New Jersey has been supporting ECF. At the IOOF's June annual dinner in Atlantic City, we were proud and honored to receive generous donations from IOOF's Grand Lodge and the Grand Encampment.

**The Ronald McDonald House Charities New York Tri-State Area and Global** renewed their commitment to ECF with a grant in support of our services to Spanish-speaking families caring for a child with cancer. Through the **Stryker Women's Network**, ECF received a first-time grant from **Stryker Orthopaedics** in support of two families in Northern New Jersey. Thank you also to **Macy's** for their grant and to the following long-time supporters: **The Westfield Foundation, The Westfield Service League**, and the **Woman's Club of Ridgewood**. We are incredibly grateful!

## The **Impact** of Your VOLUNTEER HOURS

**E**LLEN DINALLO'S journey with ECF began when we provided support to her family following the diagnosis of her son, Billy, in 1989. Through the years, as Billy regained his health, Ellen began to volunteer at the **Eastern** Region and has turned into one of ECF's greatest champions. From delivering groceries and birthday gifts, running a Fashion Show/Gift Auction, chairing the Winter Gala, and most recently acting as the ECF Liaison for the summer Dock N' Roll fundraiser, Ellen spends many hours giving back. A real family affair, Ellen's husband, Gary, son, Billy, and other family members also volunteer and support ECF.



**MARYANN STOLL** of Wyckoff read about ECF in the Villadom Times, inspiring her to organize a food drive with her daughter's CCD group for the **Northern** Region. Next she began to volunteer in the office, and soon realized how much social media could help raise awareness. By spreading the word about ECF, and with the generosity of those she reached, some wonderful things were accomplished: ECF received a donation of a laptop for a needy family; family holiday gift requests were fulfilled; gift items were donated and sponsorship ads were placed for the annual Bash fundraiser; and a local gift shop sponsored a food drive. This past holiday season, Maryann and her husband delivered gifts to ECF families. She participated in our Holiday Bazaar, represented ECF at the Mahwah Chamber of Commerce Spirit Showcase and was involved in many aspects of the Bash fundraiser.

ECF is grateful for **CLIFF JONES'** steadfast support in the **Southern** Region. He has volunteered his time to make sure that our families have the help that they need, and is always there for them. From his early days as a youth group leader at his church, he inspired an entire generation of young people to join ECF's efforts by mentoring, sharing his passion, and inspiring participation. Cliff and the group began to provide material assistance to ECF families such as toys, clothing, gift certificates, holiday gifts, furniture and any other item that was needed. Cliff has also transported ECF kids and their siblings to summer camp programs, and volunteered at ECF holiday parties. He volunteered to manage a food pantry for families in Cumberland County, and through his employer, DuPont, he has secured contributions for our programs.



**JACK POILON**, a college freshman, has been volunteering weekly in the **Central** Region for the past four years. He is always willing to do whatever is needed for the Regional Center and for the administrative staff, which borrows him from time to time. Jack comes from a family of volunteers. For years, parents Pete and Janet have delivered groceries and birthday gifts to families, and help at some ECF events. His older sister, Mary, pictured here with Jack, volunteered while she was a high school student, and returns to help from time to time. We are grateful to Jack and the Pilon family, and eagerly await younger sister Emma's role at ECF!

**VOLUNTEERING IS A GREAT WAY TO GET INVOLVED**  
and help out at ECF. We are always in need of volunteers for a variety  
of projects. Opportunities are available at all four Regional Centers.

# NOTES & PHOTOS FROM OUR FAMILIES

## AN ECF MOM SENT THIS TO HER CASEWORKER...

"Thank you so much for coming over. Every time you come I always feel so much better afterwards. Thank you so much for listening to me and for being such great support in every way you possibly can."

## FROM ONE OF OUR FAMILIES IN TENAFLY...

"We just loved all of the children's gifts. It means so much to us how you have carried us through the year, sustaining us."



**A NOTE FROM SERGIO'S MOM...**  
 "I wanted to share with you that Sergio just graduated from fifth grade. He was honored at his graduation ceremony with a plaque given to him by his principal. Thank you for being such an amazing organization."



"We are thankful for the Easter dinner box you sent us. It made our day special and we are very appreciative for all that you do for us. Jaeden also wanted to thank you so much for the basket with all the goodies. He enjoyed coloring his new Monsters book."



My social worker is Evelyn

my name is Nayeli

thanks to the foundation  
 E manual  
 Thank tuba family

## ANNY'S MOM SENT US THIS NOTE AFTER WE HELPED HER OUT WITH HER UTILITY BILL...

"Thank you so much – I was so upset last night when I saw the shut off notice – thought we were ahead of that one. I am much relieved today."

## THE COMMUNITY REACHES OUT

**DEBBIE MAZELLA**, our favorite DJ at WMGQ Magic 98.3, provided our families with tickets for *Sesame Street Live*, Hurricane Harbor at Six Flags and the NJ Balloon Festival. As one mom wrote of her daughter's experience at *Sesame Street Live*, "She loved it! She was happy and clapping and dancing and then fell asleep towards the end." She sounds like a typical two-year old!



Executive VP **TIM SHAHEEN** of Builders General Supply has been a long-time supporter of ECF. Tim encourages his employees to contribute monthly, and his business has been conducting a Pot of Gold 50/50 raffle for over two decades. The most recent raffle raised over \$20,000 for our families. Thank you so much!



**MISS PATTI'S SCHOOL OF DANCE** was founded by Patti and Darryl, the parents of **Julie Elizabeth Vigon**, a promising young ballet student who, at the age of 12, succumbed to bone cancer. For the 4th consecutive year, Miss Patti's has treated ECF families to a Broadway production and dinner. Twenty-five of our families, including Ryan's, pictured, and two of our Caseworkers, Allison and Michele, went to see *The Lion King* this summer. We are so grateful for this collaboration.



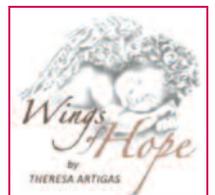
**NANCY SCHARFF'S** first contribution to ECF was back in 1991, and soon after she began performing her annual God & Country Concert to benefit ECF families. We are so grateful to this incredibly talented and generous donor!

**PARTY WITH PURPOSE** is an all-volunteer group of young professionals who promote events that combine fun times with charitable causes. They have been supporting ECF with a generous grant for the past four years. The group holds a Winter Benefit in Hoboken that is an event not to be missed!

**KELLY HOLECHEK** started volunteering when she organized a carnival at her high school to benefit ECF. In college, she involved her sorority sisters of Sigma Delta Tau and they started granting holiday wishes for ECF kids. Now, she is an amazing young woman who recently ran the Brooklyn Half Marathon Five-Borough Series for ECF, raising over \$500!



**THERESA ARTIGAS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTISTS** in Brielle teamed up with ECF producing the 2014 Wings of Hope Calendar, featuring portraits and heartwarming photos and stories about some of the children we are helping. The proceeds from the sale of the calendar were donated to ECF to support our free services to families.



**SIXTEEN-YEAR OLD TOMMY O'CONNOR** of Chatham reached out to ECF offering to do some fundraising for us this summer. He is almost halfway to his \$1000 goal. What a nice thing to do, Tommy!