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.
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.

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, 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. And remember that your contribution of any size will help kids with cancer. For your convenience, we have enclosed a return envelope. Thank you!

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!

DADDYAH • SEBASTIAN • FRAENTZ
HOW 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!

ELLEN 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 Poilon 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.
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!

ANNA SCHARR’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!

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.

THERESA ARTIGAS PHOTOGRAPHERS 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!