

Outlook

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EMMANUEL CANCER FOUNDATION



spring 2013

You Helped These Families

MATTHEW was diagnosed with a brain tumor in the summer of 2008, and it was removed immediately, followed by aggressive cancer treatments. His prognosis was good, and the cancer did not spread. Matthew was only 12 years old at the time. The treatment was debilitating, though, causing Matthew to become so weak that he needed a feeding tube. When he was scheduled for a stem cell transplant it was discovered that he had relapsed. He started on an experimental treatment in March 2012, and endured more surgical procedures on his brain and more chemotherapy. On October 18, 2012, Matthew tragically lost his life.



In July 2012, when Matthew was still well enough to speak at a fundraiser for ECF.

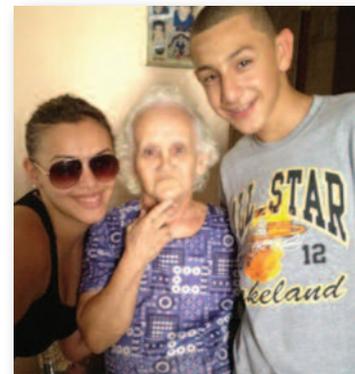
Matthew's Caseworker, Ilene, stated "He was an incredible person who was wise beyond his years, and just a really nice kid. ECF was able to help the family with groceries, holiday gifts, and some bills so the family could concentrate on attending to Matthew's needs. Most of all the family was able to rely on me for emotional support when things were too much for them to handle." Ilene continues to provide support to the family members Matthew left behind.

ECF DONORS Patti Vernon and Patty Steele won airline tickets in a raffle, and decided to donate them to ECF kid Jessica and her family. Jessica and her younger brother, Jojo, used the opportunity to take a trip to Puerto Rico, where much of the family resides. Jessica was reunited with her sister, Ashley, who had returned to Puerto Rico a year ago, and got to see her great-grandma for the first time in ten years. She also met her new cousin, three-year old Dariel, for the first time. Jessica, who was diagnosed with osteosarcoma when she was younger, is still struggling to beat her cancer.

Patty told us, "We have been donating to ECF for years at Thanksgiving and Christmas and know how hard it is for the families to get by with all the medical bills. We thought someone might enjoy a getaway, not realizing the impact this would make! A simple gesture on our part turned into a huge family event for them. We couldn't have been happier to give up the tickets for such a great cause. Thanks for all the work you all do. Cancer has touched our lives very deeply so we can appreciate all you do at Emmanuel."



Jessica with her siblings and cousin.



Jessica gets to see her great-grandma!



LITTLE MICHAEL who was thrilled beyond words to receive his Ride-Onhas a different look now. Michael's parents tell us that his prognosis is good. He was so excited to attend ECF's holiday party, and the family expressed much appreciation for the party and the gifts they received from the Regional Center. While he continues to progress, Michael is still a little taken aback by his hair loss!

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

the faces of ECF



COLLEEN FITZPATRICK joined ECF's team of Caseworkers in August 2012. Her rich background includes many years of counseling experience as well as a keen interest in helping families manage struggles they incur while their child is undergoing treatment. Colleen graduated from Immaculata University in 1990 and Rutgers School of Social Work in 1996. She has been a licensed clinical social worker since 1999. She has held multiple positions over the past years, including clinical supervisor at a day program for the chronically mentally ill, school social worker and most recently has a private practice in Haddonfield, NJ. Colleen has many hobbies, including playing various instruments and photography. She really "enjoys meeting the families and providing resources that are needed."



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2012, ECF volunteers delivered more than **3000** bags of groceries, and distributed nearly **350** gift cards to supermarkets for our families!

REFLECTIONS from the Managing Director

Dear Friends,

This year marks ECF's 30th anniversary of providing services to New Jersey families fighting pediatric cancer. Thirty years is an amazing accomplishment, especially in the very difficult economic climate which has plagued so many non-profits. I hope you'll take a moment to read this issue of *Outlook* which reminds us of the good that ECF has been doing since 1983. None of this would have been possible without you, our devoted ECF supporters and friends.

In our last newsletter you read about four-year old **Cristina** who has leukemia. We are pleased to tell you that she and her family were deeply touched by the outpouring of support they received from the many caring people who reached out to them during a time of crisis. Despite a few setbacks, Cristina continues to persevere through the maintenance phase of treatment, her vivacious, engaging personality warming the hearts of all who work with and care for her. Although grateful for Cristina's continued progress, Mom worries because Cristina's older sister has also developed some significant health issues which have added even more stress to her overwhelming caretaking responsibilities. As this family continues to struggle with the weight of their burden, their Caseworker, Debbie, provides ongoing support.

Diego, the seven-year old boy with leukemia who was featured in our holiday appeal, was well enough to visit Disneyworld, but while there he had to spend a day in the hospital due to a high fever. Tragically, a fire destroyed Dad's

place of employment this winter, so he is now taking odd jobs to pay the bills while it is being reconstructed. ECF continues to help this family and is extending critical services due to their emergency situation.

In this newsletter we introduce you to **Stephen**, an ambitious young man who has come so far since his diagnosis as a little boy. Stephen's mom, Danielle, is an amazing woman who continues to support ECF, offering discounts to our families at Arcy's, her salon in Pennsauken.

Sadly, at times we have to report the tragic passing of a child, as in the case of young **Matthew**. We are honored that we are able to support his loving family.

Among others, you will read about a courageous volunteer, a long-time and loyal volunteer, a dynamic Caseworker, a two-generation family of volunteers, and two generous women who never imagined the good their donation would do for **Jessica** and her family.

And learn what young **Wil**, who is the bravest amputee ever, has to say! I hope these stories will inspire you. They are what keep us going in our quest to provide free services to any family in need.

Carol Davis

CAROL DAVIS, MA, LPC
Managing Director

*PS. Please consider helping us to do what we are proud to be doing – **helping kids with cancer and their families**. A gift of any size will make a difference. We have enclosed an envelope for your convenience. Thank you!*

Let us remember...



**Peter
Matthew
Kiarah
Emily**

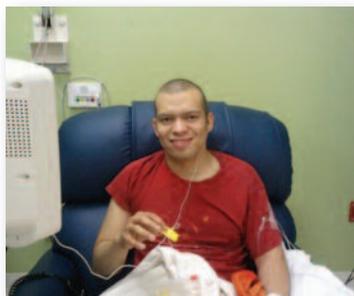
The Impact of Your VOLUNTEER HOURS

"My mom, Joyce Terrano, passed away recently. She supported ECF by volunteering and delivering groceries to a few different families. She really got to know the families on a personal level and gave them as much love and support as she could. She became quite close to one family whose teenage boy Robert had cancer. Robert loved wrestling and my mom and dad were able to get tickets to a match for him and his siblings and they attended the event with him. When Robert needed a special hospital bed she bought him one. She often times would pick up perishables on her way with the bagged groceries so the families would have a little extra. I know this because I was fortunate to sometimes go with her. That was always her way. She did more than expected because helping other people gave her so much joy. Now I am a volunteer, and a supporter of ECF. Thanks, Mom!"



—JULIE GREANEY

"I am a cancer survivor. I was diagnosed in 2011, and I still find it difficult to accept what happened. I couldn't understand why this was happening. Did I do something wrong? Did I eat the wrong things? Did the cancer spread? Why was this happening to me? All I



can remember was thinking is that I would give everything to be healthy. Then chemotherapy came and I couldn't walk. The air was thin and my lungs felt heavy. I remember feeling my heart slowing down. I felt as I was dying slowly. Because of this I refused to sleep in fear that I was not going to wake up. Unfortunately my body had an allergic reaction to the chemotherapy and they had to shoot me up with medicine to counter that. This made my veins burn. It felt like fire was traveling up my arms and into my body. I cried. Not so much because of the pain but of the thought this was actually happening. This went on for six to seven hours a session for six months.



Now I am cancer free and I'm in love with life. I race cars and compete in 5K races. I work as a Senior Financial Analyst and I have no complaints. I came to the Emmanuel Cancer

Foundation because I wanted to give back and help kids. Now I am delivering groceries and using my bilingual skills to better communicate with ECF families."

—FRANCISCO VALENCIA, JR.

Join GoodSearch.com to raise funds for the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. When you use GoodSearch.com to search the Internet, they donate a penny per search to our cause. It's really easy; it's free and turns simple everyday actions into a way to make the world a better place. Please sign up today to help support ECF. Go to www.goodsearch.com to get started.

To You

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

AT ECF we have a small staff, thirteen Caseworkers, a dedicated board, and more than 200 volunteers. We all believe deeply in the organization's purpose of making life more bearable for families caring for a child with cancer. Our donors have confirmed the importance of our work by contributing in unprecedented amounts. Look at the amazing six months we've had:

- Our holiday appeal raised over \$30,000 and achieved the full matching grant challenge of \$20,000 from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows New Jersey.
- Grant donations were plentiful. Grants supporting our Family Services Program were given by: AT&T Corporation, Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund, Ellis Family Charitable Foundation, John Raad Post American Legion No. 438-Ladies Auxiliary, The John Victor Machuga Foundation, Joseph L. Carley Foundation, MagyarBank Charitable Foundation, Margaret and Peter Chang Foundation, Saint Elizabeth's Church Outreach Fund, and the Select Equity Group Foundation. Ronald McDonald House Charities New York Tri-State Area and Global gave a grant in support of our Family Services Program for Spanish-speaking families and Party with Purpose gave to our Grocery Delivery Services. The Shapiro Family Foundation awarded a grant in specific support of Caseworker Services.

We are grateful to ALL of our donors for generously supporting ECF and believing in our mission. **How can we ever express enough gratitude for this enormous vote of confidence?**

ECF Kids – WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

STEPHEN NOLAN

How long ago did your family receive services from ECF?

Amazingly, it was 16 years ago!

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

I was diagnosed with leukemia a few days after my first birthday.

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

My mom always talks about how great you guys were to us all the time. We remember our Caseworker, and all the food and gifts that were delivered to our house and how they helped out so much. ECF also got us a fence so my dog wouldn't run away, and they found a donor for a carpet for the living room so that I could come home to a germ-free environment after my bone marrow transplant.

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

I was so young and there's so much I don't remember, but everyone says I'm the miracle kid! During treatment I had several complications that almost took my life. Then, a bone marrow donor match came along and I had my transplant 11 months into treatment. Now I spend one day a year at the

hospital for tons of tests. Side effects from the chemo and radiation show up every now and then. A few months ago my thyroid was removed. I hate these side effects and I get really bummed out sometimes.

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

Now I'm 17 and a senior in high school. I'm a serious gamer and plan to work in the video game field after college. I also work part-time flagging cars at the parking lot and at the Electric Factory in Philadelphia, just across the bridge. I spent three years in the Air Force ROTC. In the past I've gone to a few camps for kids with cancer, but I'm not really an outdoorsy person. I love when the hospital calls and asks me to participate in a study – I want to do anything I can to help.

Who are your role models and why?

My hero is Hakan Samuelson, from Sweden. He is my bone marrow donor and he saved my life!

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

I plan to be a well-known video game designer!

Is there anything else you'd like to share with our readers?

Yes. Cancer stinks!



Even during treatment, Stephen always had a smile on his face!



NOTES FROM OUR FAMILIES



"My name is Wil, and I am 10. I live in Westfield with my mom, dad, and my brother and sister. We are triplets and we are all best friends! Soon it will be five years since they told me I had cancer in my bones.

But I didn't let that stop me! Even though my leg had to be amputated because of the cancer, I still can do all the things I like with my brand new leg. I play tackle and flag football, I go snowboarding in the Poconos, play on the Union County rugby team, swim, and play lacrosse.

When I see my doctors for check-ups they tell me I am doing fine. That makes my parents very happy. I also help other kids who are going to have an amputation. I show them that you can still do the stuff you love even if you are missing your arm or leg.

Cancer is really bad, but the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation sure helped us get through it."

THE COMMUNITY REACHES OUT



The annual Holiday Party at Johnson & Johnson headquarters in New Brunswick is always a big treat for ECF families. This year kids decorated cookies, made crafts such as ornaments and snowmen, and played games with J&J staff members. There was plenty of food and an entertaining magician! At the end of the party, J&J employees donated a car full of gifts to be delivered to ECF kids.

Kids (and Yogi, ECF's Therapy Dog!) really enjoy the Frito-Lay Carnival with all the wonderful activities: face painting, pumpkin painting, crafts, dunk tank, pie-in-the-face booth, dancing, food, prizes, and Frito-Lay snacks galore.



The Independent Order of Odd Fellows French Lodge 89 hosts a party for ECF families every holiday season, and Gloucester County College provides the gifts and activities. The arrival of Santa is always a highlight!

