NOTE & PHOTOS FROM OUR FAMILIES

DAMIEN’S FAMILY... “Thank you so much for your generous gifts. Our kids were so happy. Thanks to everyone for helping and for making this happen. My kids couldn’t believe that all the toys were for them! They had big smiles on their faces...”

NICKLE, AUNT OF FMR ECF KID... “I am writing to thank you for all the wonderful support that you gave my sister, Kelli, and nieces while they lived in New Jersey. You were a tremendous help to them. Thanks again for the amazing work you do...”

FABiola, yOgan’s moM... “The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation is amazing. They are very thoughtful of everyone in need and are willing to listen if a suggestion is needed. I am really glad there are people who can lend an ear and willing help get out of their comfort zone and help people who are sick and in need of help. Overall ECF is great at what they’re doing. I hope for them to keep on helping people who really need it...”

THE COMMUNITY REACHES OUT

C O-OWNERS and brothers DAVID and JOHN ZIEGLER volunteered to host an all-day and night fundraiser, Dock & Roll, at Waters Edge in Bayville, this past August. Complete with live entertainment, auctions, special drinks, and a beautiful day, this was a unique treat for all who arrived by land or sea, for making this happen.

FRITO LAY, in collaboration with ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL in Metuchen, made sure all families had fun on at their annual Carnival for our families. Activities, entertainment, food, door prizes, and lots of volunteers made this an unforgettable family outing. ECF mom Tisha wrote, “Thanks for a great time at Frito Lay. Nicholas and I enjoyed many fun activities. Thanks to Emanuel Cancer Foundation who has helped and is still helping my family throughout our journey.”

JOHNSON & JOHNSON World Headquarters in New Brunswick provided the space, and Holiday Express provided the entertainment, food, and gifts to make this a fun-filled Holiday Party for our families. Our friends at J&J Corporate Finance also raised over $12,000 this holiday season to support our families! In addition to the families who were there, ECF invited the authors of Purpee the Purple Dragon, ANTHONY FASANO and his daughter, BRIANNA, to attend the event and to bring books for the children. The authors gave out more than 75 copies of the book and had a lot fun in the process! We are also grateful to all the hundreds of generous individuals and organizations who donated gifts to be distributed at this event and throughout the holiday season.

CO-OWNERS and brothers DAVID and JOHN ZIEGLER volunteered to host an all-day and night fundraiser, Dock & Roll, at Waters Edge in Bayville, this past August. Complete with live entertainment, auctions, special drinks, and a beautiful day, this was a unique treat for all who arrived by land or sea, for making this happen.

SEPARATE HOLIDAY PARTY, held in conjunction with Southview High School, in Metuchen, was also a big hit with ECF families, largely due to the great musical talent of Balsaam’s Ride. Just ask young Charlie, who, despite being wheelchair bound, joined the fun by dancing in his chair.

This party couldn’t have happened without the support of the Odd Fellows, Team Old Navy, Cherry Hill, Rowan University - Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Woodbury, Ronald McDonald, the Balloon Man, the Allen Family, VSR Limos, and a host of volunteers.

THE FIRST THING PEOPLE NOTICE ABOUT JHONNY is his infectious smile. Multiple surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation treatments have not impacted Jhronny’s ability to make anyone around him laugh despite all he has been through since his diagnosis. His treatment plan, recovery, and understanding of his illness are complicated by developmental delays and a hearing defect which were diagnosed during early childhood. Despite these obstacles, Jhronny continues to fight his cancer through faith, determination, and the overwhelming support and encouragement of his parents.

CASEWORKER CAITLIN met with Jhronny and his mother shortly after his diagnosis, and realized the enormous financial strain facing them, since Mom was forced to leave her job in order to care for her son. Due to this loss of income, treatment copays, medication costs, hospital expenses, and bills continued to pile up. Caitlin immediately focused on providing Jhronny and his parents with emotional and financial support, and concrete resources to help with the burden of his illness. ECF delivered food baskets for the holidays and monthly groceries to this family for one year. Caitlin worked with volunteers in the Northern Regional Center to provide the family with gift cards for groceries, clothing, and gas for hospital visit travel. Caitlin has continued to support this family emotionally. Mom is extremely grateful, stating, “You truly have a God given gift in every time we speak. I feel so much better afterwards! It’s almost as if you know exactly how I feel and what to say. I really feel a weight being lifted off my shoulders every time we talk.”

Jhronny completed treatment but continues with tests every few months to check the status of his tumors. His most recent test showed no signs of cancer. His life now includes attending school and doing an internship at Edible Arrangements.

Recently, Jhronny and his mother attended a fundraiser for ECF held by the New School of Dance Arts in Millard Park. NDSA Director Jessica Morales and a few of the NDSA grabbed the pair for this photo op. This event raised $1,000 for families in the Northern Region.

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...

GEY IPPOLITO, who was featured in a recent issue of Outlook, put together a remarkable fundraiser to benefit ECF. The Rutgers Dental vs. Medical Charity Hockey Game was held at the Prudential Center in Newark on March 20th, with Joey playing for the Rutgers. Both the Meds and the Brazes played a great game, easilybauling the professionals. And the snow and freezing rain did not detract the fans on either side. Joey, now in his third year of medical school, was diagnosed with cancer when he was five months old. ECF helped his family back then, and along with parents Eileen and Brian, they have never forgotten us. Joey’s mom recently sent us this photo of several outfits we sent them in their time of need.

We are grateful for this show of appreciation so many years later.

W E WERE SADDENED to learn of the passing of ANTHONY “ACE” ESPOSITO, who lost his battle with cancer at the young age of 29. ECF provided support to Anthony’s family when he was first diagnosed twenty-five years ago, at age four. Recalling how critical ECF’s intervention was for their family, Anthony’s father had this company, W2O, contribute $10,000 to ECF, and also asked for memorial gifts to be sent to ECF in lieu of flowers. We are grateful to be remembered by the Esposito family in their time of grief and are honored by these meaningful gestures in memory of Ace.

If you want to learn more about ECF kids, upcoming events, or volunteer activities, visit us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/EmmanuelCancerFoundation
Last year, gift cards totaling $17,775 were distributed to ECF families. Gift cards help defray a family's expenses in the face of increasing bills and loss of income.

The Impact of Your Volunteer Hours

PAIGE CRANDALL (L) and LIZZIE KAMINOFF (R), often operate as a team at the Central Region, where they have been volunteering for the past two years. Each week, they keep busy with a variety of computer projects, packing food and checking expiration dates, wrapping gifts, stuffing envelopes, and then asking what they can do next. They have also volunteered at regional events. Regional Director Barbara states, “They are always willing to help and bring laughter and fun to the task at hand. They are delightful to work with and will be missed when they graduate high school in a few months.”

DEBBIE SOMERVILLE has been an integral part of the Eastern Region for many years. From assisting with events, to helping with the frenzy around the holidays, or simply in response to a general call for help, she is always readily and willing to lend a hand on tasks large or small. “She is dedicated and very thorough,” says Joann, the Regional Director. “We are so lucky to have her!” As Debbie tells us, “It has been my pleasure and has brought tremendous satisfaction to me by volunteering for ECF over the years. I especially enjoyed bringing smiles to the children and their families associated with ECF, whether it be delivering the Birthday in the Box or Thanksgiving dinners.”

ANTONIO VALENTI from North Haliedon has been donating his DJ services to the Bash, the Northern Region’s signature fundraising event, for the past few years. Regional Director Laura swoons, “We are all so grateful, as are the attendees, who can’t get enough of his Frank Sinatra voice.” Antonio believes in volunteering, and is involved with other organizations which raise cancer awareness. He is also a volunteer firefighter, a professional fashion photographer, and loves playing bass in his band, Nifty-Suit. When he’s not busy doing everything for everybody else, Antonio has a company that distributes commercial and residential windows.

BEVERLY STARR came to the Southern Region with years of experience from her family business, Stair Furniture. Her expertise in the area of office management allowed her to hit the ground running at ECF, as she started to connect with local businesses requesting their help by hosting food drives. Her hard work has paid off, as the pantry remains well-stocked. Beverly told us, “I really enjoy volunteering at ECF... it warms my heart to help others.” It warms our hearts, too, Beverly!

REMEMBERING ECF IN YOUR WILL IS MEANINGFUL and quite simple. If you would like more information, you can contact your financial planner or attorney, or give us a call at (908) 322-4323.

 Searching the Internet and Help ECF!

Through a partnership with Internet search engine http://www.goodsearch.com, powered by Yahoo, you can help ECF every time you search. It’s easy—designate ECF as the recipient charity (you only have to do this once when you set up your account), and each time you use the search engine, ECF will get approximately $0.01.

Thank you for supporting ECF’s mission and for believing in the important work that we do.