



ELLIE: Brave, Friendly, and Finished with Treatment!

When Ellie was undergoing chemotherapy for acute lymphoblastic leukemia, she was very scared about her hair falling out.



To help her feel better, Ellie's family let her shave her father's and grandfather's heads to match hers. Ellie enjoyed this so much, that the men stayed bald until Ellie's hair grew back. Her parents also got her a henna crown tattoo and let her apply temporary tattoos on her head!

This is just one example of how Ellie and her family coped with the stress of her cancer, which was diagnosed in December 2014, when Ellie was five. Ellie went through two and a half years of intense treatment, including many spinal taps, chemotherapy, injections, and medications. She missed two full months of kindergarten and many

“From the very beginning of Ellie's cancer diagnosis, the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation made us feel that there were people cheering us on.”

other days through 2nd grade, due to her treatment schedule and the sometimes grueling side effects. Throughout it all, Ellie stayed true to her personality—a girl who is funny, thoughtful and brave, loves playing jokes on people, and makes friends

wherever she goes, including her ECF caseworker, who visited the family whenever they needed her.

Miriam, Ellie's mom, said the home visits gave her family a chance to talk about any issues, and she always knew that they had someone to call if problems arose. *“Ellie and her sisters loved the ECF holiday party. No matter how we'd been feeling, it always cheered us up to be celebrating around others who understood our lives.”* Ellie and her sisters also loved getting “birthday bags” from ECF, which gave them everything they needed to throw a birthday party without having to leave the house, so important when the Mullica Hill family was overwhelmed or Ellie wasn't feeling well. This inspired Ellie to lead her Girl Scout Troop in collecting gifts and party supplies for ECF to create birthday bags for other children with cancer. Her older sister Rebecca is getting involved too, planning to make gift bags for siblings of ECF kids (and for another local organization) as the community service project for her upcoming bat mitzvah.

In March, 8-year-old Ellie finished her treatment, which she and her family celebrated with a big party. She had a great summer at Harry Potter camp, marine biology camp and acting camp, and is looking forward to 3rd grade. Though Ellie and her family no longer “need” ECF, her mom says, *“we hope to always stay connected to the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation!”*



reflections

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SOMEONE ONCE SAID:

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Our hearts go out to all the people suffering from the recent hurricanes and natural disasters, and know the added burden it places on young cancer patients. While we acknowledge that we can't help everyone or solve every problem, it has been my experience that in times of struggle and strife, people come together - it is human nature to want to reach out and lend a hand. I see this every day at ECF. Moments of true compassion by people, even while struggling within their own personal disasters. The families, volunteers, donors and staff at ECF are living proof. As you read the stories in this newsletter, you will see examples of exceptional kindness. Staff helping families, volunteers helping staff, and ECF families helping other ECF families--who better to understand their fears and struggles than others that are going through it every day. It is truly inspirational to witness.

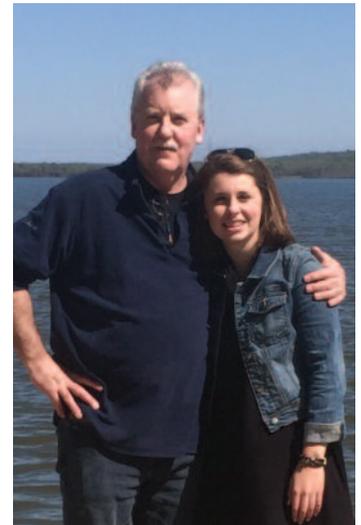
I have seen many volunteers and supporters that have dedicated their time and resources to ECF for decades, only to have pediatric cancer strike home in their personal lives. But instead of closing down, they fight harder for the families we serve, much like Emmanuel Vizzoni's parents did when they founded ECF 34 years ago. Like I said, inspirational.

So let's keep looking for ways to reach out to our neighbors in need, with a kind word, gesture or deed. Together there are limitless ways we can lighten the load for families living the day to day horrors of pediatric cancer. And thank you for all you have done already to bring comfort, relief and even joy to their lives.

JOANN PASSANTINO

volunteer SPOTLIGHT: Kevin McLaughlin

When Kevin McLaughlin became an Emmanuel Cancer Foundation volunteer in 1995, he had no idea how much it would mean to him. He can't remember where he met the ECF staff person who told him about the organization, but he does recall saying to her "if you need help, just let me know." A week later, she called Kevin, asking if he would help deliver food to a family. The rest, as they say, is history. "Anything ECF needed done, I would do," he says. Kevin has a son and two daughters, and thought volunteering for ECF was a great way to give back and feel thankful for the health of his family. His kids got involved too, coming with him on deliveries. He remembers his youngest carrying full bags of canned goods up three flights of stairs for one family.



Then in 2013, his 15-year-old daughter Shana was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He had seen cancer from one side, and now was seeing it from another. He says Shana was a "trouper," still going with him on his delivery runs, even while undergoing rigorous cancer treatment. Once at Morristown Hospital, Shana received chemo right next to one of the ECF kids to whom they had brought groceries. Kevin says his family focused on just getting through each day and received tremendous support from their network of neighbors. Shana's high school classmates started an annual fundraiser in her honor to benefit ECF. The first year, "Shana's Cup" raised over \$7,000! Inspired by her experience, Shana is now in nursing school at Georgetown University specializing in oncology. When she graduates, Shana has a full time position lined up at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York City, where she interned the past two summers. "From getting treatment to treating others in just five years....we are all so proud of her," says Kevin.

Kevin's experience pointed out further to him why ECF is such a vital source of support for families who do not have a neighborhood network or nearby family.

"ECF becomes their neighbors."

Kevin recently came back from vacation and worked a 17-hour day running his corporate relocation company, but still made time the following day to drop by ECF's food pantry and pick up groceries for a family. He also volunteers for the Tricky Tray fundraiser and continues his more than a decade-long involvement with the Golf Outing. "It is very grounding seeing what ECF families go through," Kevin says. "It never stops making me appreciate what I have."



CREATE YOUR CHARITABLE LEGACY

A simple, flexible and versatile way to ensure ECF can continue our work for years to come is a gift in your will or living trust, known as a **CHARITABLE BEQUEST**. Please consider including a bequest to ECF in your estate plan.

For more information, call (908) 322-4323 ext. 15.

FAMILIES HELPING OTHER FAMILIES

At ECF's Spring Tea Party in April, the 50/50 raffle winner, Cathy Castellan, generously donated her \$350 winnings to another ECF family. Cathy is the mother-in-law of ECF mom Teresa Castellan, whose four-year-old daughter Mia has acute lymphocytic leukemia. Despite a three-year roller coaster ride of cancer diagnosis, remission and then relapse, Mia is now doing great several months after a bone marrow transplant; she is back to her happy self and doing all the activities she loves.

At the Tea Party, Cathy heard ECF Case Manager Ilene Langweil tell the story of Landon, a two-year-old boy with retinoblastoma. Landon's diagnosis has been difficult for his family, with lost time at work for both parents, financial strain and repeated struggles with their insurance company over getting approval for Landon's treatment and the necessary removal of his eye. Then in January, Landon broke his

femur bone and was in a waist-to-foot cast for 6 weeks.

"We decided to donate the money to Landon's family," said Cathy. "So many people were there for us when we needed it most, and if we can help bring that same relief to other families, then it's worth every penny!"



Landon and Mom with their Tricky Tray prize from Cathy Castellan



Mia Castellan

Landon's mom was excited to receive the gift and so appreciative of Cathy's generosity.

Landon finally got his new eye a few months ago and is looking forward to the completion of his chemotherapy in a few months. This is a beautiful example of families wanting to lessen the struggles of other families who have gone through the same experiences.

to you

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

I believe one purpose of life is to make things better—easier, happier, less painful—for another person. It does not have to be many people; Mother Theresa said *"If you can't feed 100 people, then feed just one."* Sometimes the smallest gesture can make a big impact. Like these: A volunteer whose daughter had cancer bringing much needed groceries to a family that didn't have the supportive network of neighbors he had to help his family through difficult times. A teenage girl making time to sit with a younger boy and sharing her cancer story to make him less afraid. Or a 2nd grader with leukemia getting her girl scout troop to assemble bags of party supplies so other kids facing cancer could have fun birthdays like she did.

Or like you, our generous donors, giving to ECF to make things better for someone else. Whether that someone else is one family or 100 families, you have made an incredible impact. Thank you.



Victoria

VICTORIA ARONOFF

ECF IS GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS THAT PROVIDED RECENT GRANT SUPPORT:

A. Findlay Geddes and Mildred K. Geddes Charitable Foundation, Inc. • Abundant Life Reformed Church • Advent Lutheran Church of Wyckoff
Amper, Politziner & Mattia, PC • Robert & Joan Dircks Foundation • Eisai, Inc. • IBM Employee Services Center • Joseph Lapinski Foundation
Merrick Family Foundation • MSO, Inc. • Nordson Corporation • Party With Purpose • Plymouth Rock Management Company of New Jersey
Independent Order of Odd Fellows of NJ • The Westfield Service League • Woman's Club of Ridgewood • MGN Foundation

upcoming EVENTS

ECF holds many enjoyable events throughout the year. Please visit our website for more information: www.emmanuelcancer.org

YOGA & CHOCOLATE-FOR A GOOD CAUSE!
September 29

3RD ANNUAL BOCCE BALL-A-PALOOZA
September 30

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE
November 30

CRYSTAL GALA
February 24, 2018

BASH AT THE BRICKHOUSE
March 16, 2018

SPRING TEA PARTY
April 22, 2018

GOLF OUTING
July 16, 2018

Can you tell from the huge smile on Bella's face that she just loves her birthday gifts from ECF?

Moments like this are why we do what we do at the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation.



CONTACT US



908.322.4323



info@emmanuelcancer.org



www.emmanuelcancer.org



67 Walnut Ave., Ste. 107
Clark, NJ 07066



[facebook.com/EmmanuelCancerFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelCancerFoundation)



voices FROM THE REGIONAL CENTERS

CENTRAL REGION



I wanted to pay tribute to a former Golf Committee member and long-time ECF volunteer Roger Post, who passed away a few years ago. Roger was one of the kindest people I have known; he touched the lives of several ECF families in the Central Region as a volunteer driver, delivering food and gifts to the families.

However, he didn't stop there. He helped one Union family with 11 children by delivering extra groceries to fill their freezer, paying for home repairs and bringing additional gifts for the ill child and all the siblings. Knowing a little Spanish, he always chatted with the grandmother of another family and funded sports club participation for her two grandsons. Roger also granted a wish for Matthew, an ECF kid who was close to passing away, by sending the family on a long weekend vacation that Matthew just loved. Roger is truly missed by these families and others he has helped—and missed by me.

—Barbara Kopel

EASTERN REGION



Liam and McKenzy are two ECF kids that I invited to the Siltan Swim School event that raised over \$13,000 for us. Liam is a friendly, outgoing 11-year-old who is entering middle school this year. His brain cancer is now in remission. He has the biggest blue eyes that can melt your heart! I introduced him to 18-year-old McKenzy, who is also doing well, despite many cancer surgeries and tumors that damaged her hearing. She loves singing—she performed at the swim event and was amazing—and is starting college this fall to study theater. Towards the end of the event, I happened to look over and saw the two of them sitting next to each other talking. Liam was looking up at McKenzy in awe and her face looked so nurturing. I assume they were bonding over their shared experiences. It was just so touching for me to see them getting to know each other.

—Rose Contreras

NORTHERN REGION



I wanted to share a story of an ECF family touched twice by cancer, but whose shared experience was a source of support. 14-year-old David was diagnosed with myoepithelial carcinoma in November 2016. Less than a year later, his father Walter was diagnosed with kidney cancer. With both father and son starting on chemotherapy, Walter and his wife, Evelyn, had a limited ability to work, creating financial strain for the Totowa family. To alleviate some of the family's stress, ECF started grocery delivery services, and David's caseworker brought gift cards, hats to make David less self-conscious when he lost his hair, and all the supplies they needed for their dream-come-true vacation to Turks and Caicos received from the Make a Wish Foundation. Through all of this, David and Walter have supported each other, remaining positive about their recovery. At this time, they have both completed all treatments and are looking healthier than ever, even growing back a full head of hair together!

—Patricia Brussel

SOUTHERN REGION



I am always touched by families who are going through a difficult time, yet they still think of others. Caron Adams was diagnosed with brain cancer 7 years ago. He did well for a long time but is now bedridden. His mom is the fulltime caregiver, and his grandmother helps care for Caron's two sisters. They are struggling financially and the mom is overwhelmed. Nonetheless, she recently shared with me a list of local resources for financial and other assistance that she has turned to, hoping it would help other ECF families going through the same thing. Such a moving gesture of kindness.

—Mary Ann Sullivan