A group of fun-loving people who are interested in pediatric cancer at age 23. Together we wanted to create a role model for all children affected by cancer. Thank you for joining us in accomplishing our dream of helping others.” Katie is donating the proceeds of the sale of her book to ECF, so that we can help others like Charles. To purchase your copy in either print or electronic version, please visit: https://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore/book.php?isbn=9781629940885. You can even buy one and send it to ECF for us to give to our families.

Together with her husband, Mike, Courtney Newman founded Steps Together as a way to assist families in the greater NJ area who are facing a medical crisis. Combining their passion for walking and running and the fact that they had a couple of scares with the health of their two young children, they created a community-minded organization and vowed to help others in need. In September, their team participated in the Steeplechase Distance Walk & Run, raising funds for a variety of organizations, including the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation.

A group of fun-loving people who are interested in the music of Jimmy Buffett and the lifestyle portrayed in his music, the Coastal Jersey Parrot Head Club, has selected ECF as the recipient charity of their Mardi Gras festivities this spring. All net proceeds from their Friday night event will benefit our families. You can learn more about them by visiting: http://cjphc.org.

AND THEN there are those groups and organizations that have collaborated with us to provide additional services to our families. Here are a few we are currently working with:

Cozies 4 Chemo is a NJ non-profit that creates hand-tied fleece cozies to provide warmth and comfort to cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. They are delivering cozies to all four of ECF’s Regional Centers, so that we can distribute them to our families. Find them on the web at: http://cozies4chemo.org.

ECF has partnered with Coupons for the Community, an all-volunteer organization that helps local food pantries by using unwanted coupons, turning them into food and non-edible essentials like toiletries and hygiene products for our families. Caseworker Allison Kanarek uses her volunteer time to shop for ECF families in the Central Region using these coupons. We are looking for more volunteers who love a bargain and want to help in their towns. And of course, we can always use your unwanted coupons. Please send them to: Emmanuel Cancer Foundation

Barbara Kopel, Central Regional Director
1833 Front Street, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

ECF’s partnership with The Birthday Box began in 2012, when we were contacted by founders Jennifer Wilner and Stacy Bergerman. Since that time, they have been providing ECF’s Central Region with birthday gifts and party items for our volunteers to distribute to our families. Learn more about them at: www.thebirthdaybox.org.

THE COMMUNITY REACHES OUT

AUTHOR KATIE DEMAIIO recently published her first book, Big Charles. In her words, “I wrote Big Charles in memory of my amazing friendship with Charles Paizena, who was diagnosed with pediatric cancer at age 23. Together we wanted to create a role model for all children affected by cancer. Thank you for always making us feel unique and for the help you give to patients when the storm passes.”

The staff at Emmanuel Cancer Foundation is amazing. You are angels sent to us from above to get through on our kids’ face and ease our pain away. Thank you for always making us feel unique and for the help you give to patients when the storm passes.”

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“You guys are the greatest. I can’t wait ‘til we’re back on our feet again so we can help you out.” And 24 years later, Eileen found us on Facebook, and allowed us to share Joey’s story.

Meanwhile, Joey is now a young adult in medical school. He is currently interested in orthopedic surgery. Joey is still involved with hockey, and is an integral member of the Medwinds, Rutgers/New Jersey Medical School’s hockey team!

Joey IPPOLITO was just turning five months old when he was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a cancer of the nerve tissue common in children. His young parents, Brian and Eileen, were both teachers at the time, but in order to provide the care that Joey’s condition required, Eileen had to give up her part-time job, and after Brian was laid off he had to accept a lower salary and a loss of medical benefits. As a result, this West Orange family began to suffer extreme hardship.

ECF sent a Caseworker who immediately began to attend to this family’s emotional and material needs, but at one point Joey’s doctor did not allow the Caseworker to visit him in his home due to his fragile condition from chemotherapy and fear of infection. Services resumed, and fifteen months later, after Joey endured surgery, diagnostic tests, and completed chemotherapy, he was finally off treatment. Life started to become a bit more normal, and at the age of four he started playing hockey.

At some point during their ordeal, Eileen wrote the following, “You guys are the greatest. I can’t wait ‘til we’re back on our feet again so we can help you out. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.” And 24 years later, Eileen found us on Facebook, and allowed us to share Joey’s story.

Meanwhile, Joey is now a young adult in medical school. He is currently interested in orthopedic surgery. Joey is still involved with hockey, and is an integral member of the Medwinds, Rutgers/New Jersey Medical School’s hockey team!

Working Together to Help Families

YOUNG GIANNAs has emerged victorious in her battle with cancer, and with a piano of her very own! When Eastern Regional volunteers Mike and Kerrin Yuschak told us that they had a piano to donate, Eastern Regional Director Joann went to work immediately and sent a photo of the piano to ECF Caseworkers. Veteran Caseworker Ilene received a response from Gianna’s dad, who said that the family would love to have the piano. Challenged with how to get it to them, Joann reached out to moving companies.

The Moving Guys of Marlboro NJ replied, offering to move the piano free of charge. Gianna’s great grandmother taught Gianna’s mom how to play, and now Mom is teaching her children. Just look at the result!

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

With each issue of Outlook, I continue to take such pride in the unique ways we support families of kids with cancer in New Jersey. We reached an incredible milestone last year with our 30th anniversary, and I am confident that ECF is the organization that will be around to address the widespread needs of families in the future. And it’s all because of people like you, whose support allows us to fulfill our mission.

Hearing from families we’ve helped in the past is always a treat, but when Joey told me about him in this issue.

Joey is now in medical school! You can read more about him in this issue.

In the five years that TONY & ANN GRANATO have been volunteering, they have become a vital part of the Eastern Region. Ann’s prior employment with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield helped land ECF a grant, and her business savvy has added greatly to the success of our events. Tony, a real estate agent, has been of great help the past few years in finding great property and or making it better each year as he seeks new golfers and sponsors. Together, they also run the local ECF food pantry, organizing food drives and packing groceries. This duo can often be heard saying, “It’s all about the kids.” We appreciate them so much.

Deborah Halpern, MSW, joined ECF in October 2013. A resident of New Jersey for many years, Deborah has had experience providing support and services and in being an advocate to individuals and families whose lives have been touched by a cancer diagnosis. Deborah worked closely with ECF during her tenure at the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) and is very enthusiastic about now being a Caseworker for ECF families. Her prior experience at LLS as well as at the American Cancer Society laid the groundwork for Deborah’s commitment to help others cope with the many dimensions of cancer diagnosis. Deborah is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice. She has worked closely with health care professionals and volunteers in the oncology field and has supervised and trained students and interns in the helping professions. Deborah is deeply committed to her own family time and is now enjoying the experience of being a first time grandmother.

The Impact of Your Volunteer Hours

PATTY SAMUILLIAN has been volunteering in the Central Region for over seven years, and has been a constant source of knowledge, energy and enthusiasm. She is a presence at many of our local fundraisers, and is always telling everyone she knows about our families and what ECF does to help. It’s because of Patty’s efforts that the Region began running a Vendor Bazaar. While Party volunteers on-site with her entire family, she mostly likes to work behind the scenes in designing our raffle baskets and gifts, and in securing donations. According to Regional Director Barbara, “I can’t thank Patty enough for always being there for me. She is an inspiration and a great person.”

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’s account will get credited.