

# NOTES & PHOTOS FROM OUR FAMILIES

"The staff at Emmanuel Cancer Foundation is amazing. You are angels sent to us from above to put smiles on our kid's face and ease our pain away. Thank you for always making us feel unique and for the help you give to parents even when the storm passed."

"Thank you for sharing Sergio's photo on your website. We wanted to inspire families and give them hope. Thank you for everything that your foundation has done for our family. You are a wonderful group of people."

"Thank you so much for the Christmas gifts for Jonathan and his brother Christian and for all that you do. I can't wait until they come home and see all the presents."



## THE COMMUNITY REACHES OUT

**A**UTHOR **KATIE DEMAIO** recently published her first book, **Big Charles**. In her words, "I wrote *Big Charles* in memory of my amazing friendship with Charles Pazdera, 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 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?w=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 teams 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](http://www.thebirthdaybox.org).

# Outlook

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EMMANUEL CANCER FOUNDATION

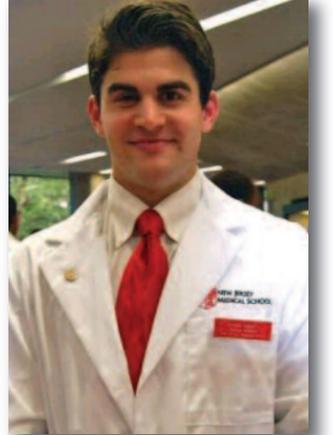


spring 2014

Created in collaboration with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of New Jersey – proud partners in support of kids with cancer. [www.ioof.org](http://www.ioof.org)

## ECF KIDS, Where are They Now?

**J**OEY 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 Medwings, Rutgers/New Jersey Medical School's hockey team!

## Working Together to Help Families

**Y**OUNG **GIANNA** 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](http://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelCancerFoundation)



# REFLECTIONS

from the Managing Director

## 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 Ippolito's mom reached out to us, I was so surprised. It had been many years since we were involved – so long in fact that Joey is now in medical school! You can read more about him in this issue.

The efforts of the communities to help our families just keep growing and growing. It is this teamwork, these liaisons, that are so meaningful and that add such value to our work with families. See what the **Coastal Jersey Parrot Head Club, Steps Together, Cozies 4 Chemo**, and author **Katie DeMaio**, among others, are doing to support ECF kids.

We welcome you to join us in our efforts, however you are able. Visit us on the web at [www.emmanuelcancer.org](http://www.emmanuelcancer.org), or call (908) 322-4323 to learn more. And you can spread the word by "liking" ECF on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EmmanuelCancerFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelCancerFoundation). Another easy and no-cost way to help ECF is to sign up for a free iGive.com account. ECF will earn money every time you shop online.

*Carol Davis*

**CAROL DAVIS, MA, LPC**  
Managing Director

*PS. As we look forward to spring and summer, bear in mind that ECF kids will still be fighting cancer and hoping to get well. A contribution of any size to ECF will enable us to continue helping these kids during the summer, a typically slow fundraising time. For your convenience, we have enclosed a return envelope. Thank you so much!*

## the faces of ECF

**D**EBORAH 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 a 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

**P**ATTY SAMUELIAN 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 Patty 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."



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 chairing the Eastern Regional annual golf event for the past four years, and strives to make 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!



Northern Regional volunteer **DIANE SUNDERMANN** has many years of experience working with various charitable organizations. When she came to ECF last year, she was moved by articles she read about our families. She approached ECF with much enthusiasm, wanting to help in any way she could. Diane loves to help bring more awareness of ECF to the community. She represented ECF at a Ramsey Chamber of Commerce meeting, secured ECF a spot in the Ramsey Farmer's Market, and you can always count on her to share our Facebook stories. Her ability to help with public events, such as the Mahwah Chamber of Commerce Community Spirit Showcase, and our Five Below and Blue Moon fundraisers are just a couple of other examples of how Diane gets out word of ECF. Diane and her husband Bob are always ready to help out at our food drives. Diane has also participated at our Holiday Boutique, and Ramapo High School Student Fair. She is currently involved in our annual Bash fundraiser. All of this in one short year! We welcome Diane as part of the team.

Weathering all the winter storms, **PEG HAAS** is one of the Southern Regional Center's most dedicated volunteers in any climate! In her role as the Food Pantry Coordinator, which she's held since 2012, it is Peg's responsibility to maintain the food pantry, ensuring the smooth operation of deliveries, packing, shelving, and food drives. It's because of her dedication to our families that the food pantry operates so efficiently. Peg always comes to ECF with a smile on her face, a bottle of soda and two blueberry bagels that she shares with the Regional Director. We are fortunate that the first charity she approached about volunteering was at capacity, so she came to ECF and hasn't looked back since.



Since retiring from the corporate world, **RANJAN PATEL** had been looking for volunteer opportunities when her friend suggested ECF. For the past year, Ranjan has been a devoted volunteer in our administrative office, helping wherever she is needed. She is also a food pantry donor, often walking in with items for the Central Regional families, and even bringing homemade food for the staff (which we love). "I enjoy being at ECF. It is very satisfying and the staff is so nice to work with. ECF is a wonderful organization – one of a kind."

## To You



## FROM THE DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

**I**T IS YET ANOTHER cold, snowy winter day as I write this update for our spring newsletter. Yet, my heart is warm thinking about the generosity of our donors since our last issue of **Outlook**. Thanks to overwhelming response from YOU, our donors and friends, we far exceeded our December matching gift challenge from The Grand Encampment of NJ of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In fact, we raised more than \$12,000 in a very short time and as a result, we received the full \$5,000 match. Add to that donations received before and after the challenge and our holiday appeal was a huge success again this year.

We were also thrilled to receive many grants during the past six months. Thank you to the following for generous grant funding: The Arnold A. Schwartz Foundation, Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund, Ellis Family Foundation, Joseph L. Carley Foundation, Margaret & Peter Chang Foundation, The Meta C. Mergott Foundation, Party with Purpose, Plymouth Rock Management Company of New Jersey, Provident Bank Foundation, Robert & Joan Dircks Foundation, Select Equity Group Foundation, Shapiro Family Foundation, St. Elizabeth's Church-Ridgewood, Thomas H. Hamilton Foundation, WalMart-Union, and WalMart-Watchung.

It's always a pleasure to thank those who support ECF financially and we wish we had space to list all donors in this column! Because ECF doesn't receive any government funding, we must raise each and every dollar it takes to serve any New Jersey family caring for a child with cancer for as long as they are in need of services. That is no small feat, so please know how much we value every contribution.

## DID YOU KNOW?



In 2013, Caseworkers made 570 home visits and provided an additional 1988 hours of advocacy services, all at no cost to ECF families.

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.



Let us remember...



Jesus  
Erick

Iyonna  
Nicholas