



Tommy Fund News

President's Welcome

By Tom Brunnock

Volume 7 ♦ Number 2 ♦ Fall 2007

Dear Friends,

Last June, the Tommy Fund was recognized by Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital and Yale School of Medicine for its commitment and visionary support of outstanding training, innovative research and treatments for children in our community and beyond.

Providing financial support to the pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship program at Yale is an important component of the Tommy Fund's mission. I encourage you to read "Investing in the next generation of pediatric cancer specialists" in this issue of the newsletter to find out more about this program that is preparing scientific leaders in childhood cancer.

You will also have the opportunity to read about the success of this year's Family Day – an event that has come to mean so much, to so many. The energy and spirit that goes into organizing Family Day and making it happen is remarkable; it makes me proud to be a part of such a collective effort.

Please join me in welcoming two new Tommy Fund Board members: Gary Kupfer, M.D., the new section chief of pediatric hematology/oncology at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital and Yale School of Medicine, and Michael Apkon, M.D., Ph.D., vice president and executive director for Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, with faculty positions at Yale School of Medicine and Yale School of Management. Their expertise will help serve the needs of all our children and their families fighting cancer.

Happy holidays.

Tom Brunnock
President, Tommy Fund

A "Family Day" of personal journeys

There were sunny skies and sunny spirits as more than 550 people adorned in a rainbow of tee shirts took part in the annual Tommy Fund Family Day on September 30, with one mission in mind – a world without cancer. The family-oriented walk and road race celebrated survivorship, honored the children undergoing treatment for cancer at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital (YNHCH), and remembered the children who have died.

Gabe Nuenz, 7, who designed this year's Family Day tee shirt, and his family, cut short their trip from Venezuela in order to be back in time for the ceremonial start to the race. Gabe, a third grader at Northeast School in Stamford, is being treated at YNHCH for T-Cell leukemia.

"I am so very proud of my son," said Mrs. Nuenz, on the selection of Gabe's tee shirt design and his valiant struggle with cancer. "He started to draw at the age of 2, all over our house. We knew he'd be an artist, but we never thought this is how his artistry would be recognized."

Since its inception in 1992, Family Day participants have expressed many personal stories of triumph and tragedy. Out of the hundreds of families who partici-



Gabe Nuenz, wearing his trademark Family Day tee shirt, holds the American flag with help from Tommy Fund President Tom Brunnock before the official start of the 5K run and 2-mile walk.

pated in this year's Family Day, four families shared their personal narratives on the significance of this year's event:

Why we walk

Keith, Jennifer and Alexa Lashway of Niskayuna, NY, have participated in Family Day for the past four years in honor of their daughter and sister, Jocelyn, who died of complications of acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL),

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Executive Director's Message

by Michelle D'Amore

The beauty of the fall season and the warmth of friends and family remind me of blessings to be counted and the generosity of others. Counted among my blessings are the hundreds of volunteers who participated, donated or volunteered for the Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer this past year. Because of you, to date we've been able to offer support to approximately 250 children receiving cancer care and their families, and important pediatric oncology programs and services.

Many volunteer groups came forward in 2007 with new ideas for raising money and awareness for the Tommy Fund. On September 4, Beth and Joe Bowman hosted "Uncork a Cure" – a wine tasting and silent auction held at the Pink Petunia in Cheshire. The event was an enormous success attended by

175 people who enjoyed fine wines provided by Amity Wine & Spirits.

October saw two "From Denim for Diamonds" fundraisers for the Tommy Fund. Art and Mary Ellen Lemay chaired the Trumbull benefit attended by 138 people, which honored childhood cancer survivors, Emily Autuori, Jessica Gangemi and Joe Caruso. These three heroes captured the audience with stories of their battle with cancer, survival and Tommy Fund connection. Peter and Donna Parente co-chaired the New Haven event at the Union League Café for the second consecutive year to raise awareness and interest in the Tommy Fund Family.

"Kids Helping Kids," the Tommy Fund's youngest volunteers, have made a tremendous impact on the children receiving cancer treatment, knowing that their peers care. Caring volunteers like Ryan Bradley and his Boy Scout troop, who coordinated a toy drive in honor of Ryan's brother and cancer survivor, Will Bradley, collected games, DVDs and CDs for patients at the Pediatric

Specialty Center at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital. And for the third consecutive year, students from Dodd Middle School in Cheshire, collected and donated over 300 books for children of all ages to read and help pass the time during their treatment stays.

On behalf of the Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer, my heartfelt thanks for making a difference in the lives of children with cancer. ☺

■ Pediatric Cancer Specialists...cont'd from pg.5

the pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship program and associate professor of pediatrics at Yale. "The pediatric hematology/oncology program has benefited tremendously, thanks to the financial support of the Tommy Fund."

In addition to Dr. Massaro, a second-year fellow, there are two other pediatric hematology/oncology fellows: Salley Pels, M.D., a first-year fellow completing an intensive clinical year caring for children with cancer and blood disorders; and Robert Brown, M.D., a third-year fellow researching ways to minimize radiation and chemotherapy-induced injury to the nervous system.

All of the fellows are supervised by an attending physician who is a faculty member in the hematology and oncology section of the department of pediatrics at Yale School of Medicine and Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital.

"If it weren't for the Tommy Fund we couldn't train these people," said Dr. Beardsley, who noted that applicants to the fellowship program must have completed an accredited council for graduate medical education (ACGME) pediatric residency program prior to their anticipated start date. "We have superb applicants and outstanding trainees. Everyone is absolutely stellar." ☺

Tommy's Friends	The Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer would like to recognize the following donors for becoming one of Tommy's Friends. To learn how you can become one of Tommy's Friends, contact the Tommy Fund at 800-974-5559.	
DIAMOND FRIENDS	SILVER FRIENDS	
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Peter & Donna Parente	The Family of Alec Sung McNaughton	
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	Laurie Yelding	

Family Day...continued from page 1

when she was 21-months-old. Wearing matching tee shirts bearing Jocelyn's photo was a way for the Lashways to pay tribute to her and the work of the Tommy Fund.

"It was a long year at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital," said Mrs. Lashway, looking back on the time Jocelyn spent in the hospital, "but the Tommy Fund helped make a difficult situation easier. The financial and emotional support they offered us during Jocelyn's illness was amazing."

The Lashways moved from Stratford, CT to their native New York in 2005 once Jocelyn was in remission to be close to family. Six weeks after completing her therapy, her cancer returned and she died at Albany Medical Center. "I'm proud to say I got to be her mommy," said Jennifer Lashway.

Jamie Buchanan, age 15, of Darien, celebrated her remission from brain cancer by serving as captain of "Jamie's Journey" – a team of 17 friends and family members who walked and ran in her honor.

"It's so nice to see the doctors and nurses out in a regular environment rather than working on your child in the hospital in the middle of the night," said Jamie's mom, Andrea Buchanan. "Dealing with a child's life-threatening illness is the worst experience a parent can endure. We are all so thankful for all the support provided by the Tommy Fund."

Echoing her mom's sentiments, Jamie said, "Family Day is truly a fun morning. The kids get to see



Jamie Buchanan (center), number 511, with her Journey teammates.



The Joyce family: front row (l-r): Kristen Joyce and friend, Kendra. Back row (l-r): Mary, Danielle and Dan Joyce.



"The Tommy Fund is not going to get rid of us anytime soon," said Jennifer Lashway who with her husband Keith and Alexa travel more than 300 miles each year to participate in Family Day.

each other as well as the nurses and doctors that have cared for them. There's nothing better than seeing everyone smiling and happy."

Veteran Family Day participants, Daniel, Mary, Danielle and Kristen Joyce of Clinton, have participated in the Tommy Fund Family Day since 2000, when Danielle, age 4, was undergoing treatment for leukemia at YNHCH. Now 12 and a

seventh grade student at Jared Eliot Middle School in Clinton, Danielle loves to play sports and spend time on the computer.

"We come every year to support the Tommy Fund," said Mary Joyce, Danielle's mom. "Anything we can do for the Tommy Fund is our way to give back and to help other families." ☺

Kids helping Kids

Boy Scout Honor



Ryan Bradley coordinated a toy drive in honor of his brother and cancer survivor, Will Bradley. Ryan and his Milford Boy Scout troop collected board games, DVDs, CDs and computer games for the children receiving cancer treatment at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital.



Cheshire, CT – Dodd Middle School

Dodd Middle School students help in the fight against cancer by donating 350 books to the Tommy Fund for pediatric patients to enjoy during their treatment stays.

Investing in the next generation of pediatric cancer specialists



Left: Drs. Salley Pels, Diana Beardsley and Robert Brown in the YNHCH pediatric infusion room.

Below:
Stephanie Massaro, M.D., M.P.H.



In her first year of clinical training as a pediatric hematology/oncology fellow at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, Stephanie Massaro, M.D., M.P.H., treated a young patient diagnosed with megakaryoblastic leukemia (AMKL), a rare form of leukemia that occurs in children under two years of age. Dr. Massaro developed both an interest in her patient and her disease and decided she would spend the next two years of her fellowship researching the role of a specific leukemia gene in the development of AMKL.

"My commitment to this research is strengthened by my day-to-day clinical interactions with this sweet, playful little girl," said Dr. Massaro, who is conducting her investigation under the direction of Diane Krause, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of laboratory medicine and pathology at Yale School of Medicine and associate director of the Yale Stem Cell Program. "I am thankful for the opportunity to work in the lab on a project that holds such clinical significance."

The pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship program is

an accredited pediatric sub-specialty training program at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital and Yale School of Medicine. With financial support from the Tommy Fund, the three-year program prepares graduates to diagnose, treat and follow children with a full range of hematologic and oncologic diseases. Fellows also prepare to advance the field of pediatric hematology and oncology through scholarly contributions that result from clinical investigation or lab research.

"The Tommy Fund views the education and support of its pediatric fellows as critical to its mission, recognizing that these individuals will be the scientific leaders of the future," said Tom Brunnock, president, Tommy Fund.

"The Tommy Fund's vision to help children grow up cancer-free is the very best investment in the future of the entire field of pediatric hematology/oncology," said Diana Beardsley, M.D., Ph.D., director of

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Fall Events

Tommy Fund President, Tom Brunnock is photographed with Beth and Joe Bowman, co-chairs of "Uncork a Cure" held in September 2007. This first-year event was a huge success with 175 people in attendance.



Cancer survivor heroes (l-r): Jessica Gangemi, Joe Caruso and Emily Autuori, are pictured with Tommy Fund executive director Michelle D'Amore and event co-chair Mary Ellen Lemay at "From Denim to Diamonds" in Trumbull. Over 135 people attended the first-year event.

Upcoming Events

Contact: Michelle D'Amore, (800) 974-5559,
E-mail: tommyfund@ynhh.org
Web site: <http://www.tommyfund.org>

◆ June 30, 2008

Tommy Fund Golf Tournament
The Farms Country Club, Wallingford, CT

Mission Statement

The Tommy Fund was established to provide emotional, educational, medical and recreational support to children with cancer and their families; and to improve the cure rate of childhood cancer through the Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital and the Yale University School of Medicine.

Find us online at www.tommyfund.org

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President:
Thomas P. Brunnock

Executive Director:
Michelle D'Amore

Contributors:
Michelle D'Amore
Katie Fischer

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Premier Graphics

To make a donation or for more information, please call (203) 688-4081 or (800) 974-5559.

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