

A publication of the friends & staff of the Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer



Tommy Fund

SPECIAL EDITION News

President's Welcome

By Tom Brunnock

Volume 8 ♦ Number 1 ♦ Spring 2008

It's been nearly a month since the WPLR Radiothon to benefit the Tommy Fund took place, and I'm still smiling from the generous outpouring of support from so many people during our two-day fundraiser. We not only raised much needed funds, but, more importantly, tremendous awareness of the Tommy Fund.

Words cannot express my great thanks to the small army of volunteers who gave of their time – many in the early morning hours – and the tremendous support of Cox Radio and the WPLR announcers. None of this would have been possible without the magnanimous support of Chaz and AJ, as well as WPLR's general manager, Lee Davis, who secured the space and arranged for nearly two days of on-air fundraising on the number one radio station in Connecticut.

Thank you to all who answered our call and gave so generously. Money raised will enable the Tommy Fund to increase needed funding for our families trying to fight cancer.

I am happy to report that Michelle D'Amore has been promoted to Executive Director. Throughout her more than 5-year tenure, Michelle has helped the organization by expanding current programs and adding new ones including the Radiothon, Uncork a Cure, and From Denim to Diamonds. It should be noted that Michelle did all this while earning her MBA from the University of New Haven, which she received in December.

Finally, please welcome new board member, Tom Giordano, a retired marketing consultant and professor of Michelle's from the MBA program. Tom helped us develop a three-year strategic plan for the Tommy Fund that will be a valuable tool as we move forward.

Warm regards,

Tom Brunnock
President, Tommy Fund

WPLR radiothon inspires community support

Exceeds \$113,000 in pledges



When Kate Bowman accompanied her brother, Joe for his cancer treatments, she liked to pass the time with Playstation, one of the many toys in the hospital's infusion room to keep patients and their siblings, such as Kate, entertained.

Kate and members of the Bowman family were among the more than 100 volunteers inspired by reasons of their own to answer calls and to take pledges during the two-day WPLR Radiothon benefiting the Tommy Fund.

The inaugural event, broadcast live from the WPLR studio in Milford on February 28 & 29, brought in \$113,800 in pledges that will help support a constellation of

It's a family affair with Joe, Rita, Phil, Kate and Melissa Bowman on the scene in the early hours manning the phone banks.

special services for the families of children receiving cancer care at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital.

Morning co-hosts, Chaz and AJ, kept the phone lines ringing with heartfelt pleas to members of their listening audience that includes New York, Connecticut and southern

■ continued on page 3

Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital gave my son life. The Tommy Fund gave our family hope.

Rita Bowman, mother of Joe Bowman, cancer survivor

Executive Director's Message

by Michelle D'Amore

Like Tom, I, too, continue to be overwhelmed by the success of our first-ever radiothon. In just two days, we did much more than raise vital resources to support the work of the Tommy Fund. WPLR helped make supporters out of more than 1,000 members of their listening audience – from Long Island to Rhode Island – who responded to our message, expressed so movingly by WPLR DJs, Tommy Fund staff, Yale-New Haven employees, patients and families.

Our new alliance with Cox Radio enabled us to raise significant monies and donor support and set in motion a partnership with even more exciting promises for next year's Radiothon.

In this special edition newsletter we have highlighted how funds from the Radiothon will be distributed, along with wonderful photos that illustrate the excitement of our two-day event. You'll also read a lovely acknowledgment letter from Marian Yedynak, Tommy's mother, who has promised to join us next year for the second annual Radiothon.

As the executive director of the Tommy Fund, I am consistently surprised and touched by the public's generosity and goodwill. Alongside emotional, educational, medical and recreational support to children with cancer, volunteers' humanity and spirit are at the core of the Tommy Fund culture.

Sincerely,
Michelle D'Amore



... The amount I probably usually state they have to experience

Megan Adams, Tommy Fund

Carolyn Smith, cancer survivor, sang her way into the hearts of WPLR listeners.



Tommy's mother sends note of thanks

Tommy's mother, Marian Yedynak, sent the following letter to Michelle D'Amore following the WPLR Radiothon to benefit the Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer:

Dear Michelle,

It is so hard to put into words how I feel. "Thank you" just doesn't seem to say what I truly feel. But to ALL of you, to EVERYONE, I say, Thank you!!! I know how hard all of you worked.

To everyone who gave to the Tommy Fund – time and money – bless you.

Let's hope it never happens. But someday one of us may need the help of the Tommy Fund. It's a good feeling to know that when we do, we are not alone; we have someone to turn to.

Thank you, Michelle, for taking time to talk to me, even when you're so busy. Please extend my thanks to the "Guys" at WPLR-99.1; they all were so nice to talk to (fun). I will (hopefully) get to see them in May; so proud to be Tommy's mom.

Love, Marian

lanned on donating doubled when I heard Chaz talk about how parents expecting a baby just want their baby to be healthy... As a breast cancer survivor I know how fortunate I am to have children. I can only hope and pray that my unborn baby is healthy, happy and never feel the impact cancer can have.

supporter



Chaz, WPLR; Marna Borgstrom, CEO and president, Yale-New Haven Hospital; and Lee Davis, GM of Cox Radio.

How lucky to have Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital and the Tommy Fund in our own backyard... The Tommy Fund brings the calm to the storm.

Chaz, WPLR DJ

souls and feel complete love and acceptance,” said Connie Nicolosi, L.C.S.W., Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital and Tommy Fund Board Member. “Our patients and their families were so open and willing to share their experiences – so that people could get to know them and their stories. It was particularly moving when parents of patients we’ve lost to cancer came on-air to tell their stories and what the staff meant to them. That was really unexpected and appreciated.”

According to Lee Davis, WPLR general manager, “WPLR was proud to partner with the Tommy Fund for the first ever Radiothon. In addition to raising money, our other objective was to help build awareness of this incredible organization. Not only did we accomplish both, we got something out of it as well: the inspiration the children and their families sent our way. I’d like to thank those children and their families for letting us in. I’d also like to thank the WPLR listeners. Their generosity and support was more than we could have ever imagined it would be.”

■ Radiothon...continued from page 1

Rhode Island, who responded generously and enthusiastically.

“It takes a special person, who gives from the heart so children can look forward to a healthier and brighter future,” said Chaz, in his live on-air message.

A recurrent theme among the

patients and family members interviewed during the radiothon was their genuine appreciation for the Tommy Fund and the Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital staff.

“It was obvious (from the testimonies they gave) that this is the place where they can bare their

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

◆ September 28, 2008

Tommy Fund Family Day
Connecticut Tennis Center,
New Haven, CT

It’s gratifying to know advances are taking place (in the field of childhood cancer). This disease is beatable.

Michael Apkon, M.D., executive director,
Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital



The Tommy Fund is very supportive of families. We've got a bond with them. They're like family.

Lisa Pollock, Zach's mother

Tom Brunnock, Tommy Fund president, shares his own experience of losing his daughter, Shannon, to cancer.

Lisa Pollock, mother of Zach Pollock, cancer survivor, told their story of surviving cancer and the strength and support the Tommy Fund has given them.



Connie Nicolosi, pediatric oncology social worker; Joseph Bowman, cancer survivor and Tommy Fund board member; and Tom Brunnock, Tommy Fund president, told their stories of strength, courage and the importance of supporting the Tommy Fund.

MONEY RAISED FROM THE 2008 RADIOTHON WILL HELP SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING TOMMY FUND PROGRAMS:

DIRECT AND INDIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES DEALING WITH CHILDHOOD CANCER

PEDIATRIC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

CHILD LIFE DIVERSIONAL ACTIVITIES

PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY RESEARCH NURSE

CLINICAL TRIALS

THE TOMMY FUND FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY SUITE ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR OF THE SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL



We did it! We did it!!! At the close of the event, over \$108,000 was raised. Donations continued to come in generating more than \$113,000!

The Tommy Fund is about people who care about other people – who help make an intolerable situation more tolerable.

Marna P. Borgstrom, president, Yale-New Haven Hospital

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.

RUBY FRIENDS

Tom & Cathy Brunnock
David F. DePaola Charitable Trust
Merrill Lynch

GOLD FRIENDS

Anonymous
Michele & Alan Bietsch
George & Rita Bowman
Jim & Michelle Bowman
Joan & Brian Condon
Tom & Chris Giordano
Mr. & Mrs. David Kinney
Ken & Joan Kreiger
Art & Mary Ellen Lemay
Peter & Donna Parente
Jeff & Loretta Radler

SILVER FRIENDS

Peter & Holly Cimono
The Denny Family
Ken & Nancy Downey
Neil & Lace Garbatini
The Gaynor Family
Howard & Stephanie Kreiger & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald LoRicco
Richard & Maureen LoRicco
Connie & Peter Nicolosi
George & Lynne Sherman
Jack & Barbara van Hoff

BRONZE FRIENDS

Beth & Joseph Bowman
Sally & Kevin Bowman
Janet & Philip Brunwin
Michelle D'Amore
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Falcigno & Family
General Welding & Fabrication, Inc.
Chris & Kathy Hill
Kim & Ben Morris
Jim Mullins
Jack & Ann Peters
Bruce & Donna Post
Ed & Heidi Sherman
George & Mary Jane Strobel
Laurie Yelding



Erica Schwartz, child life specialist, discussed how the Tommy Fund helps "kids feel like kids," even while receiving cancer treatment.

Child Life serves as a wonderful distraction for kids in treatment. It helps them have a decent day.

Erica Schwartz, Child Life specialist, Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital

Our Amazing Volunteers!!!



Special Thanks to our Radiothon Sponsors

AAA CONNECTICUT MOTOR CLUB
BILLER ASSOCIATES TRI-STATE, LLC
CALCAGNI ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE
COLONIAL TOYOTA
CUSTOM COUNTRY CARPENTRY

NEW TO U CONSIGNMENTS
R.W. HINE ACE HARDWARE
TICE BROTHERS BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT, LLC
WINTERS & FORTE, LLC
WOODMERE ELECTRIC & COMMUNICATIONS

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 School of Medicine.

Board of Directors

Thomas Brunnock
Michael Apkon, MD
James Bowman
Joseph & Beth Bowman
Jean-Sylvain Demelier

Neil Garbatini
Tom Giordano
Gary Kupfer, MD
Arthur Lemay

Connie Nicolosi, MSW
Peter Parente
Lynne Sherman, RN
Gerry Terwilliger

Honorary Board
Brian Condon
Carol Geluso
Jack Peters

Find us online at www.tommyfund.org

The Tommy Fund News is printed twice annually.

President

Thomas P. Brunnock

Executive Director

Michelle D'Amore

Writer

Katie Fischer

Design/Printing:

Premier Graphics

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

Tommy Fund News

20 York Street, New Haven, CT 06510-3202



Return Service Requested

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
New Haven, CT
Permit No. 773