

The Community Counts

A monthly newsletter for Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant patients, families and supporters



The volunteer-based Family Support Program is dedicated to caring for, serving, and lightening the burden of the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Community through a comprehensive array of services and resources.

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Sibs rule!!

A Time to Laugh

There is little doubt that one of the most remarkable roles filled by family members is that of a brother or sister of a transplant patient. We set out on a special mission to honor the tremendous sacrifices that siblings make to be in Durham by throwing a special "Sibling Party." It was held at the Duke Gardens and provided an opportunity for twelve brothers and sisters to get away from the hospital and clinic and really enjoy being a kid. Kids split into groups to find various landmarks around Duke Gardens, spent time feeding the ducks, wandering through a bamboo forest, and exploring creatures that make their home in the ponds. We played games, had a pizza dinner, and passed out special t-shirts and prizes to all who attended. A big thank you to Katie Vogel, science teacher extraordinaire, for hosting the party at the Gardens as well as to the PBMT staff who helped out! A great time was had by all, and there is no question that "Sibs Rule!"



Opening icebreaker



Coco goes pond dipping

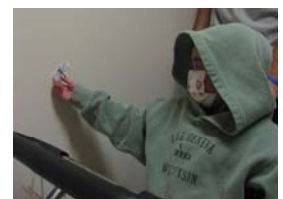
Bugtastic Treasure Hunt

As a part of our *June Bug* celebration, kids from all corners of 5200 scuttled along the hallways looking for creepy crawlies. The bug treasure hunt started with kids decorating and preparing their bug catching bags and putting on their special bug-vision glasses while learning some bug-tastic facts. As the kids left the Connection, they looked for ladybugs, dragonflies, assassin bugs, stink bugs and crickets that had taken over (paper ones, of course!), and were hiding all over 5200. Eli (age 5) decided to take on the special mission of saving 5200 from the bug invasion. Eli's brother, Drew, helped Eli capture bugs. Another expert bug hunter, Emily (age 6), spied a green stink bug on her door handle, and continued to find bugs all along the hallway. Emily also brought out her remote controlled spider to help everyone find bugs.

Kids enjoyed collecting the bugs and the nurses also enjoyed having their work spaces become bug-free once again. Kids were rewarded with special treasures for all of the bugs they collected.



Eli is ready to get to work collecting bugs!



Emily captures another dragonfly from the halls of 5200

New Kids on the Block

“New Kids on the Block” features the patients on the 5200 unit who were admitted in the past month. It is our way to honor them and help the other families get to know them.



*Laketon, age 7
Staunton, VA*



*Colby, age 1
Burlington, NC*



*Adam, age 2
Cornelius, NC*

Hendrick Pit Crews leave their mark on 5200

For those of you that know the world of NASCAR, if we said Hendrick Motorsports, you'd likely think of world class drivers like Jeff Gordon, Kyle Busch, and Jimmie Johnson. The reality is that the individual driver's success is not merely a result of that one driver, but rather a whole crew of folks to support them. We are grateful to have a special relationship with Hendrick Pit Crews for Kids, who, over the last several years have supported Duke PBMT patients and families in a variety of ways. Last month, they made a special visit from their headquarters in Charlotte to 5200, bringing gifts, NASCAR and Hendrick memorabilia as well as lots of fun and laughter.

Hendrick Pit Crews for Kids is part of the Hendrick Marrow Program, which works with the National Marrow Donor Program to make people aware of the need for bone marrow donors. They also have a patient assistance program, which provides some financial assistance for families who are away from home for bone marrow and stem cell transplants. A big thank you to our friends at Hendrick for their continued support!



*Jared is ready
for the Crew!*



*Brayden and Trevin pose with their
gifts and the guys*



*Brian loves his new hat
from Hendrick*

*From top: Jessi Leigh with the
Crew, Eli digs in to his gifts,
and Ryan and Tyler pose with
the team from Hendrick*

July 4th a big bang on 5200!

Though the hospital doesn't permit fireworks, the 5200 unit went all out and threw quite a celebration in honor of Independence day. A parade, special decorations, carnival games, and a piñata were part of the celebration on 5200 this year. Patients of all ages were involved and had a great time celebrating with their families and each other! In the days leading up to the holiday, 5200 nurses made "Uncle Sam" hats and cotton-ball beards for patients and siblings to wear on the special day. They wore star shaped hats and antennae. A special treat during the parade was when a patient's dad played marching tunes on his trumpet! It made the day quite festive for all.



Jessi (r) and her sister, Stephanie, show off their matching outfits!



Emily (r) and her sister, Caroline, play games together



Is that Uncle Sam or Trevin??



Katie gets a good laugh from Mohamed!



Brian gives the celebration a thumbs up!

Two generous hearts

We are aware that everyday on 5200 there are random acts of kindness that go unnoticed. But recently, two patients made contributions that just can't go without acknowledging.

Seventeen year old Jessi Leigh has been on 5200 for over two months and has seen nurses go out of their way to support her and her family. Jessi Leigh, along with the help of her mom, other families and volunteers on the unit, coordinated a surprise thank you party for the nurses and staff on 5200. They collected donations from other families on 5200 to help cover the cost of food and decorations. They created a huge card for all of the patients to sign and put their handprints on. And perhaps most impressively, everyone on the unit managed to keep it a surprise so the staff had no idea about the parties—one for the day shift and one for the night shift. The party was a huge success. Thank you, Jessi Leigh and all!

Eight year old Brooklyn read last month's newsletter and decided that she wanted to buy (with her own money!) something off of our new Target.com wish list. Her mom told this to a Family Support Staff member, who tried to graciously turn down the offer, considering Brooklyn is in the midst of transplant. But she insisted, so we were able to buy a cool new "Flip" digital video camera on her behalf, which will be available for use by patients and families on 5200. Thank you, Brooklyn!



Jessi Leigh (left) and Jared (right) and their moms were the force behind the staff party held by patients and parents



Brooklyn shows off the video camera she bought for 5200

Our newest Super Stepper!

If you see a little boy pushing Elmo through the halls in a cart, it's likely three year old, Ryan, our newest member of the Super Steppers Club. Patients who earn more than 50 foot-prints (250 laps!) are honored for their efforts by receiving a t-shirt with their picture on it! Ryan walked 295 laps, earning 59 feet. Way to go Ryan, and all of our walkers! We are proud of all of you!



Ryan shows off his feet!

Wish List

We are in need of the following items:

- * Disposable cameras
- * Gift cards: WalMart, Food Lion, and BP gas cards
- * We have specific toys, DVD's, and games listed on our Target.com Wish List. Enter "Duke PBMT" in the "find a wish list" search engine and go from there.

Many thanks for your support!!

Winner's Circle

We are very grateful to all of the people who help support PBMT families through contributing their time, energy, and resources. We would like to thank:

- * Duke Hospital Auxiliary for their donation of toiletry items for the In Case You Forgot Basket
- * The family of Meredith Howell for providing dinner for 5200
- * The family of Sofia Castro for providing lunch for families and staff in honor of her third birthday
- * The family of Janvi Shahi for providing lunch for families in honor of Janvi's three year check up
- * Barbara Whitlow for donating a DVD and Zingo game
- * Meredith Howell and RBC Centura Employees for their donation of scrapbooking, art and "Out of the Box Party" supplies
- * The MeFine Foundation for Christmas in July (see next month's newsletter for more details!)
- * The Holum Family for toiletries items for the "In Case You Forgot Basket" and treasure box/bingo prizes
- * For those who made monetary donations:
 - Steven Kearney
 - Brooklyn Rominger
 - Chris Sundberg

For those who contributed to our Community Meals program for the month of July:

Apex United Methodist Church	St Luke's Episcopal Church
Little Red Foundation	Trinity Ave Presbyterian Church
Macedonia Baptist Church	West Raleigh Exchange Club

If we have inadvertently left you off our Winner's Circle, please let us know!

The Community Counts is a monthly newsletter produced by the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Family Support Program, distributed free to patients, their families, volunteers, and staff.

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www.cancer.duke.edu/PBMT/support/family.asp

Printed by Millennium Print Group

Raleigh, NC (919) 852-1117

www.mprintgroup.com