

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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Halloween a real "treat" on 5200

Halloween was a "spooktacular" site to see on 5200 this year. The holiday was celebrated in full fashion with decorations, trick or treating, storytelling, music, and creative costumes. The unit lights were turned down low as patients carried flashlights to each "pumpkin stop" that provided many goodies for their treat bags. Patients, caregivers, and staff participated in the festivities in a variety of costumes. Spiderman, Yoda, Hannah Montana, Spongebob, Mrs. Whoopie Cushion, Mr. Burger King, and the Tooth Fairy were some of the special guests. It was a day filled with fun, laughter, and silly string "tricks." We thank all of the staff and families who helped us organize and decorate for the event! Here are some of the sights of the day....



New Child Life Specialist joins PBMT team!

Last month, we reported that Caroline Sweezy left her role as the 5200 Child Life Specialist to become the PBMT Program Coordinator for Children with the Family Support Program. We are delighted to share that Allison Browne has joined the PBMT team as the new Child Life Specialist (CLS) on 5200. Originally from rural Illinois, she attended Purdue University where she received a degree in youth, adult, and family intervention. She did her certification training in Chicago and her internship in New York. For the past 2 years, she served as a CLS at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In her free time, she enjoys walking, working out (well, sort of!), and is currently house-hunting in Durham with her husband, Ralph. Welcome to the team, Allison!



Allison Browne joins the PBMT team as the new Child Life Specialist

New Kids on the block



*Rachel, age 2
Farmville, NC*



*Trevin, age 8
Huntington, WV*



*Ian, age 2
Moorestville, NC*



*Jordan, age 2
Charlotte, NC*

“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.



*David, age 2
Mauldin, SC*



*Jaxsen, age 8
Douglas, GA*



*Zachary, age 11
Douglas, GA*



*Caleb, age 3
Fort Meyers, FL*



*Alivia, age 3
West Sand Lake, NY*

Two more join Super Steppers club!

Two more patients have walked their way in to the prestigious Super Steppers Club, a feat which requires one to walk a minimum of 250 laps while on the 5200 unit. For every 5 laps that a patient walks, they earn a plastic footprint. They earn a t-shirt with their picture on it when they reach the 50 footprint mark and additional prizes for reaching certain goals along the way.



Trevin



Eric

This month's Super Stepper inductees are Eric and Trevin. Eric earned 52 feet, a total of 260 laps. Trevin has earned 75 feet (375 laps) thus far, and is adding new feet every day! All patients work very hard to earn each of their feet. Great job to all of our courageous and determined walkers. Keep up the great work! We are very proud of you!

Movie night a smashing success!

Perhaps some of the most important feedback and input we get is from patients and families. So when a few patients inquired about the possibility of showing the new movie that had just been released, “Transformers”, we were eager to make that happen. Since that initial request, we've also shown Spiderman 3, Shrek 3, and Ratatouille. What makes the event great is that we show it on the day the DVD is released in the Connection Lounge on the big screen! Patients, siblings, caregivers (and even a few staff!) have enjoyed “Movie Night!” Stay tuned for the next movie, coming to a lounge near you!

New dolls help patients understand process

In recent months, the PBMT program has had some exciting new members join the team. Through a grant from the Hilliard Family Foundation, the Family Support Program was able to purchase interactive medical teaching dolls and accessories to be used as tools to help patients and families understand different parts of the transplant process.

The dolls, purchased from Legacy Products, will be used by nurse coordinators and the child life specialist as a resource for showing families how a central line, port, and shunt work as well as showing the location on the body for spinal taps and bone marrow aspirations. Patients and families will be able to learn and explore with the dolls and accessories as they provide a safe and less frightening way to learn about different procedures. We look forward to involving the patients as we decide on names for our new team members! A big thank you to the Hilliard Family Foundation for helping us provide this wonderful resource to our medical team and families.



Our new dolls will help educate patients and families about the transplant process and some of the procedures they may experience.

Riddles from the nurses

Everyone knows that the 5200 nurses have a good sense of humor. Here are a few of their favorite riddles! Answers are below.

1. What city has no people?
2. Why was the baby ant confused?
3. Why did the banana go to doctor?
4. What month has 28 days?
5. What flowers do you always wear?

1. Electricity!
2. All his uncles were ants!
3. He was not peeling well.
4. All of them!
5. (Two lips)!

In thanksgiving...

This time of year definitely gives one a reason to pause and be grateful for the individuals, groups, businesses and foundations who enable us to do our work. Every day, we are cognizant of the fact that we would not be here without your support - every single one of you. For the volunteers, music makers, artists, donors, sponsors, community meal participants, quilt makers, errand-runners, PBMT patients and families, 5200 staff, Duke employees, we give thanks. We are grateful for your support in helping us serve for over 10 years as the Family Support Program!

Aflac ducks make appearance around Duke and Durham

The ducks are coming! The ducks are coming! In case you haven't had a chance to purchase your Aflac Holiday Duck yet, there is still time. Various locations around Duke and even a few around Durham will provide shoppers the chance to buy a furry friend. The schedule is as follows:

- * December 3-4 - Duke South Cafeteria
- * December 3&17- North Pavilion (lower level)
- * December 5-6 - Duke North Cafeteria
- * December 10-11 - Durham Regional Hospital
- * December 11-12 - Duke South Cafeteria
- * December 13-14 - Duke North Cafeteria
- * December 17-18 - Duke South Cafeteria
- * December 19-20 - Duke North Cafeteria

Also, the ducks may be purchased during regular business hours in the PBMT office. Small ducks are \$10 and large ducks are \$15. All proceeds benefit the PBMT Family Support Program. Get yours while supplies last!!



New logo unveiled for Rainbow of Heroes Walk!

We are in the midst of building a new website for our Rainbow of Heroes Walk, the annual fundraiser for the Family Support Program. In the meantime, we wanted to share with you our new logo, which will be implemented as part of the website as well as on our 2008 Walk t-shirts. Stay tuned for the unveiling of our new website, anticipated to be launched in the next 6 weeks!



Wish List

We are in need of the following items:

- * Photo Paper - high gloss, 4x6 and 8.5x11
- * Hardees Coupons
- * Gift cards: Wal-Mart, Food Lion, and BP gas cards
- * We have specific toys, DVD's, and games listed on our Target.com Wish List. Enter "Duke PBMT" (first name) "Family Support" (last name)" in the "Find a Wish List" search engine and go from there.

Many thanks for your support!!

Winner's Circle

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

- * Phyllis Strawn for making pillowcases to be distributed to patients upon admission
- * Kellie Gates for cutting caregivers' hair on Salon Day
- * Matthew Lau for providing a chocolate cheesecake for PBMT caregivers
- * Cip Garcia, Cathy and Chris Michael for purchasing Shrek 3

The individuals and organizations who made monetary donations:

- * Steve and Debbie Byers
- * Jamie Drosky
- * Cade and Delaney Kearney
- * Chris Sundberg
- * Don and Beth Tomoff
- * Endure-Fight-Live Charity Golf Tournament (Russell and April Van Dyke)

Those who made gifts through our Target.com Wish list:

- * Sarah Negri
- * Lori and Jamie Falow
- * Brooke Goldstein
- * Denise Rothberg

For those who provided meals on 5200:

- * Kohl's Store
- * Matt Clark Fund
- * Cip Garcia

Those who contributed to our Community Meals program last month:

- * Apex United Methodist Church
- * Little Red Foundation
- * Macedonia Baptist Church
- * Trinity Ave Presbyterian 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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