

The Community Counts

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



February 2007

Fox Foundation

It is with great pleasure that we feature the Fox Family Foundation (FFF) in this month's newsletter. The FFF is headquartered in Durham, North Carolina. Last year, the Foundation distributed over \$350,000 to thirty-five Triangle area non-profit organizations. Of the thirty-five grantees, three grantees were programs based at the Duke University Medical Center. One of those three was the Duke PBMT Family Support Program (Duke PBMT FSP).

The relationship between the Fox Family Foundation and the Duke PBMT FSP began in 2004 when the Foundation underwrote the PBMT Bead Program (for several years, the program had some funding, but not enough to get started). Since that time, every child and many siblings who have come through the doors of 5200 have received necklaces with their names spelled out in beads. Over his or her course of transplant, each child "earns" special beads to add to his or her necklace. The necklace provides a visual and tangible expression of each individual journey. It was only with the support of the Foundation that this program got off the ground.

During 2005 and 2006, the Foundation has provided funding for general operating expenses. These funds allow the FSP to keep growing by adding resources and programs. Over the last two years, we have added two new resources: walkie talkies, discharge bags, and the In Case You Forgot Basket. New programs include Massage Night, Activity Passports, Rainbow Volunteers, Yoga, and Movie Night.

In 2003, the Triangle Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals named the Fox Family Foundation the Outstanding Philanthropic Organization in the Triangle. The Duke PBMT is honored and grateful to be associated with such a respected and caring foundation.

Save the Date!

The 2007 Rainbow of Heroes Walk will be held on Saturday, May 5th at the Duke Center for Living. The event is to honor PBMT patients, families, staff, and friends of the program. It also serves as the year's largest fundraiser for the PBMT Family Support Program.

Be sure to mark your calendar!!
For more info go to
www.rainbowofheroeswalk.org

Best Buddies and Rainbow Volunteers

*There is no doubt that volunteers are an essential piece of the PBMT team. We are pleased to note that last month, our 565th family was matched with a Best Buddy since the program began in 1997. Best Buddies are matched in a one on one situation with a patient and his/her family throughout their time in Durham. Last week, a new class of Best Buddies completed twelve hours of intensive training, which covered topics from medical information, communication, communicating with children, grief and loss, psychosocial effects of the transplant process, volunteer policies, and healthcare and volunteer roles.

*Our newer, yet very well received program called Rainbow Volunteers also completed another training. This program provides PBMT families an array of services, they do bedside activities with the kids, provide respite for the caregivers, and they assist with general Connection upkeep. Rainbow Volunteers volunteer their time in three hour shifts, from 12 to 9 pm, every day of the week. They are recognizable by the white tee shirts that say PBMT Rainbow Volunteer on the back.

*We are grateful to all of the PBMT staff and Duke professionals who volunteered their time to prepare our volunteers for their experiences on the PBMT unit, as well as the volunteers who help keep our programs afloat!

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.



Clea, age 2
Washington, DC



Aisha, age 2
Durham, NC



Andrew, age 2
Nanuet, NY



David, age 11
Elizabeth City, NC



Love According to Kids



"When you fall in love, I think you're supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn't supposed to be so painful." --Harlen, age 8

"To get a girl to fall in love with you... take her out to eat. Make sure it's something she likes to eat. French fries usually works for me." --Bart, age 9

"It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need somebody to clean up after them." --Lynette, age 9

"Love; No one is sure why it happens, but I heard it has something to do with how you smell. That's why perfume and deodorant are so popular." --Jan, age 9

"Lovers hold hands to make sure their rings don't fall off because they paid good money for them." --Dave, age 8

"I'm not rushing into being in love. I'm finding fourth grade hard enough." --Regina, age 10

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." --Nikka, age 6

"Marriage is when you get to keep your girl and don't have to give her back to her parents" --Eric, age 6

"Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good too." --Greg, age 8

"Yell out that you love them at the top of your lungs ... and don't worry if their parents are right there." --Manuel, age 8



Duke Basketball Players visit 5200



This month brought some local celebrities to the PBMT Unit. Members of the Duke Men's Basketball team Greg Paulus, Jon Scheyer, and Brian Zombek came armed with smiles and team pictures for the kids to enjoy. The kids and parents enjoyed this special time to get autographs and have their pictures taken with players from one of the top ranked teams in the NCAA. Thank you to the Blue Devils for taking time out of their busy schedule to make this extra special visit!



Matthew teaches the guys how to play video basketball



Josh shows off his basketball poster



Krish and his brother pose with Greg, Brian and John



Abraham tries to find the guys on the Basketball poster



Donovan and his brother Dylan pose for a picture



Ally, her Dad and the Duke Basketball players are all smiles



Ester and the guys



Tripp takes a minute to pose for a picture

A Stroll through the Park

Duke Gardens provides a place where people of all backgrounds and ages come for beauty, education, horticulture, solitude, discovery, study, renewal and inspiration. Families also go to the gardens to feed their friendly ducks! As outpatients, many children and their families have visited the gardens with hand sanitizer in hand, and have wandered the paths, quacked from the bridges, tossed pennies into the wishing well and given handfuls of cracker crumbs to the ducks and geese. The kids seem to be grinning, laughing, or skipping, which makes not only for a wonderful photo op, but for a great outing as well. So bring your hats and your crackers, and walk or drive on over to the gardens (it's free to visit, but you have to pay to park). If you would like to meet our [science educator](#) there for a visit (you can also go on your own time), please contact [Katie Vogel](mailto:kavgel@duke.edu) at kavgel@duke.edu. The Garden's website is www.sarahpdukegardens.org



Josh and his sister Olivia throw pennies into the wishing well

Newest Member of the Super Steppers Club!

In this edition of The Community Counts, we want to recognize a new Super Stepper! Patients who earn 50 footprints (250 laps) become members of the Super Steppers Club and receive a t-shirt with their photo on it. Abraham earned 64 feet, which is a total of 320 laps. All patients work very hard to earn each of their footprints. Great job to all of our Super Steppers!



Abraham shows off his feet

Winners 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:

- * Drs. William and Patrick Garrison for their donation
- * Tuan Iam and Suzanne Chu for their donation in honor of Matthew Tsern
- * Chris Sundberg for her donation
- * Chris Howell and RBC Centura in Rocky Mount for their generous donation of art boxes, art supplies and toys
- * The Evanosky Foundation for their generous donation of laptops and Lego toys
- * Kelly Riley and Ebenezer Baptist Church for their donation of laundry detergent
- * Ann Stempler for her donation
- * Paula Haste and BB&T for their donation of discharge bags
- * Nina Brown for her donation of knitted hats for patient welcome bags
- * Sharon Cowell and Project Linus for their donation
- * Matt Paul and Naomi Mezey for their donation
- * The family of Ally Brennan for their donation
- * Bob and Lucy Ruggiero for their donation to Child Life
- * Abby Tilley for providing Salon Day for PBMT caregivers
- * Carol Krucoff for providing stretching and relaxation to PBMT caregivers
- * Candy Walter for providing weekly massage for caregivers

The following groups who contributed to our Community Meals program for the month of January:

West Raleigh Exchange Club
Haw River Christian Church
East Chapel Hill High School
The Little Red Foundation

Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church
Apex United Methodist Church
Macedonia Baptist Church
St Luke's Episcopal Church

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

What We Wish For...

We are in need of the following items:

- ✓ Target and Wal-Mart gift cards
- ✓ Food Lion gift cards
- ✓ Treasure Box toys and Bingo prizes
- ✓ Sample size medications: Tylenol, Motrin, Aspirin, BC Powder, and Tums
- ✓ Washable glitter paint
- ✓ Glitter glue, paintbrushes, stickers

If you can donate an item, please contact Rachel Tripp at (919) 668-1203 or by e-mail at rachel.tripp@duke.edu.

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Additional and archived newsletters may be downloaded from our web site:
www.cancer.duke.edu/PBMT/support/family.asp

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