

CURE Connections

December 2011 eNewsletter

Our mission: Improving the lives of families coping with childhood cancer or chronic blood disorders by providing emotional, educational and financial assistance.

Evening Coffee Group Meeting

The next Evening Coffee Group meeting will be held Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the CURE Family Meeting Room (also known as the Kaiser Room), 4th floor of Golisano Children's Hospital, near the inpatient units. Whether you are looking for help coping with your child's illness, want to connect with other CURE families, or are a "seasoned" parent interested in helping others navigate their way through childhood cancer, consider joining us for coffee and conversation. A parent whose child has completed treatment said this about last month's meeting, "As much as I want to be a resource to other parents, every time I talk with someone who 'gets it,' it helps me as well!" The meeting will be co-facilitated by Linda Morrison, CURE director of programs and parent of a survivor, and Eric Toohey, former CURE director of programs. Reservations are requested but not required. Extended family and friends are also welcome. Vouchers for free parking in the hospital garage will be provided.

New Support for Sickle Cell Families

Jade Giesy, social worker for Pediatric Hematology Oncology at Golisano Children's Hospital, has announced the formation of a new support group for anyone affected by sickle cell. The group meets every other Friday from 1-2 p.m. at the Outpatient Hematology Clinic in Room 60357C. Meetings will be held December 2, 16 and 30. For more information, please contact Jade at Jade_Giesy@urmc.rochester.edu or 585-275-4970.

Holiday Heroes Deadline Nears

Just a few days remain to include your holiday hero in this year's CURE Holiday Heroes campaign! For more information please contact the CURE office.



Max Harris Creates Worry-X

A pad and a pencil was all that comforted 10-year-old Max Harris as he faced possible brain surgery. He drew a simple sketch of a super hero with the power to catch worries in his net and take them away. With that, Worry-X was born. He helped Max through many treatments and surgeries. Hoping to help other sick children, Max drew more Worry-X sketches and passed them out. Now Worry-X is available as a 12" plush toy made from quality, certified safe materials. He is just the right size to pack in an overnight bag or cuddle during a stay in the hospital stay. He can take those worries away whenever and wherever needed! From now until Christmas you can take advantage of a special Buy One Get One Free online promotion. For more information, or to place an order visit www.Worry-X.com. Dolls are also available at the Strong Hospital Gift Shop.

Holiday Gift is One-of-a-Kind; Helps CURE

This holiday give someone on your list a special, personalized gift AND help CURE at the same time. Create a single, reusable sports water bottle by adding your own pictures and messages at Aquavation.com and CURE will receive a portion of the purchase price for each bottle ordered. Use the special CURE template that will allow you to carry our cause, or design your own to celebrate special days or events. Bottles are free of BPA and dyes, and will be individually gift boxed and shipped. For more information visit <http://curekidscancer.aquavation.org>. Now through December 31 receive 10% off your purchase by entering **Cureholidaygift10** at checkout.

Our Sincere Sympathy

To the family and friends of Jlon Woody, November 11

Bereavement Group News

Eric Iglewski Bids Farewell

CURE's Bereavement Group meeting on Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. at CURE will be Eric Iglewski's last. We send many, many thanks to him for all he has done for CURE and our families through the years. He has been a loyal friend, strong advocate, compassionate listener, and voice of reason to hundreds of parents and patients. Thank you, Eric, for all you have contributed!

The December meeting will focus on surviving the holidays while grieving the loss of your child. Joan Reeves, bereaved parent; Carol Vattimo, CURE parent advocate; and Jade Giesy, social worker, will co-facilitate the meeting with Eric. A reservation is not necessary. For more information please contact our office.

Ceremony of Remembrance for Children

A non-denominational Ceremony of Remembrance for children who have died will be held at the Church of the Transfiguration, 50 West Bloomfield Road in Pittsford on Sunday, December 11 at 6:30p.m. For information or to make a reservation please contact Elaine Deacon at 585-889-2574 or Peggy Solka at 585-265-4585.

Share your hints!

Found a way to make taking medicine more pleasant? Or make dressing changes a little easier? Experienced parents can provide a wealth of helpful information and inspiration to parents of a newly diagnosed child. Please share your hints with us for publication in a future newsletter or updated CURE Family Handbook. All helpful hints are welcome, no matter how small, whether they relate directly to treatment or not. Please submit hints to Linda Morrison at the CURE office.

Recycle Ink, Toner Cartridges at CURE Wondering what to do with your old ink and toner cartridges? How about that cell phone that no longer works? Bring them to CURE, and help us while helping to keep them out of landfills! We have contracted with a professional recycling company that will pick up items at our office and pay us a small reward for each item we collect. Please call the CURE office to schedule a time to drop off your items.

Boost Tutoring for Kids & Teens

Boost tutors are available during and/or after treatment for as long as needed, even after returning to school. These services are provided free of charge by retired, certified teachers who are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children. If your child is struggling with schoolwork, even if treatment was completed long ago, please contact Linda Bolan at 585-317-7269 to learn more about how Boost tutoring may be able to help. Tutors are available during summer as well as during the school year.

facebook

Join our private Facebook page for CURE families. It's a great place to connect! To join, please send an email requesting an invitation to Brian.Wirth@curekids cancer.com.

Wish List

Gift cards for gas, Wegmans and Walmart

Personal care supplies including shampoo, conditioner, body wash, body lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, dental floss, disposable razors, combs, emery boards, and tissues. Items must be new, unopened, and recently purchased.

Purse size mints and gum.

Toys, books, DVDs for babies through older teens. Especially needed are Legos, Play Doh, Uno Cards. Items must be new, in original packaging, and recently purchased.

Volunteer Opportunities & Other Ways to Help New

volunteers are always welcome! Our Volunteer Form can be found on our website under the "How To Help" tab. The Volunteer Form is located at the bottom of the page.

Please consider hosting a fundraiser for us! Also, please remember CURE in your will or estate planning.

Ongoing Programs

- Boost Tutoring - see article above for more information.
 - Coffee Group meeting for on treatment families-Thurs, 1-2p.m., CURE Meeting Room (also known as Kaiser Room), 4th Golisano Hospital.
 - Voyage Beads - children build a tangible representation of their journey through cancer treatment.
 - Vouchers for free parking - provided to families of CURE children who are hospitalized or visiting the outpatient clinic. At clinic you must request a pass as they are not automatically given out.
 - Emergency financial assistance for on-treatment families.
 - Parent-to-Parent, Patient-to-Patient Peer Support Program.
 - Family Handbook and Comfort Bag for newly diagnosed families.
 - Emotional support and guidance from CURE's parent advocate, Carol Vattimo
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Photos!

Pictures of our recent events can be found on our website at “Photo Albums.”

Contact Us

Please let us know if you move or change your email address.

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CURE
childhood cancer
association

...because kids can't fight cancer alone