



The HELPING HAND

Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

October 2003 | Volume 8, No. 4

Chicagoland Ride for Kids® Sets New Records!

Some 2,500 motorcyclists, volunteers, and fundraisers came together on July 20 to celebrate the largest amount ever raised for the Chicagoland Ride for Kids®, \$325,092! It was truly a day to remember for everyone involved, and gorgeous weather added icing to the cake.

Since 1989, motorcyclists and fundraisers in the Chicago area have worked diligently to raise funds to support the Foundation's research and family support programs. In 2003, the 15-year-old Ride topped all of the 2003 Ride for Kids® events with the most participants and the most funds raised. Since its inception, the Chicagoland Ride for Kids® has raised more than \$2 million in total funds.



Participants await the beginning of the 2003 Chicagoland Ride for Kids®.

Early on that Sunday morning, more than 200 volunteers swarmed the Allstate Insurance Company's national headquarters in Northbrook, IL, the starting point for the Ride, to help greet and register the thousands of motorcyclists, fundraisers, patient families and Foundation supporters. After completing a well organized, police-escorted "motorcycle parade" through 14 of Chicago's northern suburbs, the riders returned to the Allstate campus for the Celebration of Life program.

Close to 50 young Navy volunteers from the nearby Great Lakes Naval Base helped with event logistics, as they have for three years now. Their support is emblematic of the community effort poured into the Chicagoland Ride for Kids® every year.

Attendees gathered under the big-top tent at the Celebration of Life, listening as Foundation employees, physicians, and brain tumor survivors shared news and stories. Dr. Stewart Goldman, a pediatric oncologist, commented,

continued on page 2

Allstate Insurance Company: A Generous Contributor

Allstate Insurance Company has hosted the Chicagoland Ride for Kids® at its corporate headquarters since 2000, and dozens of Allstate employees help raise funds, volunteer, and participate in the ride. The Company has ample parking space and a well organized facility services group that knows how to host events like this one.

One of the company's biggest contributions is publicity for the event. Rebecca Begley, Home Office Media Communications Consultant and Mike Siemienas, Midwest Region External Communications Consultant, issued calendar announcements to local print and broadcast media outlets, and also sent press releases and traffic alerts prior to the event.

"The local ABC television station, who has the highest rated news show in the area, came out before the Ride and taped a segment that appeared on their prime time news show and again in their evening news," explained Begley. "We also worked with the *Daily Herald*, the northwest suburban Chicago daily newspaper, who ran a great feature story about Rachel, an 11-year-old brain tumor survivor, and her father, who both participated in the Ride."

Each year Allstate conducts a companywide charitable giving campaign through its employees and agencies. In 2002, they provided a video crew and filmed the Ride. For their upcoming 2004 campaign, they produced a film that features the Ride for Kids® and two other nonprofits. "Typically, the organizations that are featured in this annual video realize increased contributions to their cause, and we're hoping that will be true for the Foundation," said Don Bis, Allstate's communications director. □

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the President's Desk	2
Advocacy News	3
Family Support	5
Where Hope Springs Eternal	6
Ride for Kids® Events	7
Barn Party Fundraiser	back

Chicagoland...

(continued from page 1)

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Most of the research funding goes towards adult cancers. Your investment in these children’s future is immensely important.”

Fourteen brain tumor survivors and their families participated in the event and spoke to the attendees. Loretta, mother of 13-year-old Melanie, commented, “We feel there is hope because of you. You will never know how grateful we are. Thank you for every day of our daughter’s life.”

John and Julie Runzel were the official Top Fundraisers with a donation of \$12,001. Just one dollar back was Ted Nielsen, who brought \$12,000! “This year’s event was

absolutely incredible,” said Julie Runzel. “We had more people, more brain tumor survivors and many older children, and it was great to see them all. Plus, the news about the Foundation’s research institute at Duke University gave me goose bumps. It’s just so exciting!”

Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA) of Illinois Chapter G2 captured Top Club honors with a total of \$84,205. The Top Dealer was Des Plaines Honda with a grand total of \$79,772 raised by their customers to fund the Foundation’s programs. Nielsen Enterprises’ customers were close behind with \$74,817 in donations. Vito Racanelli of Woodstock, IL won the new Honda motorcycle donated by American Honda Motor Company. □

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

...by Mike Traynor

Angels In Our Midst

In our previous edition of the *Helping Hand* we celebrated the opening of the first Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute, a \$6 million effort to bring new answers to the search for the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors. In our 20-year history, this is our most exciting and ambitious undertaking and it is already leading us to new heights in the quest to help children who are battling brain tumors. This news is one more indication of the growth and success of the work of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, the importance of the Ride for Kids® events and the hope we bring to the children and their families.

We were recently reminded of the critical need for the work of the Institute and the ever-present closeness of childhood brain tumors. Many of the Foundation’s staff members recently attended the funeral services for precious little six-year-old Maryann Sluder who lost her three-year battle with her brain tumor. Maryann and her family live near Dianne and I, deep in the mountains of North Carolina. A few weeks before Maryann succumbed to her tumor, she participated in the Asheville Ride for Kids® and entertained all of us in attendance with her very uplifting rendition of “Jesus Loves Me.” She followed that up with a stirring performance of “You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.” As any of you who

have ever attended a Ride for Kids® event know, the joy of the children we meet on stage is boundless and Maryann was a leader in that area. To be in her presence was to be lifted up by her energy and her very mature acceptance of her health issues.

Maryann was truly an angel in our midst and a wonderful representative of all the children who have come to the Ride for Kids® events and the many more we work to help but have never had the pleasure of meeting. As we reflect on the efforts each of us have put forth this year to advance the understanding of childhood brain tumors, and to find the means to bring an end to the suffering and sorrow that is part and parcel of this disease, we can know that Maryann is smiling down on us singing her interpretation of “You are my sunshine.”

Maryann’s family and the families of all the children we serve want you to know that you are their sunshine too!

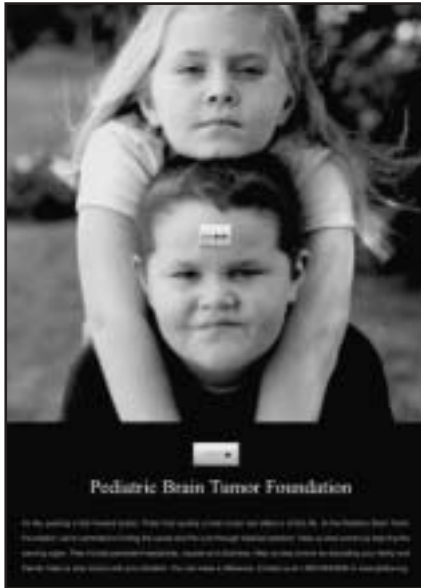
-Mike Traynor □

*Maryann’s favorite meal
was chicken nuggets,
and at a recent party,
PBTF staff couldn’t help
but indulge her.*



ADVOCACY

General Awareness Campaign



One in a series of PSAs to be featured in national publications beginning this winter.

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation (PBTF) is pleased to announce its new national awareness campaign. Starting with a public service announcement (PSA) targeting the public in general-interest magazines, the campaign is designed to create awareness of the warning signs of childhood brain tumors, as well as the PBTF.

Dailey & Associates, a Los Angeles-based advertising agency, created the PSA as a pro bono service to PBTF. "Our goal was to create advertising that would generate awareness of pediatric brain tumors as well as compel readers to support the foundation," said Brian Morris, Dailey's president. "The creative concept is tied together by the use of familiar 'fast-forward' and 'stop' icons/buttons. Once a child is diagnosed with cancer, life

moves at a fast-forward pace. But people can help stop tumors by learning to identify the symptoms and by making donations to the foundation. We were honored to work on such an important assignment for an organization that does so much good work."

A number of brain tumor survivors whose families have worked with the Foundation participated in the PSA photography session. The first PSA will feature Brandon Krause, a brain tumor survivor who attends the San Bernardino Ride for Kids®, and his sister Breanne. Brandon's mom, Jennifer, wrote, "Miracles happen everyday!" This was written inside the very first fortune cookie that our two-year-old son Brandon ever opened. It was just a few months after he finished chemotherapy, and he had no signs of residual tumor in any of the tests. While we wept with joy reading this simple fortune, we never lost sight of how accurate of a statement it really is. We thank the thousands of motorcyclists, doctors, nurses, social workers, and researchers working every day to end pediatric brain tumors. Today, as we watch our six-year-old son learning to read, write, play sports and ride motorcycles, we beg you to keep working hard because miracles do happen everyday."

And that's exactly what the Foundation hopes will come from this campaign, more miracles. If childhood brain tumors are detected earlier, there is greater hope for treatment and survival. Parents and physicians need to know and watch for the signs of pediatric brain tumors. Tell your friends to look for this ad in national publications this winter. □

Brain Tumor Survivor Adam Cox – Presenter at President's Cancer Panel

On September 5, Adam Cox, his mother Pam and Dianne Traynor of the PBTF attended the first in a series of meetings being held by the President's Cancer Panel on survivorship issues for cancer survivors. Adam and Pam were selected to attend and speak with the panel comprised of Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., Dr. Margaret Kripke, and world champion bicyclist and cancer survivor, Lance Armstrong.

Pam and Adam told the panel about the struggles faced by a long-term brain tumor survivor and about the overwhelming experience of looking for assistance and support. Among the issues discussed were available services and resources for survivors, economics, post-treatment services and needs of survivors. This series of meetings coincided with the new Institute of Medicine report just released into print, "Childhood Cancer Survivorship," which is available through the National Academy Press (www.national-academies.org).

continued on page 4



Adam Cox and his mother (left) with Lance Armstrong

CBTRUS: the Definitive National Brain Tumor Data Resource

The Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States (CBTRUS), a not-for-profit corporation, provides descriptive statistical data on all primary brain tumors, both benign and malignant. Its database is the largest collection of population-based data on all primary brain and central nervous system tumors in the United States. This valuable resource, created in 1992, has grown by leaps and bounds, thanks in large part to the support of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.



*CBTRUS President
Carol Kruchko*

Carol Kruchko, President of CBTRUS, created this resource with a handful of dedicated researchers. Carol lost a child to a brain tumor 15 years ago and began working to collect data. "When our child died, we set up a memorial fund, but I wanted to do something more hands-on. So I began this work, and it is my passion. I know it's a wonderful contribution, and it's helped me heal," she said.

From its beginning, the Foundation supported this work, knowing its importance to the scientific community. For two years, funds from Ride for Kids® events were earmarked for this project and in 1994, CBTRUS received an additional four-year grant from the Foundation, in excess of \$600,000, to allow the organization to focus solely on its research mission. The PBTF continues to support the work of the CBTRUS and has given over \$1,000,000 to support it.

"This funding really allowed us to gel as a research institute," explained Carol. "We were able to focus on the research and we put out many manuscripts and reports. It was this initial research that proved our credibility, and today we are cited as an authoritative source in many prestigious medical journals."

CBTRUS reports, unlike government data, list data in histologic (tissue structure as revealed by microscopic study) groupings with improved clinical relevance. Data is analyzed for physicians and used for presentations, posters, and grant proposals.

"The data we provide on brain tumors gives clues to the disease causes. We provide that data to researchers and clinicians who know where to look for these clues," said Carol.

Data available from CBTRUS also helps health care providers better understand the "burden of the disease." It helps survivors and parents by giving them an idea of what they need to do. Most importantly, it helps researchers maintain a positive attitude, providing hope that these clues will lead to the end of this terrible disease.

The four-person staff at CBTRUS contracts with the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The School does all the data analysis with one fulltime analyst and a principal investigator funded by CBTRUS.

Recently Congress passed into law the "Benign Brain Tumor Cancer Registries Amendment Act", requiring federal cancer data to include data on benign brain tumors, as well (only malignant tumor data had been collected in the past). This new law was passed with the help of CBTRUS, who provided the scientific proof needed to see that data collection for benign as well as malignant brain tumors could be done.

With this new law, CBTRUS' role will transition. They will continue to provide histologically specific data, something the government will not provide. CBTRUS will make this data available to the research community each year. They are currently working on a trends paper and look forward to sharing these results with the scientific community.

The Foundation continues to support CBTRUS, and Kruchko is grateful. "We are asked to do so much and today we have the credibility we need, thanks to the Foundation's support." □

Cancer Panel...

(continued from page 3)

Lance Armstrong, five-time Tour de France Champion and cancer survivor, had words of advice for the young cancer survivors who were diagnosed between the age of birth and 14 years. "You really have to take control of your treatment. I wasn't a passive patient. I was an aggressive patient."

Adam was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age three. Adam began his service to others at the young age of 10 when he became the youngest official DARE drug officer in the country.

Adam traveled to elementary and high schools speaking about the dangers of drug abuse. Adam has had to face many challenges in a school system that would not make allowances for the special needs of young people that may be left with late effects of their cancer treatment.

Dianne Traynor, who nominated Adam to speak to the President's Cancer Panel, said, "Adam is very proud of his cancer survivorship and continues to be an advocate for change in systems that need to be in place to assist the over 270,000 childhood cancer survivors in this country today." □

FAMILY SUPPORT

Foundation Awards 15 New Scholarships to Brain Tumor Survivors

The PBTF proudly announces that 15 new scholarships have been awarded to deserving brain tumor survivors (pictured right) who started college this fall. The two-year-old PBTF Scholarship Program provides funding to individuals who have been diagnosed with a childhood brain and/or spinal cord tumor.

The Foundation's Scholarship Program, part of its Family Support Program, was created to help students and their families realize their dreams of continuing education. These funds help ease the financial burden that often occurs after living with a life-threatening diagnosis. Scholarships are available to those who want to continue their education through technical school, vocational school, junior college, or a four-year college or university. Up to \$5,000 over a two-year academic period is available for tuition, fees and books, with the opportunity to reapply after two years.

This year, the scholarships are funded in large part by money raised from the *Cycle World* Joe Parkhurst Education Fund Silent Auction held in February 2003. The annual auction, organized by *Cycle World* magazine in memory of the publication's founder, was a tremendous success, generating more than \$35,000 for the Foundation's education programs. Motorcycle manufacturers, distributors, and dealers attended the auction and purchased unique memorabilia and collectibles donated by motorcycle enthusiasts across the country.

"The motorcycle community responded with their usual enthusiasm and generosity, and we had a great time at this auction. Thanks to their support, we are broadening our educational outreach to families in their time of need," said Mike Traynor, PBTF president.

A total of 24 scholarships have been granted so far, and interest in this program is growing rapidly. Submissions for 2004 scholarships are due by April 1, 2004. For more information, email familysupport@pbtfus.org. ■



Lacey Arend
Northeastern Oklahoma
A&M College
Miami, OK



Joy Bechtol
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH



Lindsey Canfield
Jefferson Community College
Watertown, NY



Andrea Carey
Concordia College
Moorhead, MN



Rachel Eatmon
Wake Technical
Community College
Raleigh, NC



Andrew Eikinas
Bridgewater State College
Bridgewater, MA



Gary Hadfield
Hobart-William Smith College
Geneva, NY



Kristin Hess
Brigham Young University-
Idaho
Rexburg, ID



Alexander Nierzaba
Gonzaga University
Spokane, WA



Matthew R. Riley
University of Wisconsin
Whitewater, WI



James Ross
Middle Tennessee State
University
Murfreesboro, TN



Dmitry Ryvkin
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY



Caleb Scoville
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK



Julia Travis
Warren Wilson College
Asheville, NC



Will Vossen
Academy College
Bloomington, MN

WHERE HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

Stories of Hope from Doctors and Patients

PBTF Awards Scholarship in Memory of Nikki White

Editor's note: Joy Bechtol's scholarship was awarded in loving memory of Nikki White, who died from her brain tumor in 1998. Her parents, Scott and Mary Jo, work tirelessly every year to raise funds for the PBTF with the Nikki's Hope Golf Tournament in Phoenix, AZ.

Nikki's life and passing taught the Whites many things; things they hope might help other families in this situation. "The only way to get through something like this is to have a strong faith. You have to deal with what you have been given," reflected Scott.

Leaving home for college is always a huge turning point for young people. Like all freshmen, Joy Bechtol, an 18-year-old brain tumor survivor, is excited and a bit nervous. She recently started classes at Ohio State University and is living in a dorm, thanks in part to a PBTF Scholarship.

"I was so glad to get the PBTF scholarship. It really helps, and I'm excited about living in the dorm – I know I can do it. I'm also sort of nervous about using the Internet so much, almost everything we do here is on the Net," she explained.

Joy will study dietetics, a field she chose because she sees the connection between what people eat and good health, and because she loves science.

Entering college is a huge accomplishment for Joy. Diagnosed with a medulloblastoma tumor in 1997 at age 12, she had surgery to successfully remove the tumor. Her treatments ended in March 1999. Today she is cancer free.

Due to her radiation and chemo treatments, she missed most of her middle school years and was home-schooled during this time. She was physically debilitated for awhile, and today she walks with a walker.

She exudes a quiet confidence as she talked about her journey. "Getting through this, I just did my best –

it's all anyone can do," she said. "But it really does get better. Your brain heals, and you do get better."

Her advice to others going through treatments is clear. "I'd tell other kids to believe in the Lord, and to believe in themselves. If you really want something, it's much easier if you believe in yourself," she explained.

Joy's plans for the future are also clear. She wants a good job so she can be financially stable. She'd also like to get married and have children of her own one day.

Joy's mom Barbara is a single mom and has dedicated her life to her daughter. She recalls the days of Joy's treatments and is grateful for all the support she received. "A lot of folks prayed for us, and so many people did so much. Our church friends rallied behind us and volunteers came every day and stayed with her so I could work. And the people at work were great. They allowed me to work around her treatment schedule and were so compassionate," she recalled.

She tells other families in this situation to ask for support. "Your life is just so consumed during this time, everything is abnormal. But try to get away some, and do ask for support," she advised.

Joy and Barbara discovered the Foundation about a year

ago, and attended the Marysville, Ohio Ride for Kids® event this year. "I thought it was great fun," said Joy. "I rode with Joe who was really nice. The Foundation is doing good work in searching for ways to prevent brain tumors."

"The people at the Ride treated us like royalty," said Barbara. "They were very attentive and so well organized. These Rides are just a beautiful thing, and because of them, someday this horrible disease won't happen."

"The cancer has not taken Joy's spirit – she is such an inspiration to me," reflected Barbara. "She tells me all the time, 'just get over it, mom,' and she's so positive and looks to the future." □



Joy, a brain tumor survivor and Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation scholarship recipient, at the 2003 Marysville Ride for Kids® event

Ride for Kids®



The Ride for Kids® Needs You!

The successful Ride for Kids® program continues to expand, adding four new events in 2004 – Colorado; Kansas City; Madison, WI; Triangle Area (NC).

Due to our growth, we are seeking an additional Ride for Kids® Manager. Candidates should have experience managing large events and sales management experience. Based in Asheville, NC, the position requires extensive travel, including weekends.

If you have the Right Stuff to join our dedicated PBTF team, contact pbtfus@pbtfus.org for additional information.

Columbia, MD Ride for Kids® Raises \$196,019

More than 1,000 motorcyclists, volunteers, fundraisers, patient families, and brain tumor survivors celebrated the 12th Annual Columbia, MD Ride for Kids® on September 14. And what a celebration it was! Even though the morning's weather was more suited for umbrellas than sunglasses, the group at the Ride's start point at the Mall in Columbia was filled with joy and warmth as they gathered to raise funds to defeat childhood brain tumors, the deadliest of all childhood cancers in America. The event raised \$196,019 to fund Foundation research and family support programs.

This year's Top Individual Fundraiser was Bob Henig with a total of \$27,225. Manassas Honda Rider's Club, in Manassas, VA captured the Top Club spot with a total of \$16,669. The Top Dealer was Bob's BMW in Jessup, MD with a total of



On stage at the Celebration of Life program, the "Stars" celebrate another successful Columbia Ride for Kids® event.

\$55,928. Bob Henig certainly capped off a great day by winning the grand prize of a brand new Honda motorcycle donated by American Honda Motor Company.

At the Celebration of Life program after the Ride, Dr. Roger Abounader, a recipient of the Foundation's 2002 Peter Steck Memorial Award, discussed the latest advances in childhood brain tumor research. Brain tumor survivor Adam, age 17, has been to every Columbia Ride for Kids® event. "Thank you for coming and supporting all of us. Every year we raise more and more funds for childhood brain tumor research.

And that's important!" he stated.

Congratulations to the dedicated and hard working Task Force Leaders Jackie Cooke, Bob Henig and their amazing team of volunteers for such a successful day. □



The whole gang was back for this year's Utica Ride for Kids®.

Utica, NY Ride for Kids® Sets New Fundraising Record

A new fundraising record, \$81,354, made a beautiful day even more spectacular as 675 motorcyclists, fundraisers, and volunteers enjoyed the biggest Ride for Kids® ever in Utica, NY on July 20. Special thanks to Task Force Leaders Ken and Kathy Sweatman and their dedicated volunteers for this huge success.

At the Celebration of Life program, NY State Assemblyman Dave Townsend thanked the riders for their wonderful service. Six brain tumor survivors and their families also thanked the motorcyclists for their selfless dedication. As an extra special treat, the Foundation awarded two scholarships to brain tumor survivors Lindsey Canfield and Gary Hadfield. The motorcyclists honored all the children with a standing ovation. □



Ride for Kids® "Stars" present the Big Check at the 2003 Ann Arbor Ride.

Ann Arbor Ride Raises More Than \$125,000 for Research

Some 724 motorcyclists, volunteers, and fundraisers raised \$125,476 at the 12th annual combined Dual Sport and Road Ride event in Ann Arbor on August 24. Thanks go out to Task Force Leaders Bob and Sue Lorenz, Bill and Kathy Chapin and their team of volunteers for all of their hard work on this event.

Amanda, whose sister also has a brain tumor, received a standing ovation after singing to the crowd at the Celebration of Life program after the Ride. Cheston, a brain tumor survivor, thanked the crowd and told them he wanted to be a motorcyclist when he grew up. Other patient families and brain tumor survivors also shared their stories. □

Marysville Ride for Kids® Event Celebrates Raising \$100,000+

Some 525 participants helped make the 12th annual Marysville, Ohio Ride for Kids® event a success on July 26. The riders and volunteers raised \$101,000 to support the Foundation's research and family support programs. Heartfelt thanks go to Marysville Task Force Leaders Lou Ann McKeen and Altrece Hogans and to Union County Sheriff Rocky Nelson for their dedication and hard work.

The Marysville Ride for Kids® was one of the featured activities at the annual Honda HomeComing® celebration sponsored by Honda of America. During the Celebration of Life, Barb, the mother of a brain tumor survivor, commented, "When Joy had her brain tumor, our world changed forever. But Joy was strong for all of us. Thanks to you, she can do things we only dreamed of." Joy, now 18, is the recipient of the Foundation's 2003 Nikki White Memorial Scholarship Award. (See related story on page 6.) □



"Stars" and fundraisers gather at the 2003 Marysville Ride for Kids®

\$95,000 Raised at 11th Annual Puget Sound Ride for Kids®

At the 11th Annual Puget Sound Ride for Kids®, more than 200 motorcyclists celebrated raising \$95,000 for Foundation research and family support programs. Task Force Leaders Ella Ralstin and Dick Stryker and all the volunteers did a terrific job with this successful event.

After the Ride, Sara, 4 years old, and her family shared what it is like to have a child with a brain tumor. Ella Ralstin, Co-Task Force Leader stated, "The Ride for Kids is just my way of making the lives of our future generations a little better. I applaud all the families and the riders who come to our events to help make a difference. Hopefully one day soon, we will see the end of childhood brain tumors." □



Four-year-old brain tumor survivor, Sara, and her sister, Alicia, enjoy the 11th Annual Puget Sound Ride for Kids®



PBTF president Mike Traynor with brain tumor survivor Adam Cox at the 2003 Asheville Ride for Kids®.

Asheville Ride for Kids® Sets New Attendance Record

The 10th Annual Asheville Ride for Kids® drew some 650 motorcyclists, a new record, for their journey through winding mountain roads. The riders raised \$89,555 for childhood brain tumor research.

At the Celebration of Life, Dr. Darell Bigner, MD, PhD, director of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute at Duke, discussed new advances in childhood brain tumor research. Landon Hobby, who with his dad Ray, works year-long to raise funds for the Ride, commented, "I believe in the Ride for Kids. I will come every year. I will continue to come as long as there is a Ride for Kids." Six-year-old brain tumor patient Maryann sang "Jesus Loves Me" and "You Are My Sunshine" and danced to the delight of the crowd. □

Editor's note: Maryann passed away on September 17.

New Fundraising Record Tops off Minnesota Ride for Kids®

The 440 motorcyclists who participated in the July 27 Minnesota Ride for Kids® were treated to a beautiful ride past many lakes and rivers, and ended the day with another beautiful sight – a new Minnesota Ride for Kids® fundraising record! The motorcyclists raised \$79,363 to support the Foundation’s mission of finding the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors. Congratulations to Task Force Leaders Tippy Scully and Bruce and Sandy Schafer for a most successful event.

Many patient families and doctors shared their experiences about living with brain tumors at the Celebration of Life program after the Ride. Will Vossen, a brain tumor survivor and Foundation scholarship recipient, thanked the crowd for being able to finish college due to his scholarship. Another Foundation scholarship recipient, Andrea Carey, also shared her experience of being a brain tumor survivor. The crowd went wild when they learned that Lauren Weigel, age 12, was the Top Individual Fundraiser, contributing \$10,000 to the cause. □



During the Minnesota Ride for Kids® Celebration of Life program, the “Stars” share their hopes and dreams with the audience.

Knoxville Ride for Kids® Sets New Record

This year’s third annual Knoxville Ride for Kids® event, held on June 21, raised \$70,422 to help find the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors – a new Knoxville record! More than 325 people participated in this Ride. Congratulations to Task Force Leaders Doug and Lori Stanphill and Bill and Judy Ziegler for this wonderful achievement.

Under the big-top tent at the Celebration of Life program after the Ride, East Tennessee Children’s Hospital Pediatric Oncologist Dr. Ray Pais expressed his appreciation



Jessica, a Knoxville Ride for Kids® “Star”, gets ready to go on a police-escorted ride to raise funds to find the cause and cure of pediatric brain tumors.

of the motorcyclists. “Every time I see a motorcyclist, I wave to them because I know that they are helping to find a cause and cure for pediatric brain tumors,” he said. Eight-year-old brain tumor patient Jessica said she liked to ride horses and after this day, motorcycles too! Several other brain tumor survivors and their families also addressed the crowd. □



Andrew, a 2003 Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation college scholarship recipient, and his family at the New England Ride for Kids®

New England Ride for Kids® Contributes Nearly \$64,000 for Foundation Efforts

Critically-needed funds for brain tumor research – \$63,985 – were collected at the New England Ride for Kids® in North Oxford, Massachusetts on August 17. The announcement topped off the day for the 400 motorcyclists, volunteers, and fundraisers. Thanks go out to Task Force Leaders Wayne and Shirley Anderson, Bob and Peg Dexter, and their team of volunteers.

At the Celebration of Life program after the Ride, three-year-old Ryen, who has attended this Ride since he was an infant, received a standing ovation when he zoomed through the big-top tent in his special yellow and black electric wheel chair. Andrew Eikinas, a recipient of a Foundation scholarship and his mom addressed the crowd, thanking them for helping and supporting them. Dr. Scott Pomeroy, a neuro-oncologist from Boston Children’s Hospital, also shared his work and thanked the motorcyclists. □

Ride for Kids®

11th Annual Hudson Valley Ride for Kids® a Great Success

On August 3, 450 participants in the Hudson Valley Ride for Kids® were treated to a great Ride and celebrated their fundraising efforts, bringing in \$98,541 to support the Foundation's efforts. Thanks to Task Force Leaders Jack Jones, Walter and Linda Buchanan, and all the volunteers for their diligent efforts.

Seven patient families joined Dr. James Garvin, a pediatric neuro-oncologist from the region, under the big-top tent during the Celebration of Life. The families shared their



Ride for Kids® Manager Allen Hughes speaks with Zach, a Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation scholarship recipient.

experiences of what it is like to live with a pediatric brain tumor. One brain tumor survivor in attendance, Zach Steinhorn, was the recipient of one of the Foundation's college scholarships. □

First Annual Indianapolis Ride for Kids® Raises Nearly \$33,000

Nearly 300 enthusiastic motorcyclists and fundraisers, scores of volunteers, and beautiful summer weather all contributed to a fantastic inaugural event in Indianapolis on July 13. At the end of the day, \$32,772 was raised for Foundation programs. Task Force Leaders Harry and Marilyn McLaren, Eddie and Donna Cross and all the volunteers did a terrific job with this first annual event.

At the Celebration of Life, 20-year-old brain tumor survivor Joe told the younger patients and survivors, "Keep believing in yourself – You're going to make it – Don't ever give up!" He also told the riders, "What you are doing is great. It's perfect. You cannot do enough to help these children. Thank you, thank you all." Dick Stryker, who rode more than 2,000 miles from Bellevue, Washington to help celebrate this inaugural ride, was the Top Individual fundraiser. □



Indianapolis Ride for Kids® "Stars"

Ride for Kids
2004

Event Schedule

San Bernardino, CA	March 21	Dual Sport
Houston, TX	April 25	Road Ride
Pittsburgh, PA	May 2	Road Ride
Triangle Area (NC)	May 2	Road Ride
Torrance, CA	May 16	Road Ride
Atlanta, GA	June 6	Road Ride
Richmond, VA	June 6	Road Ride
Kansas City, MO	June 13	Road Ride
Knoxville, TN	June 26	Road Ride
Colorado	June 27	Road Ride
Indianapolis, IN	July 11	Road Ride
Chicagoland (IL)	July 18	Road Ride
Utica, NY	July 18	Road Ride
Minnesota	July 25	Road Ride
Marysville, OH	July 31	Road Ride

Hudson Valley (NY)	August 1	Road Ride
Madison, WI	August 8	Road Ride
New England (MA)	August 15	Road Ride
Ann Arbor, MI	August 29	Road Ride /Dual Sport
Asheville, NC	August 29	Road Ride
Puget Sound (WA)	September 12	Road Ride
Columbia, MD	September 19	Road Ride
St. Louis, MO	September 19	Road Ride
Birmingham, AL	September 26	Road Ride
Sacramento, CA	October 3	Road Ride
Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX	October 10	Road Ride
Phoenix, AZ	October 17	Road Ride
Louisiana	October 24	Road Ride
Dunnellon, FL	November 7	Road Ride

Top Fundraisers and Motorcycle Winners

Top Individuals	Top Club/Chapter	Top Dealer/Shop	Honda Motorcycle Winner
Knoxville, TN: Otis & Tina Bishop \$10,131	TN Honda Riders Club \$21,254	Sloan's Honda \$21,809	Tina Bishop Murfreesboro, TN
Indianapolis, IN: Dick Stryker \$10,832	GWTA WA-E \$10,892	Western Hills Honda \$8,151	Dick Stryker Bellevue, WA
Chicago, IL: John & Julie Runzel \$12,001	GWRRRA IL G-2 \$84,205	Des Plaines Honda \$79,772	Vito Racanelli Woodstock, IL
Utica, NY: Dave & Linda Evans \$5,100	GWRRRA NY-T \$7,954	D&M Motorcycle Accessories \$13,123	Tracy Zavala Frankfort, NY
Marysville, OH: Carol & Ken Denman \$8,360	GWRRRA OH D3 \$10,462	Competition Accessories \$9,410	Richard Silva Cleveland, OH
Minnesota: Lauren Weigel \$10,000	Moon Riders \$13,814	Moon Motors \$23,754	Darwin Ganzel Mankato, MN
Hudson Valley: Anthony Pessolano \$23,095	Liam Reda Foundation \$9,007	New York Honda \$5,775	Jon Ford Maywood, NJ
New England: Louis Picaut \$2,572	GWRRRA MA-W \$9,244	Chip's Motorcycle Clinic \$9,309	Doc Courtney Warwick, RI
Ann Arbor, MI: Cindy & Lewis Shuler \$20,100	Cycle Conservation Club of Michigan \$26,915	C&C Sports \$14,669	Robert Wisniewski Bay City, MI
Asheville, NC: The Hobby's \$26,460	GWRRRA NC-M2 \$11,721	MR Motorcycle \$10,725	Bobbi Smith Rutherford College, NC
Puget Sound: Mick & Mary Rairdin \$14,000	GWT WA-E \$26,169	Hinshaws \$31,485	Garnett Arcand Redmond, WA
Columbia, MD: Bob Henig \$27,225	Manassas Honda Rider's Club \$16,669	Bob's BMW \$55,928	Bob Henig Columbia, MD



The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

302 Ridgefield Court • Asheville, NC 28806

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Asheville, NC
Permit No.565

(828) 665-6891
(800) 253-6530
(828) 665-6894 fax

E-mail addresses:

pbtfus@pbtfus.org
rideforkids@pbtfus.org
familysupport@pbtfus.org
research@pbtfus.org
donations@pbtfus.org

Web sites:

www.pbtfus.org
www.rideforkids.org

Would you like to receive
our e-mail press releases
and updates?

Have an address change?
Send us an e-mail at

pbtfus@pbtfus.org

The Helping Hand Newsletter
Managing Editor: Sara DiGiusto Sewell
Editor: Melissa Stanz
Design & Printing: Biltmore Press

Party in the Barn: A Great Fundraiser

John and Julie Runzel are long-standing members of the Chicago Ride for Kids® Task Force and contribute much time and energy each year to help find the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors. This year, for the second year in a row, they sponsored a most creative fundraiser – one that generated more than \$6,700!

The Runzels own a big red barn – the perfect place to host a great party. More than 125 people attended the invitation-only event this spring, paying \$50 each to mingle, eat, and dance the night away. Almost everything was donated for the party, including all the food, thanks to Outback Steakhouse of Schaumburg, IL. Eric Ruby, the manager of Outback, brought all the food and five employees who also donated their time. The group did the set up, cooking, and clean up under



*John and Julie Runzel – sponsors of the
“Party in the Barn” fundraiser*

tents provided by the Runzels. The G-Men Band, which includes Vito Racanelli, a Chicago Ride for Kids® co-task force leader, provided lively dance music.

“We had a great time at this fundraiser and invited all our business associates, friends, and family, neighbors and others who were happy to help support this important cause,” said Julie Runzel. “We will definitely do it again next year!” ■