

FROM THE BOARD

Last September many Americans rediscovered something those of us at Brendan's Fund have known for a long time: the communities we live in will rise to the occasion and provide compassionate assistance when called upon to do so.

Since our inception, Brendan's Fund has asked for your assistance and you have responded generously. With your donation of time and money, we have been able to make life a bit easier for close to 60 families in our community who have a child with cancer. Our families know the touch of your hand and the generosity of your heart.

Over the years, Brendan's Fund has come to realize that the services we extend to our families can't always stop with the last chemotherapy or radiation treatment. There are long-term complications some children can experience and Brendan's Fund must continue to be a resource (see pg.3). So, on a case-by-case basis, Brendan's Fund helps its families deal with the additional hurdles caused by cancer.

Many families have told us they are grateful that Brendan's Fund has been there for them. This is only because **you** have been there for us. None of what we accomplish at Brendan's Fund is possible without the dedicated enthusiasm and generosity of hundreds of volunteers and donors. Your unselfish gifts allow us to provide needed support to our families in Cape May County.

Thank you for your dedication to Brendan's Fund.

Lydia C. Borek

Eileen L. Johnston Mary B. Kane

Remembering Brendan



Brendan lived for 18 years and filled his life with joy. Active, athletic and well liked, you could always find him on the beach, a skateboard ramp or the soccer field. He was loved and supported in all his efforts by his family and was blessed with good and loyal friends.

Brendan's carefree life changed shortly before his seventeenth birthday when he was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a cancer of the bone. For the next sixteen months he fought a courageous battle against unbeatable odds.

Although Brendan experienced great suffering in his life, he also experienced great love. Brendan's Fund was born out of this love.

His memory lives on each time Brendan's Fund brings comfort, help and hope to children and families facing the same battle.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12th Annual Spirit Walk

May 5, 2002, 12:00pm - 4:00pm
Wildwood Catholic High School,
15th Street and Central Avenue, North Wildwood, New Jersey

Lace up your shoes and join us for our *12th Annual Spirit Walk!* This annual 10K Walk-a-thon will once again be hosted by Wildwood Catholic High School. Mary Kane, Treasurer and Member of the Board of Trustees of Brendan's Fund, the staff and students of Wildwood Catholic started this tradition in 1991 to support Brendan and the Borek family during his struggle with cancer. The dedication and commitment of the Wildwood Catholic family has made this event a successful yearly fundraiser for Brendan's Fund.

Local Artist and Friends Art Show

August 13, 2002, 6:00pm - 11:00pm
The Rock 'N Chair, 24th Street and Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey

Visit our annual art show organized by Deana Ebner, a childhood friend of Brendan's. She has incorporated their shared love of art into a vital fundraiser for Brendan's Fund. Local talents showcase a variety of work, including watercolors, abstracts, photography, pottery and sculptures. Come and buy a local's original and benefit Brendan's Fund!

Surf Memorial Movie Night

August 16, 2002, 7:30pm - 10:00pm
Avalon Community Hall, 30th Street and the Beach, Avalon, New Jersey

Under the direction of Scott Soens & Company, Brendan's Fund brings back an old Avalon tradition, the "Friday Night Surf Movie." Re-live some old memories and create new ones while previewing great surfing footage.

12th Annual Brendan Borek Surf Memorial

August 17, 2002, 6:30am - 10:00pm
30th Street and the Beach, Avalon, New Jersey

All-Day Surf Memorial

6:30am - 4:30pm, 30th Street Beach

Local Bands on the Beach

11:00am - 3:30pm, 30th Street Beach

Circle of Friends Memorial Ceremony

12:00pm - 12:30pm, 30th Street Beach

Homecoming Party

6:00pm - 10:00pm, Avalon Community Hall

Every year on the 3rd Saturday in August, people from near and far, young and old, join the Avalon Community to participate in and support the *Brendan Borek Surf Memorial*. Over the years, the community has offered unwavering support and we are proud to say that this one-day event is now Brendan's Fund's largest and most successful fundraiser. Join us on the beach for a day of true community spirit and see why Avalon is "cooler by a mile!"



11th ANNUAL SPIRIT WALK, 2001



LOCAL ARTISTS AND FRIENDS
ART SHOW, 2001



11TH ANNUAL BRENDAN BOREK
SURF MEMORIAL, 2001



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SURF MEMORIAL, 2001



11TH ANNUAL BRENDAN BOREK
SURF MEMORIAL, 2001

Surviving Cancer and Its “Secondary Problems” By Jennifer Johnston

Over the years, the medical community has come a long way in the fight against childhood cancer. According to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, children diagnosed with Osteosarcoma (bone cancer) in 1962 had a 20% chance of survival. Now, it is up to 70%. The National Cancer Institute estimates that 7 out of 10 children diagnosed with cancer survive at least five years.

As more children survive cancer, the long-term effects of chemotherapy drugs and radiation treatment become more evident. These effects, which may show up during or after treatment, are known as “secondary health problems.”

I’ve experienced these secondary health problems first-hand. At 13, I was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Disease, a cancer that spreads through the lymph node system. Sixteen months of chemotherapy and radiation officially cured me of the disease (for Hodgkin’s, “cured” means no sign of your original disease for more than 10 years). Yet, I have daily reminders of my treatment, and doctors and hospitals are still a part of my life:

I’ve had melanoma (skin cancer) diagnosed three times.

A side effect of one of the chemotherapy drugs makes my hands and feet cold most of the time.

Several years after my treatment, a benign cyst the size of a cantaloupe was found in my abdomen and removed with major surgery.

Radiation caused some permanent hair loss.

During an annual physical, blood tests showed an under-active thyroid.

Each time I ask the doctors for the cause of these problems, they point to my chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Although they aren’t 100% certain, it seems the treatment that cured me of one health problem possibly brought many others into my life.

Brendan’s Fund sees similar secondary health problems first hand. Since 1992, they’ve assisted almost 60 families in the Cape May County area. The mission of Brendan’s Fund has always been to provide emotional and monetary support to the families while the child is in treatment, without the red tape other large organizations may require. Yet, as the children of Brendan’s Fund deal with secondary health problems, it’s clear that there’s a continuing need for the organization’s services. Problems don’t stop after the last round of chemotherapy or blast of radiation.

Although many survivors frequently enjoy good health, secondary health problems are a reality. Some of the chemotherapy and radiation effects Brendan’s Fund’s children experience are:

<i>Balance Problems</i>	<i>Motor Difficulties</i>
<i>Cataracts</i>	<i>Infertility</i>
<i>Blindness</i>	<i>Hearing Loss</i>
<i>Vascular Complications</i>	<i>Dental Problems</i>
<i>Learning Disabilities</i>	<i>Permanent Hair Loss</i>
<i>Growth Problems</i>	<i>Secondary Cancers</i>

Like the 7 out of 10 children who survive cancer for more than five years, I continue to be one of the fortunate ones. I’ve finished college, have great friends, a supportive family and love my job. It’s true, I’ve experienced problems from my treatment, yet the only noticeable, outward signs are some scars, and who doesn’t have a few battle scars from life?

For the many experiencing secondary health problems from treatment, there’s Brendan’s Fund — a dedicated organization committed to supporting families as they surmount the problems that come with childhood cancer.

Finding a Cure

There has been substantial progress over the past three decades in the development of effective new treatments and cures for children with cancer. Yet progress is beginning to plateau. Even with the most advanced treatment and care, 13 children in Brendan’s Fund family have died since 1992. Anything less than a 100% cure rate is not enough.

To help reach a 100% cure rate, Brendan’s Fund took a bold step and donated a monetary gift to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital Research Fund. To date, the grant has helped in a research project on tumors, which was presented at the *Society for Pediatric Pathology* in Memphis, TN in September 2001.

BRENDAN'S FUND

The Brendan Borek High Tides Memorial Fund, Inc. is a grass-roots organization whose efforts are directed toward providing comprehensive, compassionate and personalized assistance to Cape May County pediatric cancer patients and their families. Since its inception in 1992, Brendan's Fund has helped close to 60 area families through the crisis of their child's illness.

Services range from professional counseling and advocacy programs to financial and material assistance. To help in the fight against cancer, Brendan's Fund also contributes to pediatric cancer research on a discretionary basis.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDE:

REIMBURSEMENTS: Illness related expenses, gas, tolls, parking fees, lodgings, meals and telephone bills.

ANNUAL ASSISTANCE: Thanksgiving and Easter Baskets, Back-to-School Clothing Gift Certificates and Christmas and Hanukkah gifts for each child and sibling.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE: Payment of utility bills, monthly supermarket food certificates and, in extraordinary circumstances, payment of rent/mortgages.

Donations can be sent to:

The Brendan Borek High Tides Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 41, Avalon, NJ 08202
Phone: (609) 967-0100
Fax: (609) 967-3980
Website: www.brendansfund.org
Email: bren@cyberenet.net



THE BRENDAN BOREK HIGH TIDES MEMORIAL FUND INC.
A PEDIATRIC CANCER FUND

Visit our website today!

With just the click of a button, you'll find information on who we are, what we do and how you can become involved. It couldn't be easier!

Visit us today!



IN MEMORIAM

I asked a group of children what they thought was going to happen when they died. Going to heaven was a popular destination.

*"How will you get there?" I asked.
"An angel will come and get me," replied Wendy.*

"Beamed up like on 'Star Trek'," said Bobby.

"I want Lassie to take me," said little Sharon.

"But Lassie's only a dog!" said a disapproving Bobby.

"I know, but Lassie always knows how to get home."

-Ted Menten, "Gentle Closings"

Always loved and remembered

Brendan Borek
Hannah Clark
Allison Clayton
Dominique D'Amico
Christina Filippo
Arthur Jermain Graham
Frannie Hardwick
Tyler Mahoney
Joanna Matthews
Scott McCaffrey
Isabella Morin
Christopher Nordberg
Joseph Schulte, III
Christine Smith
Harold Snyder
Guy Stauble
Nathaniel Wood