

Currents



JANUARY 2008

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS CEREMONY

VOLUME 13.1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brendan's Fund deeply appreciates the outpouring of community support since we opened our doors in 1992. Your generosity allows us the privilege of extending our services to area families experiencing the financial and emotional effects of pediatric cancer. While the years have come and gone, our mission remains the same.

One of the most gratifying aspects of Brendan's fund is the continuity between the past and the present. We watch parents who once surfed in our contest coming in to enter sons and daughters in the surfing event. We see the future of Brendan's Fund in the eyes of these children.

As we move into 2008, we look to ensure the continuity of Brendan's Fund through the growth of our endowment fund. As you read the letters from the Regalbutto family and Philip Faunce, you will gain insight into what Brendan's Fund means to the families we serve. We hope it provides an understanding of the difficulties they face with such courage and strength. Through their words, you will understand the level of commitment this organization has to helping our families as they face the effects of pediatric cancer.

Recently one of Brendan's friends wrote to us, It seemed to me that Brendan was always — every day — moving in the direction of where he wanted his life to go. And so it is with the fund that bears his name, we know where we want Brendan's Fund to go. We want it to move into the future, a fund those in Cape May County can depend upon during a dark and difficult period; a fund that can continue to help the next generation of children and families facing pediatric cancer.

In a world where self-indulgence is celebrated, our community of supporters has selflessly and generously made it possible for our important work to continue. We thank you for your continuing generosity and support. Brendan's Fund continues to fulfill its mission with integrity and love.

Sincerely yours,

Lydia C. Borek

Lydia C. Borek

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.

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Two hands – We as individuals accomplish a great deal with them. However, when we place our hand in the palm of the person next to us and join our hands and our efforts, we have doubled our possibilities.

Over the years, our list of events has grown. We appreciate the organizations and businesses who have taken Brendan's Fund into their hearts by conducting a fundraising event on our behalf. We are thankful for their efforts.

These fundraising events go to the core of Brendan's Fund's mission – the spirit of community. By sponsoring and participating in these new events, you support our grassroots efforts and bring another aspect of community into our organization. Thank you to all who care.

Friday, April 25, 2008
3rd Annual Bass Barn Golf Tournament for Brendan's Fund

Saturday, April 2008
Jersey Shore Parrot Head Club Spring Island Frenzy

Sunday, May 4, 2008
18th Annual Spirit Walk
Hosted by Wildwood Catholic H.S.

Monday, August 11, 2008
Crab Cake Day at Sylvester's Fish Market and Restaurant

Tuesday, August 12, 2008
Artist and Friends Art Show at Avalon Yacht Club

Wednesday, August 13, 2008
Pizza at Circle Pizza

Thursday, August 14, 2008
Pancakes at Fishin' Pier Grille

Thursday, August 14, 2008
Pale Moon Boutique Fashion Show

Friday, August 15, 2008
Skate Jam
Hosted by Method Skate Shop & Avalon Recreation Department

Saturday, August 16, 2008
18th Annual Surf Memorial

Saturday, August 16, 2008
18th Annual Homecoming Party

Saturday, November 8, 2008
2nd Annual High Tides Striper Tournament
Hosted by Cape May County Carpenter's Union Local #1743

Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2008
6th Annual Cape Fitness Turkey Trot

** All events take place in Cape May County, NJ*

Welcome Laurel Nuschke, Assistant Director, Brendan's Fund

In March 2007, I found myself in Lydia Borek's kitchen, discussing the possibility of accepting a newly created position of assistant director with Brendan's Fund. Having lived in Cape May County for decades, Brendan's Fund has always been dear to my heart. The decision was obvious.



Although I have been here only a short time, my decision has afforded me many unique and rewarding opportunities. As assistant director I have the opportunity to interface with the families we support: families dealing with a crisis, carrying their burdens with grace and dignity.

The most important thing this position has taught me is hope. Hope that we will be able to help every family in the county whose child has cancer in more ways than last year. Hope that next year our community will be just as generous as last year. Hope that our current families children are in remission and will stay that way. Most of all, hope that someday Brendan's Fund is no longer needed because there is no childhood cancer.

Thank you for helping Brendan's Fund ease the burden of our families. Thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity to serve our community.



17th ANNUAL SPIRIT WALK



1st ANNUAL HIGH TIDES STRIPER TOURNAMENT



17th ANNUAL SURF MEMORIAL

For the most up-to-date information, call 609-967-0100 or visit us at www.brendansfund.org

HELPING HANDS

A Family Story - The Regalbutos

On August 23, 2001, our 6 year-old daughter Jordan was diagnosed with ALL. She underwent 2 years of chemotherapy. When your family goes through something like this, you feel like you are the only ones in the world that know what real pain is. One day at Children s Hospital makes you realize not only how wrong you are, but how lucky you are.

Around the time when the walls were getting closer, the bills were getting higher and we just needed to be around and talk to people who have lived this, we received a call from Lydia Borek from Brendan s Fund. Lydia said we are going to send you grocery money. Send me all of your receipts for tolls, gas, food and lodging.

Soon after, the first of many holiday baskets arrived. I cried every time one was delivered by the wonderful students of Wildwood Catholic High. To think that people take time out of their lives to make, wrap and deliver these gifts of love, the feelings for these moments are beyond words.

After Jordan had completed her treatments, I called to say we would no longer need any more monetary support. Life was good, for 2 1/2 years we had our healthy daughter back. In December 2005 Jordan relapsed. At 10, Jordan had to fight for her life all over again. The chemotherapy was much stronger and harder on her body. Due to the intensity of the steroids Jordan received as part of her treatment, she was diagnosed with Avascular Necrosis, AVN, a deterioration of bones and joints.

Jordan had surgery to rebuild both of her hips, her shoulders and holes drilled into her heels. She has been unable to walk during

these surgeries, the first time for four months, the second for two months. Because of this we made our home handicap accessible. We also purchased a van with a wheelchair lift.

Even after two fund raisers we were back to the same problem, mounting bills. Brendan s Fund has made several van payments for us. The grocery money they send frees up money to pay some of our bills.

Our other daughter Taylor is ten years old and all of this has been hard on her too. Not for one minute does Brendan s Fund forget her. Is there a camp Taylor wants to go to? Is there a special Christmas something she wants? Is there anything we can do for her? These are the ways they care. If there was ever an organization that cared more, I have not seen it. The folks at Brendan s Fund have laughed, cried, hugged and have been with us every step of the way.

Going through these past years (with more to come) has not been easy. Your priorities change. Your children s smiles become golden. Thanks in great part to Brendan s Fund, our family has been able to stay strong. They don t just give money, they give their hearts.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all of you that have ever given money or time to the Brendan Borek High Tides Memorial Fund.

Live, Laugh, Love,
The Regalbuto Family



Philip Faunce

Sometimes the world of fundraising and support of families intertwine in a positive way. This past August, our Artist and Friends Art Show fundraiser, held at the Avalon Yacht Club every year, had one of our children as a participant. Philip was diagnosed with T-cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma in May 2006. A courageous boy, he wrote in an article last year I have realized that many other children have cancer, too, like me. It is very tough for me, my family and friends knowing the stuff I have to go through, but in my mind and heart, I will be strong and fight this cancer through this difficult moment.

In his own words:

I had the opportunity to participate in the Brendan Borek High Tides Memorial Art Show this August. It was great participating in the art show and being among other artists. I liked seeing all the other paintings and drawings in the show. I met so many nice people that evening. I m glad I was able to help with raising money for Brendan s Fund. I enjoy drawing and painting because it is fun and helps me to forget the bad things I am currently going through in my life.

Philip has also held a fundraiser where he raised over \$1,700 for Brendan s Fund!

BRENDAN'S FUND

The Brendan Borek High Tides Memorial Fund, Inc.

(Brendan's Fund) is a grassroots 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 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.

Ways to Give in 2008

Please consider making Brendan's Fund a part of your yearly charitable contributions. Some additional ways in which you can offer your financial assistance include: using our memorial and honorarium program to honor someone, company matching gift program and estate planning. Online Donations at www.brendansfund.org will be available in spring 2008.

Visit our office and The Store

2170 Dune Drive
Avalon, NJ 08202

Other ways you can reach us:

Brendan's Fund Phone **609.967.0100**
P.O. Box 41 Fax **609.967.3480**
Avalon, NJ 08202 Email bren@brendansfund.org

Find us on the web
www.brendansfund.org

In Memorium



1st Lt. Travis Manion, USMC was an avid supporter of Brendan's Fund. A lifelong summer resident of Avalon, he always made time to attend the annual surf contest. He paddled out in the Circle of Friends memorial ceremony in 2006 and enjoyed setting up the contest zone in the early morning hours. In April 2007, serving his second tour in Iraq, he was killed by sniper fire. A US Marine who graduated from the Naval Academy in 2004, he had a bright smile, positive energy and a sense of humor. He will be greatly missed but his spirit will continue to inspire us at our events.

* Circle of Friends cover photo by Sean Stafford.

Always Loved Always Remembered Always In Our Hearts

Brendan Borek
Kaitlin Anzelone
Hannah Clark
Allison Clayton
Dominique D'Amico
Christina Fillippo
Arthur Jermain Graham
Frannie Hardwick
Matthew Lawrence
Tyler Mahoney
Scott McCaffrey
Jason McCullen
Joanna Matthews
Rose Marie Miller
Isabella Morin
Christopher Nordberg
C.J. O'Neill
Joseph Schulte, III
Stephanie Selinsky
Christine Smith
Harold Snyder
John Sorensen
Guy Stauble
Shana Whelan
Nathaniel Wood