

handinhand

News from ASK, the Association for the Support of Children with Cancer ■ FALL 2007



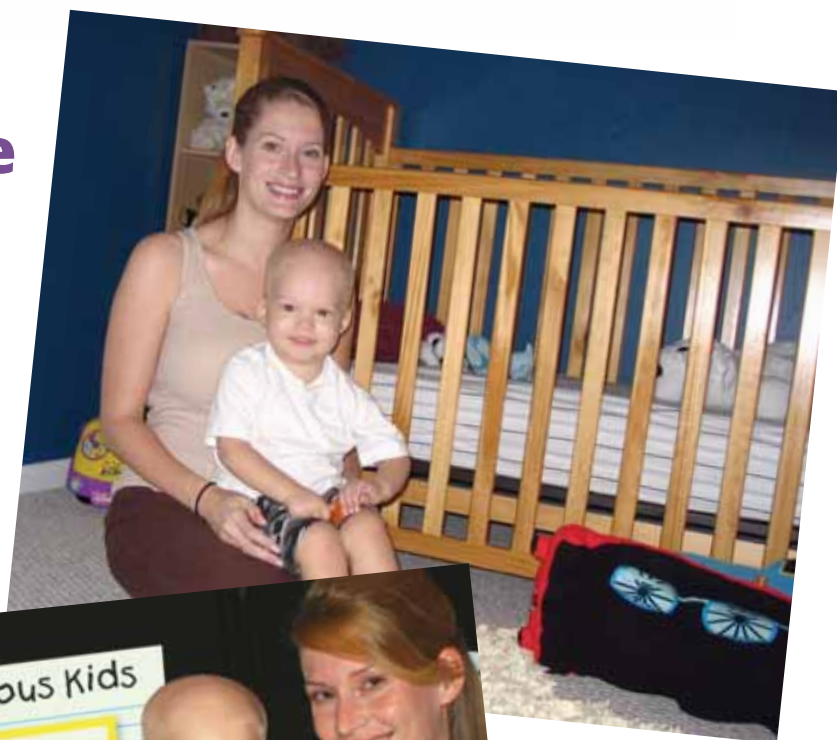
A Dream Come True

USA BABY & CHILDSpace and ASK are partnering together to help some pediatric cancer patients in Central Virginia by creating DREAM ROOMS throughout the year. USA Baby & ChildSpace is donating furniture and bedding, and creating new and exciting spaces for these children. ASK Executive Director, Anne Cuomo, says “We’re thrilled to partner with USA Baby & ChildSpace to make life better for our young cancer patients.”

The first DREAM ROOM recipient is 2 year old Gabriel Dale who is currently going through treatment at the ASK Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic at VCU Children’s Medical Center. Gabe will be graduating from his crib to a brand new “big boy” room decorated in a construction toy theme. Gabe’s mother, Christine, is a single working mom who has just moved into her first home. She has been busy trying to work and care for a very sick child for the past year. ASK nominated this family because they were impressed by Christine’s desire to make a better life for herself and her son.

You can help by designating ASK when you shop at USA Baby &

ChildSpace in Chesterfield. The store will donate five percent (5%) of your purchase amount to ASK’s programs for children being treated for cancer in Central Virginia. For more information, visit www.askweb.org or www.usababyric.com.



Gabriel Dale in his new room with mom, Christine. Additional thanks to the following for making Gabriel’s room a reality: Mr. Fixit, Mark Binnstock (owner) Collen Hall, Dennis Construction and Painting, Rattle and Roll.



| INSIDE THIS ISSUE |

P1
A Dream
Come True

P2
President’s
Message

P3
ASK Updates

P4
Fundraising
For Our
Families

P5
End of
Treatment
Upcoming
Events

P6
Thank You’s!
Honoring Our
Graduates

P7
Summer
Studies
In Memorium

P8
ASK
Pediatric
Clinic
Wish List

Where Are We Going? Follow the ASK Compass

Dear Friends:



We are on an exciting journey for the ASK Families. One key component of a journey is knowing where you are going.... so with lots of help and input, the ASK Board recently completed a planning process.

Let me share with you the ASK compass:

New Mission Statement: *Making lives better for children with cancer.*

New Vision Statement: *ASK serves as the central source of support for children with cancer.*

In Making Lives Better, we have started a Young Adult Advisory Group, which will provide guidance to the Board and provide a social network for teen and post-teen survivors. Recently we had a very special graduation celebration and presented scholarships to 19 high school seniors. For our youngest kids, we are expanding our First Steps Preschool program and adding a Mother's Day Out. Planning for our Spring '08 Survivorship Weekend is in full swing!

From a fundraising and community involvement standpoint, this spring the ASK WALK doubled in participation and increased contributions by over \$15,000. This fall our ASK Rainbow Gala event will once again provide much needed funds. In order to further expand ASK community awareness, we are embarking on a branding campaign. This will in turn provide greater opportunities for new and enhanced programs and services for the ASK families.

I want to thank you for your continued support as we continue on our journey for ASK Families.

Jim Eck
President



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Dr. Massey, Dr. Dunn, Dr. Khan
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ASK Kicks Off 3 New Programs

BY LESLIE WRIGHT, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

As the ASK board, staff, and volunteers strive to make the lives of children with cancer better, we have chosen to define our “children” in broad terms. It has been a goal of ASK to try and help families as they deal with the difficulties associated with diagnosis and active treatment, but we have also worked to develop programs that serve patients into survivorship and young adulthood. Three new programs help illustrate the range of programs and services that ASK has developed. They are: [1] the First STEP preschool program; [2] the new diagnosis group for families; and [3] the Young Adult Survivor’s Advisory Group. The development of each of these programs also illustrates the rich rewards that can be reaped by partnering with other organizations and people who wish to serve.

First STEP Preschool Program

one

Through a partnership with First Baptist Church, ASK was able to start a preschool program for children who were undergoing treatment for cancer or other serious health conditions. ASK had heard the



PHOTO: ANTHONY M. NESOSIS

need for such a program as it listened to parents share concerns regarding the social isolation and lack of the typical preschool experiences that many preschoolers experienced during treatment. By the end of spring, First STEP had eight children enrolled, with rave reviews from parents, and smiles and laughter from the kids (the best reward). All involved teachers enthusiastically expressed their desire to be involved again next year, and children have already signed up for this September!

New Diagnosis Group

two

By partnering with psychologist, Matt Bitsko, ASK developed a new diagnosis group to help families cope as they undergo cancer treatment. Recent research suggests that many families can benefit from groups that are designed to work with the family early on in the treatment process, allowing families to learn some additional coping strategies, and also talk with others who are going through similar experiences. The group allows families some time to learn and share as a whole, but also involves break-out sessions for parents, patients, and siblings, so that the specific concerns of each group can be addressed. Many thanks to the families and staff who helped make the first group a success, and we look forward to the next group which will meet on **Saturday, October 6th.**

Tiffany Andrews joined the Tacky Lights Tour

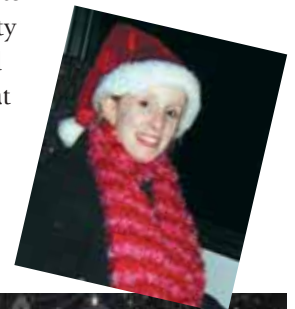
Young Adult Survivors Group

three

The Young Adult Survivors Advisory Group was formed to

help ASK better understand and meet the needs of its young adult survivors. The group, made up of cancer survivors who are now in the 20 through 30 year old age range, has met with good initial enthusiasm and participation, with many of the advisory members helping to plan for the young adult retreat that was held in January of 2007. As the group continues and grows, the goals for the new year will be to increase service and social networking opportunities and involvement for our young adult population. By partnering with

Dr. Nancy Dunn and nurse practitioner, Ann Mauck, experts on the issues related to survivorship, ASK has learned a lot regarding the continued needs of young adult survivors. ASK also knows there is much to learn from the words of one retreat participant - “I never thought that being with strangers who had fought cancer would be comforting, but it was the laughter that was the best part of the weekend. We talked about cancer a bit, but laughter was the majority of the weekend and that is what made it a special experience for me.”



| FUNDRAISING |

Helping Hands

2ND ANNUAL ASK WALK AND 5K A GROWING SUCCESS

On a sunny spring day, more than 700 people turned out to walk, run and have fun for ASK. The second annual ASK Family Fun Walk & 5k was a big success thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, walkers and runners. Their combined generosity raised close to \$60,000 for ASK's programs. Mark Your Calendars - next year's event will be held on Saturday, April 26th at Short Pump Town Center. For more information on how you can get involved, please call (804) 828-1531.

The Tad Dupriest Foundation's First Annual Fundraiser

BY VIRGINIA GAYS

The Tad Dupriest Foundation was started by a group of friends of a special young man who touched many lives. Tad's life ended too soon in a car accident in the summer of 1992. These friends decided to do something in his honor and joined together to carry on what Tad would have wanted – to do something to show his love for children

and to help those in need.

ASK was honored to be selected as the beneficiary of the foundation's first event - Clubs and Que 4 ASK, which took place on Friday, May 11th. A golf tournament was held during the day and a party followed at Tredegar Iron Works that evening with a buffet of barbeque and other delicious foods, plus entertainment by the Casper band. Lisa Schaffner was the honorary spokesperson and introduced the party guests to Tad's close friends, a teacher/coach, and his brother, Rand, who all shared funny stories about Tad and also stories that illustrated the kindness he extended to others, especially towards those who did not quite fit in. There was laughter and tears.

It was clear to see how special Tad was through his amazing friends who put this event together. As a result, \$15,000 was raised for ASK. ASK thanks Tad's friends and family for carrying on his kindness and for sharing this event with ASK.



Top: The Upton family at the ASK Walk
Bottom: Lemonaid stand fundraiser



Little Hands, Big Help

A lemonade stand was the fundraiser of choice for eight children looking to help ASK. All of them were 12 years of age or younger and live in Glen Allen. Armed with ASK posters and brochures, they set up in front of a Ukrop's store and raised \$251.52 in donations. Lindsey Lambert, one of the young middle schoolers, said: "We wanted to help the kids with cancer. Mom sure had to buy a lot of lemons!"



Fall Festival

Jewish Community Center
Sunday, October 7th
3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Kings Dominion Day

Saturday, October 27th
10:00 a.m.

State Farm Halloween Party

ASK Clinic
Wednesday,
October 31st

Holiday Party

Sheraton Park South
Sunday, December 2nd

Teen Tacky Light Tour

December, (date to be determined)

For more information on ASK events, go to www.askweb.org or call (804) 828-1531.

For information on the many Special Love events open to children with cancer and their families, go to www.speciallove.org or call Robyn Dillon at (804) 628-0422 or Special Love at 1-888-930-2707.

REMINDER

PLEASE REMEMBER ASK WHEN
MAKING YOUR WORKPLACE GIVING
DONATIONS THIS FALL

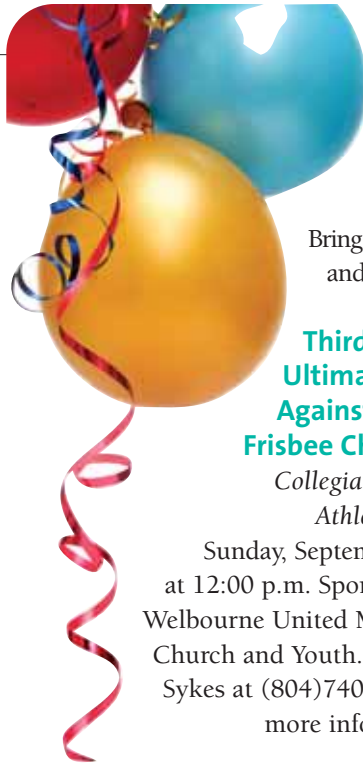
Our designation numbers are:

**United Way
#3175**

**Combined Virginia Campaign
#3281**

**Central Virginia Combined
Federal Campaign
#64632**

If you have not already done so, please consider making your annual contribution to ASK. Funds received through the Annual Giving Campaign are an important part of ASK's fundraising efforts and help raise valuable unrestricted dollars that can be applied to the area of greatest need. Donations can be made online at www.askweb.org or mailed to: P.O. Box 17184, Richmond, Virginia 23226



Third Annual Ultimate Fight Against Cancer Frisbee Challenge

*Collegiate Schools
Athletic Fields*

Sunday, September 30th
at 12:00 p.m. Sponsored by
Welbourne United Methodist
Church and Youth. Call Lisa
Sykes at (804)740-7128 for
more information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Rainbow Gala

Richmond Omni Hotel

Friday, September 28th at 7 p.m.

Bring friends, enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dancing,
and bid on some items from the live and silent auctions.

END OF TREATMENT

Ringin' Bells!

Our young patients traditionally
celebrate their last day of treatment
by ringin' the clinic bell!



Thank you!

A special thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their outstanding generosity:

Thank you to the Virginia State Chapters of the Future Business Leaders of America for their hard work. This year's contribution totaled \$29,000.

On Saturday, April 21st the sophomore class of the International Society at James River High School organized a dinner and auction to benefit ASK and raised \$8,000.

ASK Parent Rusty Dodd and friends organized the "Believe in Miracles" golf tournament on May 14th and raised an impressive \$30,000 for ASK's programs.

Thanks to ManTech and the Lea Family for organizing the Golf4ASK tournament on August 27th.

Thank you to ESA for their continued support and this year's generous donation of \$3,500.

Annabelle's Angels brightened the clinic with donations this spring for the clinic's treasure chest and snack closet. Thank you!

The Virginia State Department of Regulators recently donated more than \$6,000. We appreciate their generosity.



Left: Deloitte employees brought early holiday cheer; Right: Patrick Henry High School students donate sock monkeys to ASK children.

Thank you to Ryan Boler and his Eagle Scout Troop for donating electronic equipment and toys to the clinic.



HONORING OUR GRADUATES

In June, ASK honored its 2007 high school graduates with a program and luncheon. Congratulations to the following:

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

- Tiffany Cedeno, *Clover Hill H.S.*
- Matthew Clark, *Lloyd C. Bird H.S.*
- Bradley Fagan, *Clover Hill H.S.*
- Monica Gonzalez, *Meadowbrook H.S.*
- Andrew Thomas, *Meadowbrook H.S.*
- Brendan Wilson, *Matoaca H.S.*
- Bryant Wilson, *Matoaca H.S.*

COLONIAL BEACH CITY

- Brittany Robinson, *Colonial Beach H.S.*

DINWIDDIE COUNTY

- Charlie "Ricky" Lam III, *Dinwiddie H.S.*

HANOVER COUNTY

- Crystal Hazelwood, *Lee Davis H.S.*

HOPEWELL CITY

- Jamiesha Clay, *Hopwell H.S.*

POQUOSON CITY

- Amy Graham, *Poquoson H.S.*

RICHMOND CITY

- Nathan Crosby, *George Wythe H.S.*
- Criszia Edmonds, *Franklin Military Academy*

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

- Mary Pancotti, *Chancellor H.S.*

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

- Ashley Smith, *Washington & Lee H.S.*

YORK COUNTY

- Lauren Nikki Turner, *Bruton H.S.*

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- Sam Garrett, *Kenston Forest*
- Matthew Talbott, *St. Christopher's*



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Tara Matthews, *Treasurer*
Peggy Andrews, *Recording Secretary*
Jeff Shapiro, *Parliamentarian*
Anne Cuomo, *Executive Director*
Amy Godkin, *Development Director*

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Katie Barber, *Child Life Therapist*
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Kami Godder, MD
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Gita Massey, MD
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Jackie Keith
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Cathryn Lowe
Richard Owen
Leslie Strickler
Bruce Tyler
Cindy Wofford

Summer Studies

School was out but some of ASK's young patients and survivors were still hard at work in the second annual Summer Enrichment Program. Held in August, 13 students participated in a week-long program filled with academic enrichment in reading, math and cultural enrichment. The program also emphasized advocacy development. Special activities included a visit to the Governor's Mansion and Science Museum. They painted beautiful pottery that will be auctioned off for local charities including ASK, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Friends of Sickle Cell. The program's coordinator, Alma Morgan said "Many thanks to ASK and the Hospital Education Program for their financial support of this program. And a big thank you to the volunteers, clinic staff and staff who gave of their time to make this week a memorable one for the children."



| IN MEMORIUM |

Remembering Caroline

Caroline loved to paint and draw, especially during her four-year battle with cancer. Art helped her cope with all she was enduring while in treatment. She passed away in 1997 at age 10. This past March, her younger brother Si, then a freshman at St. Christopher's School, unveiled a project he worked on for Eagle Scouts. His project resulted in an art exhibit called "Hope and Wonder" and is dedicated to Caroline.

Si remembers spending time with Caroline at the hospital, drawing and painting with her. He wanted to do something to help children keep their minds off what they were going through while in treatment. The "Hope & Wonder" exhibit is a window into each child's world, and will brighten anyone's day who sees it.

Si contacted ASK to help coordinate his project. Ceramic tiles were provided by Si's mother who owns "All Fired Up" in Carytown. Over 30 children going through treatment painted tiles. Some parents of the children participated as well. These tiles now hang in the hallway leading to the ASK Clinic. They are displayed in eight frames containing 30 tiles each.

Si was featured in *Style Weekly* in this year's "Sixteen Under Sixteen" article, for his involvement with this project and for other organizations and fundraisers in which he has been involved within the community. The "Hope & Wonder" exhibit is a permanent exhibit, and as new tiles are painted, they too will be displayed in the hallway as part of the exhibit.

—V.G.



ASK Pediatric Clinic Wish List

Infant and Toddler

- Busy Box Infant toys
- Toddler cause and effect toys
- Toddler pop-up toys
- Musical toddler toys
- See-n-Says
- Fisher-Price people/sets Shape Sorters
- Toddler clothing
- Diapers, Size 2, 3

School-age

- Hotwheel/Matchbox cars
- Trucks/cars
- Barbies (all cultures)
- Lego Kits (\$5-\$10)
- Action Figures (non-violent)
- Dinosaurs
- Baby dolls (plastic)
- Mr. Potatohead
- Etch-a sketches
- Magna Doodles
- Playdough and Cutouts

Teen items

- Portable CD players
- Disposable cameras
- Journals
- Chapstick
- Lip Gloss
- Make-up kits
- Fingernail polish
- Baseball Caps
- Bath and Body Works
- Hackey-sacks
- Magnetic Fingerboard
- Teen sunglasses
- Sports team clothing caps, etc.

Miscellaneous

- Dollar store items
- Medical play kits
- Kaleidoscopes
- "I Spy" Books
- Kids Band-aids
- Baby wipes
- Clorox Wipes
- Gift bags
- *Gift cards:* Target, Wal*Mart, Michael's, Ben Franklin, Best Buy,
- *Restaurants:* fast food
- *Passes to Local Events:* Sports, Children's Museum, Science Museum, Kings Dominion
- *Magazine Subscriptions:* Teen, Teen People, ESPN, Sports Illustrated, SI Jr.

Craft items

- Art Kits (sand art, spin art, etc.)
- Bead kits
- Beads/string for jewelry making
- Foam shapes
- Plain white Tees, Hats, Totes
- Elmer's glue, glue sticks
- Fabric paints and markers
- Construction paper
- White Drawing paper
- Fingerpaints/paper
- Magic Markers
- Crayons
- Paint-by-Number kits

Snacks

- Granola bars
- Small bags of pretzels Cookies
- Chips
- Goldfish
- Packets of Nabs
- Bottled water
- Juice boxes
- Individual portions (containers) of fruit or apple sauce
- Single packets of dried fruits

Help ASK Save Money and Time

If you would like to receive our newsletter by e-mail, please go to www.newsletter.askweb.org and register your e-mail address.

DESIGN: JANINE ORR



Association for the Support of Children with Cancer

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