



ASK Walk a Big Success!

On Saturday, May 20th, more than 300 walkers turned out for the inaugural "ASK Walk — Step Out for Kids with Cancer" and netted over \$30,000 for ASK's programs.

The three-mile walk around Short Pump Town Center kicked off with Radio Disney and the Monacan Sr. High School band and ended with a family festival in its main plaza. In addition to the live music of The Jangling Reinharts, there were clowns, face-painting, flame throwers, Storm Troopers, and the magic of Jonathan Austin for walkers to enjoy. WRIC's Lisa Schaffner was on hand to lead the festivities and recognize individuals and teams who raised the most pledges.

Several schools raised over \$1,000 for the event including Woolridge Elementary School, St. Edward-Epiphany School, St. Gertrude's High School, and First Baptist Weekday School. The Millwood School raised more than \$5,000 in pledges. Payson Jones, Tiffany Andrews, Marshall Gays, and Connor Tennessee lead in the category of individuals who raised the most pledges.

We also extend a special thank you to our sponsors:

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ASK

newsletter

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First Step: New Preschool Program for ASK Kids

by Anne Cuomo, Executive Director

We are pleased to announce a partnership with First Baptist Weekday School to provide an individualized early childhood program for children with cancer and their families. First Step is a pilot project designed to meet the educational, social, and emotional needs unique to children as they go through the process of healing. ASK has realized the need to develop a program designed for young children whose preschool or kindergarten experience was interrupted or postponed because of their cancer treatment.

The classroom staff will include two preschool teachers and an aide with a nurse on site. In addition to the early childhood classroom experience for children, parents will have a retreat room provided during the school hours. ASK and clinic staff will provide refreshments as well as be available to discuss school issues and your child's progress during that time.

A special thanks to the members and staff at First Baptist Weekday School and the Innsbrook Rotary Educational Assistance Grant for support of First Step.

Dates and Details

- First Step will be held on Friday mornings from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at First Baptist Weekday School, 2709 Monument Avenue, Richmond, Virginia.
- Registration for children ages two through six years old began August 18th.
- First Step Open House will be held for children and their families at First Baptist Weekday School, at 2709 Monument Avenue, on September 15th at 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Class begins Friday, September 22nd through December 15th.
- The activity fee for the semester is \$75 due at registration. Fee waiver is available through ASK. Class size is limited. Please contact ASK at 828-1531 for further information.

2006 Graduation Event

On June 2nd, ASK continued the tradition of partnering with the Hospital Education Program to host a graduation ceremony for 14 young high school students who have been through cancer treatment. Families and



friends along with their school representative received an opportunity to reflect on the student's personal and academic achievements. ASK, along with the families of Bill Heyer, Melissa Robertson, Payson Jones, and Alex Kalata, presented several scholarships.

ASK Launches Advisory Board

ASK recently formed a new Advisory Board aimed at increasing the organization's visibility and fundraising capacity in the community. We are pleased to welcome the following inaugural members:

- David Andrews
- Dr. Charles Bagwell
- Dr. Louise Bagwell-Robinson
- Ellen Buoyer
- Dr. Billy Cannaday
- Roxane Gilmore
- Melanie Goodpasture
- Jackie Keith
- Eric Lin
- Cathryn Lowe
- Leslie Strickler
- Bruce Tyler
- Cindy Wofford

Departing as President: Letter from David Andrews

Almost two years ago I wrote my first president's letter. The old cliché applies—time does fly.

Several weeks ago at our annual ASK Picnic, I introduced Jim Eck as the new President of the ASK Board of Directors. Many of you may already know him. Jim brings a great perspective to the Board. First, Jim is a parent of a child who successfully completed treatment and benefited first hand from ASK. His wife Missy is also a familiar face around clinic as a volunteer. Second, the Board will enjoy his organizational and leadership skills he uses daily in his job at Dominion Resources. Supporting Jim is the new slate of officers comprised of Willy Wise, Vice President, Tara Matthews, Treasurer, and Peggy Andrews, recording secretary. All have the experience to help Jim guide ASK to another successful year. Thank you Jim for your commitment to lead ASK. We are all very grateful for your service.

ASK has made great strides in the past two years. I spoke at this Spring's retreat that one doesn't realize that when you give your time helping ASK, you get more in return than you can imagine. When I started, I went through a learning curve like many Board members do because there were so many daily activities, annual events, and little details going on within our organization. You quickly realize it takes a committed team of not just Board members but many volunteers to make it all happen. This team I was fortunate to be a part of enjoyed the success of getting a new clinic running, hiring a great Executive Director and Development Director, starting a tradition of annual retreats, and getting our first Advisory Board together. We also accomplished dealing with challenges of replacing the proceeds of the 10K with a successful Walk, hiring a Child Life Therapist, and keeping ASK on solid financial footing. All were done by the efforts of many people working together to make kids and their families more comfortable through a tough process. Feeling the spirit that runs among so many people that makes a child smile or a parent say thank you is what I will take away from my Board experience.

David Andrews
Past President



Meet the New ASK Board Members



A few years ago I attended a cancer fundraiser, as my own father was suffering from the disease. At some point during the event, as I was sitting by myself, downcast, reflecting on my own father's illness, I felt a little hand on my shoulder and heard someone say: "Don't be sad, it's all going to be ok." Startled, I looked up and saw that the person comforting me was a young boy who was a cancer patient himself. The hope and sweetness I saw in his eyes as he attempted to make me feel better touched me deeply. From that day on I vowed to find a way to help improve the quality of life for children like him. I immediately became involved with the Queen for a Day/Heroes program (QFAD) as a Chapter Director in Northern Virginia, and when I moved to Richmond I got in touch with ASK in order to partner with them. QFAD aims to bring some comfort, fun and normalcy back into the lives of sick children and their families. ASK takes that a step further. By volunteering our time for these children and their families, we can help them all gain strength for their battles.

by Samira Fazel

Samira resides in Richmond and is employed at CapTech Ventures.



I was introduced to ASK by my father, Payson Jones, in 2001. Since then I have attended numerous ASK events dressed as a white-armored Sandtrooper to entertain the kids.

Along with other members of the 501st Legion (www.501st.com), I took pictures with the kids, let them try on our helmets, dispersed new Star Wars toys we had gathered for just such events, and welcomed them as honorary members of the Legion. In the summer of 2005, the founder of the 501st, and friend of mine, lost his 6 year-old daughter, Katie, to an inoperable brain tumor. Their journey through her illness drove home the need to step up my involvement with ASK. When I was approached by Amy Godkin about the possibility of joining the ASK Board, I knew that was what I needed to do, for children like Katie, and their families who need the multifaceted support that ASK supplies.

by Ward Jones

Ward is a data analyst with Anthem and resides in Richmond with his wife Jennifer and two children, Shelby and Jake.

I was introduced to ASK last year by David Andrews. My wife has a childhood friend whose son, one year older than my son, was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor. That same year my mother battled breast cancer. They both inspired me through their strength, courage and determination, to make a difference in other people's lives. Mike Hedden, Richard Owen and I formed a company called Drive 4 Kids and organized our first annual golf tournament. Our mission is simply to make a difference in these children's lives. We chose to partner with ASK because they are here to support the children and families in our community who need help. We have been extremely impressed with the quality of people associated with this organization as well its mission. We all have time to make a difference!



by Alex Kramer

Alex lives in Richmond with his wife Jennifer and their children, Nicolas and Ava. He is a partner with the Northstar Group.

I watched the 5 year old child of a friend fight a brave and valiant battle with cancer recently which inspired me to join ASK. I am excited about the opportunity to be on the board. I am originally from Rochester, New York but have lived in Richmond since 1992. My wife Robin and I have two children, Charlie and Ned.



by Jeff Shapiro

Jeff works in the Labor and Employment Department at the law firm of McGuireWoods.




Upcoming Events

Bon Air Rotary Golf Tournament
 Stonehenge Golf and Country Club
 September 11th at 12:00 p.m.

Kouragous Kids Photo Exhibit
 James Center II
 September 2nd through September 15th

ASK's Kourageous Kids photo exhibit will be displayed at these locations during the month of September, which is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Children's Museum
 September 16th through October 1st

Rainbow Gala
 Richmond Omni Hotel
 Friday, September 22nd at 7 p.m.
 Bring friends, enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dancing, and bid on some items from the live and silent auctions.

Kings Dominion Day
 October (date to be determined)
 More details to come.

Queen/Hero for a Day
 November (date to be determined)
 More details to come.

Holiday Party
 December (date to be determined)
 More details to come.

Upcoming ASK Events will also be posted in the clinic on a new bulletin board just for ASK events. Go to www.askweb.org for more details or call (804) 828-1531.

Special Love Event

Octoberfest Weekend
 October 13th through October 15th

Octoberfest is open to 7 to 17 year old cancer patients who have been treated within the past 3 years. Families are welcome also. The location of this event is the 4-H Center, in Front Royal, Virginia.

For more information on these events and others call Robyn Dillon at (804) 628-0422 or Special Love at 1-888-930-2707. You may also go to www.speciallove.org for additional information.

Recent Events

Fundraising—Every Penny Counts!

"Coins for ASK" at First Baptist Weekday Preschool

This Spring, First Baptist Weekday Preschool held its annual "Coins for ASK" and raised an impressive \$1,255. Thank you to Director Mary Hiteman and all of the children for their generous support.

Spring Carnival at Gayton Elementary School

In April, members of the "Fighting 501st Storm Trooper Legion" braved the swarms of children at the Gayton Elementary School Spring Carnival to make "arrests" in exchange for donations to ASK. They were extremely popular with the crowd and raised over \$200 that afternoon.

Dinner and Auction at James River High School

On May 22nd, the sophomore class of the Center for Leadership and International Relations at James River High School held a dinner and auction raising \$10,000 for ASK.

Golf Tournament at Mattaponi Springs Golf Course

On May 22nd, Ridge Dodd's parents, Rusty and Betty, hosted the first annual "Believe in Miracles" golf tournament at Mattaponi Springs Golf Course. Many of the Dodd's friends and family participated to make this a successful event raising \$30,000 for ASK. The Dodd's hosted this event to give back to ASK for all it did to make Ridge's treatment a little less stressful and to continue to support them even years after Ridge's recovery.



Summer School Enrichment Program

For eight weeks this summer, ASK and the Hospital Education Program sponsored a summer school enrichment program. Alma Morgan, Educational Consultant, along with several volunteers offered a variety of challenging and interesting activities intended to boost academic progress. Twelve children enrolled in the program that also included weekly special activities from local museums.



ESA Honorees

Both an active civic group and sorority, Epsilon Sigma Alpha (ESA) has long been a friend and benefactor to ASK. At their recent luncheon, ESA presented its Diana Award to Tiffany Andrews, a courageous young cancer survivor who exemplifies the ideals of ESA. The group also presented ASK Chaplain, Jim Bonomo, with its Zeus Award for his services to ASK’s children and their families.

ATTENTION LONG-TERM CANCER SURVIVORS

If you are at least two years off treatment and at least five years from the time of your diagnosis, you are eligible to be seen in the Pediatric Oncology Department’s Survivorship Clinic, which meets most Wednesdays in Suite 210 on the 2nd floor of Nelson Clinic.

Before you arrive in clinic, your entire chart is reviewed so that treatment summaries can be written up and given to you as part of your own personal “Treatment Passport,” to take with you as you travel through life and encounter new health care providers. This passport provides you and your health care providers with a brief outline of what therapy you received and what is currently known about any potential late effects of that therapy. It also gives you (and your physicians) the means of contacting the clinic in the future to receive updated information. Additional information about Long-Term Survivorship is also provided in the form of a book entitled “Childhood Cancer Survivors – A Practical Guide to Your Future” and a series of written handouts called “Health Links,” which describe many of the problems which Long-Term Cancer Survivors may encounter.

Why a separate Survivorship Clinic? Because we are now realizing that childhood cancer survivors face an increased risk for a variety of health problems. Seeing you regularly may provide us with a window of opportunity to prevent some of these problems or to detect and treat them early before they have a chance to become clinically significant. By defining and discussing each patient’s risks, we can develop a life plan — a systematic plan for screening, surveillance, counseling and prevention.

For more information on the Survivorship Clinic or to make an appointment, please call (804)-828-9300.



Association for the Support of Children with Cancer

ASK
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ASK, a private, non-profit organization, provides unique social, emotional, spiritual and financial support for children with cancer and their families. ASK also supports clinical and laboratory research at the VCU Medical Center to aid in finding the causes and cures of childhood cancer.