

Community Events



Making Sick Kids better – *thank you.*

The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation thanks you for fundraising on behalf of Sick Kids. We want to let you know how your commitment and dedication is making a difference.

MEET STEVIE RAY



When you see Stevie Ray zipping around the 8th Floor on a tricycle at The Hospital for Sick Children with such energy, you would never think of the countless invasive procedures that he has endured for over a year. With his big brown eyes, inquisitive nature and charming demeanor, Stevie Ray is a typical boy who reminds you of what childhood should be, regardless of everything he has been through.

In August 2002, Stevie Ray and his mother, Laura Seddon moved from Toronto to Bobcaygeon to take care of her aging father. Over the next few days, her

three-year-old son seemed "off," he wasn't sleeping well and he was cranky all the time. Laura thought his moodiness was from the move, but shortly after she found two pea-sized growths on his groin and brought to a paediatrician. The doctor noticed Stevie Ray looked pale, and sent them to Sick Kids for blood tests. Within two days, he was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), a rapidly progressive cancer that affects the lymphocytes, or the white blood cells that fight bacteria. ALL is the most common type of leukemia in young children.

After doctors diagnosed his condition, Stevie Ray was admitted to the haematology / oncology inpatient unit for several weeks. Along with chemotherapy, Stevie Ray had numerous lumbar punctures, blood work and transfusions. Fortunately, Stevie Ray responded positively to the medical care immediately.

In one year, Stevie Ray has visited the busy haematology / oncology outpatient clinic at Sick Kids for scheduled appointments over 70 times. He has also been hospitalized both at Sick Kids and his local hospital when he

has developed fevers or adverse side effects to the chemotherapy.

He is now in the middle of an aggressive treatment protocol and has another two years to go. Stevie Ray is able to receive part of his chemotherapy at home, but still comes to Sick Kids every few weeks for additional treatment, check-ups and tests to make sure all his organs are functioning properly.

Although Stevie Ray has a big family of his own, it did not take him very long to become a part of the Sick Kids family. Aside from the doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who have helped him get better, other parents who have a child with cancer has provided support and comfort to Laura. "As terrible as it is for a child to have cancer, it reminds me that every single day is special," says Laura. "If Stevie Ray wasn't sick, I never would have realized how so many different people can care about one single child."

HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS

The holiday season is quickly approaching and what better way to share your holiday sentiments than our Holiday Greeting Card

Program. Our Greeting Card allows you to acknowledge family, friends, colleagues - and Sick Kids. Over the last several years, our program has provided corporate and individual donors a meaningful way to meet their greeting card needs while supporting the life changing and life-saving work of The Hospital for Sick Children.

Cards are available by charitable donation and tax receipts will be provided. To order your cards, please visit www.sickkids.ca or call Josie Catalano at 416-813-7324.

Year End Tax Receipts

Just a reminder that all funds raised must be received by December 31st, 2003 in order to receive a 2003 tax receipt, in keeping with CCRA regulations. When sending your event proceeds in, please ensure to always include a note indicating the name of the event and any details regarding the designation of the gift.

What's New

Our Community Events Calendar is now on-line! Go to www.sickkids.ca and click on the events in the top left corner. The calendar is an excellent way to advertise you event and let the community know what you are doing for Sick Kids. If you would like your Sick Kids Fundraiser posted on the calendar, please call us at 416-813-6166.

Success Story: Life for Luke

In 1998, the lives of the Liegghio family were changed forever.

That's when their son Luke was diagnosed with Niemann-Pick Type C (NPC), a genetic disease which affects the body's organs, in particular, the spleen, liver and brain.

"That year we went to a conference in the U.S. about NPC and learned that most of the funding for research into the disease comes from the parents. We felt it was our duty to help too." says Lucy Liegghio, Luke's mom.

The first year, the family sent out Christmas cards and included a donation card for Sick Kids, increasing awareness of NPC and giving friends and family the opportunity to help. Then in 2002, they held their first gala. "We had a committee of 20 family members and friends – each with their own expertise" says Lucy. They divided up the work, and had a successful event with a silent auction and draws, raising more than \$62,000.

Lucy says they never thought they would be able to top that first year, but by adding a live auction and key-chain draw, the 2003 Gala raised \$83,000! Lucy says the key to their success is a powerful package including a well-written letter and lots of photos. "Sleep Country sent us a complete bed for the auction, and asked us to let them know how Luke is doing. Of course, the big cheese helped too!" A huge wheel of Parmegiano Reggiano Cheese was auctioned off for \$1,200!

For 2004, the committee is hoping to grow the event further by approaching corporations for sponsorships. The committee also fundraises throughout the

year, such as chocolate bar sales and Regal catalogue sales. The staff and students of Luke's school sold cookbooks and Christmas candy-grams.

Among the many fundraising initiatives, the Liegghio family is also working to have October declared NPC Awareness Month. We salute the Liegghio family and friends for their passion and commitment for Luke and all the children with Niemann-Pick Type C.

Our Newsletter

Please feel free to use Stevie Ray's story or any of these pieces in your own newsletter or forward it to family and friends. Please pass along to your committee members, along with our thanks. Please send your comments to alison.bloetjes@sickkids.ca.

Our Mission

Children are our future. The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation is dedicated to the improvement of children's health. Our mission is to inspire and support the philanthropic spirit in individuals and organizations. We invest our communities' contributions in outstanding paediatric care, research, and education to help children at The Hospital for Sick Children, throughout Canada, and around the world.



www.sickkids.ca
1.800.651.5825