FOUR DIAMONDS

FORUM



Spring 2004

Congratulations THO™ 2004!

DREAM IT ... BELIEVE IT ... ACHIEVE IT!

That's exactly what over 700 dancers did during THON™ 2004, held February 20-22, as they fought to stay on their feet for forty-eight hours. No sitting, no sleeping, no kidding was the weekend motto, and the students raised an amazing \$3,547,715.48 - for the kids! After months of planning and fund-raising, over 3,000 Penn State students converged on Rec Hall for this magical weekend. Students representing 230 organizations from the University Park campus, as well as campuses from across the Commonwealth, came together to participate in the largest student-run philanthropy in the world.

The THON™ spirit is felt throughout the year. The commitment from the students at Penn State to The Four Diamonds Fund extends beyond fund-raising. The students are constantly reaching out to Four Diamonds families—searching for ways to brighten a child's day or ease the concern of parents. They have the opportunity to visit Penn State Children's Hospital by



volunteering in the pediatric outpatient clinic or coming for a tour of areas supported by The Four Diamonds Fund. In the fall, the students are leading the children through the pumpkin patches at Harner's Farm at Harvest Day in State College, or anxiously awaiting the arrival of the children for a fun

day at the Family Reunion Carnival. If that is not enough, they host the best party in the world—THONTM—where you will see crazy hats, silly socks, squirt guns, and kids cradled in the arms or on the shoulders of the dancers. The students do it all—*for the kids!*

As another THONTM year comes to a close, everyone involved with The Four Diamonds Fund would like to thank the THONTM volunteers, and all of the generous donors who made THONTM 2004 so successful. THONTM 2004, *Always Believing* ... if we believe we can conquer childhood cancer, we will one day achieve it.

Save the Date

Royal Oaks Golf Club, Lebanon, PA

May 15, 20041:00 p.m. Kuppy's 3rd annual Cruise-In Middletown, PA

Penn State Hershey Medical Center campus Academic Support Building, Room 2008 Hershey, PA

Please visit our web page at **www.fourdiamonds.org** for additional events not listed above. If you have any questions about Four Diamonds events, please contact the Four Diamonds office at (717) 531-6086.

Information provided to Penn State
Hershey Medical Center and Penn State
College of Medicine is kept in the strictest
of confidence. Please write to us if you
wish to have your name removed from
future publications. Upon notification,
all reasonable efforts will be taken to
adhere to your wishes.





THOM 2004!

"Well, it was an emotional, exhausting, heart-warming, and overwhelming three days for us. I can't begin to describe the realm of emotions that were visited this weekend. The pure energy and love that was displayed by the hundreds of dancers was indescribable! Kim Mease, mother of Four Diamonds patient, Michaela Mease, age 7, Lancaster, PA

"THON™ 2004 WAS great! The love, energy, and connection between the Penn State students and the children and families was amazing. Thanks, Penn State, for another wonderful THON™ and for ALL you do for the kids. You are the BEST." *Marion Markowicz, Four Diamonds Social Worker, Penn State Children's Hospital*

"Our family would like to thank all of the dedicated dancers who participated in THON™ 2004, and a special thanks to Beta Alpha Psi for being such gracious hosts. Many wonderful memories were created and we will cherish them forever." *Lisa Eavenson, mother of Four Diamonds patient, Katie Eavenson, age 3, New Holland, PA*

"It's hard to put into words how overwhelming it (THONTM) is ... to have all those students giving their time, effort, and raising money to help my child. They are so dedicated and loving, so willing to help in any way possible. I get very emotional even trying to talk about it. The students involved with THONTM are truly angels. Their families must be so proud." *Kristin Buckley, mother of Four Diamonds patient, Jedediah Smith, age 6, Broque, PA*



"After Family Hour, I was an emotional ball ... It was all different forms of happy.

I was happy to almost be done. I was happy for Robbie (Schweitzer). I was happy for all my friends making it so far. Mostly, I was happy that I was given the opportunity to take part in one of, in my mind, the best events in the world." Dancer, Tony Rauso, member of Alpha Tau Omega

THON™ Earns Philanthropy Award

Congratulations to Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (THONTM) for receiving the 2003 Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy award from the Central Pennsylvania Association of Fundraising Professionals. THONTM was recognized for its outstanding commitment and support of The Four Diamonds Fund.



Weary dancers were extremely grateful for the massages provided by members of the Central Pennsylvania School of Massage!



Four Diamonds patient, Amanda LaRose, and THON™ dancer, Nick Bonkiski, ELDU (Engineering Leadership Development Unlimited).



THON™ 2004 was a new experience for Four Diamonds patient, Coleen Scott, age 5, and her mother, Catherine, who explained to her daughter that the students were here to raise money so that ALL children can beat cancer.

Thank You to...

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Central PA Eat'n Park Family Restaurants for raising \$27,049 through their *Caring for Kids* campaign. This marks the tenth year for the campaign and year-to-date they have raised \$264,149 for The Four Diamonds Fund.



Eat'n Park employee Bethany Clark helps put smiles on the faces of Four Diamonds patient William Imhoff, his brother, Aaron, as well as on those famous cookies!

Mara's Dance for raising \$15,000 in support of The Four Diamonds Fund. This was the second year for the dinner/dance, organized by Kelly and Rob Zomok in honor of their daughter, Mara.

Fry Communications, Inc. for printing the 2003 Four Diamonds holiday cards. A special thanks to Eat'n Park Restaurants, Penn State Hershey Medical Center Gift Shop, Members 1st Credit Union, Brenner Motors, Kuppy's Diner, and to all of our friends who purchased and sold the holiday cards. Over \$12,000 was raised this year from holiday card sales!

Justin LeFevre Foundation for their gift of \$8,000 in support of pediatric cancer research at Penn State College of Medicine.

Stammel's Haunted Hayride and the many volunteers who staffed the event during the month of October, raising \$6,400 to benefit The Four Diamonds Fund.

Friends of Four Diamonds for generously contributing \$4,600 to the Fund. This gift represented the proceeds from their chicken pita stand at the Hummelstown Craft Fair, and their first Art Show and Auction, held at the Hershey Golf Club in October.

Chilean Treasures for their gift of \$1,920, representing the proceeds from the sale of artifacts and native artwork from Chile.

York County Corvette Club for their generous gift of \$1,621.51 to support pediatric cancer research.

Hershey Federal Credit Union for their gift of \$1,200, which they raised with fundraisers held throughout the year at the Credit Union.

Dentsply for selecting The Four Diamonds Fund as a recipient of Dentsply's Employee Gift Fund committee grant in the amount of \$1,000.

Jack Williams Tire Co., Scranton, PA for their holiday contribution of \$1,000 to the Fund.

Tara Carter, recipient of a Hershey Foods employee recognition award, for directing the monetary portion of this award, in the amount of \$1,000, to The Four Diamonds Fund in memory of Drew Comrey.

ELANCO Chiropractic, Inc. and to all those who contributed to the *Hats Off For Kids* campaign, raising \$600, and donating over forty hats for children receiving chemotherapy at Penn State Children's Hospital.

Kudos to Our Youngest Donors!

St. Theresa School for their outstanding commitment to helping children with cancer at Penn State Children's Hospital. For each of the past eight years the students have combined their monies to make a gift to The Four Diamonds Fund instead of exchanging holiday gifts among themselves. This year the students raised \$1,715 for the Fund.

Cast and crew members of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Arts for sponsoring their first *Kids-4-Kids* benefit performance on December 13 in support of The Four Diamonds Fund and pediatric cancer research and raising an amazing

\$1,321.56! Owners Chuck and Sarah Mason showed their students how much fun it can be to use their special talents to help children with cancer. Chuck is a Penn State alumnus and Sarah is the advisor of *Tapestry*, Penn State University's student tap company.



Valley Elementary School, located in Sugarloaf, PA, and the students in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades for showing the true holiday spirit by generously donating \$800 to The Four Diamonds Fund in lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts.

Pictured left to right, are Ivie Russell, Olivia Corman, Sheri Bowersox, and Rachel Lieb, who danced the part of **The Cherubs** in the **Kids-4-Kids** benefit performance for The Four Diamonds Fund.

Although we are unable to recognize everyone in the newsletter, we want you to know how much we appreciate your continued support of The Four Diamonds Fund.

Giving Online Consider making a gift online to The Four Diamonds Fund in honor of someone you care about or admire. If you make such a thoughtful gift, we will send your friend or loved one a card saying that you have honored them with a contribution to the Fund. Online donations can be made by visiting the Four Diamonds web site at **www.fourdiamonds.org**.



Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Office of University Development, A120 P.O. Box 852 Hershey, PA 17033-0852

Making A Difference

Child Life Specialists—Making the Tough Times Easier

Hospitals can be intimidating places for children regardless of how serious an illness may be. For this reason, child life specialists play an important role in the lives of Four Diamonds patients in both the inpatient and outpatient settings at Penn State Children's Hospital. The Four Diamonds Fund is proud to support two positions in the child life department.

Child life specialists are non-medical members of the healthcare team who focus on the emotional and developmental needs of children, teens, and family members. By using play and other forms of communication, child life specialists attempt to reduce the stress associated with healthcare experiences by clearly explaining tests and procedures in terms that can be easily understood by patients. Child life specialists also utilize developmentally appropriate activities during hospitalizations to

Child life specialist, Janiece Crovella, pictured with Four Diamonds patient, Michael Palm, age 6, in the pediatric outpatient clinic at Penn State Children's Hospital.

normalize this time in a child's life as much as possible, and also teach coping skills, which enable patients to handle their medical experiences, including pain management, in a positive way.

Janiece Crovella and Katrina Souder are child life specialists whose positions are funded by The Four Diamonds Fund. Janiece can be found in the pediatric oncology outpatient clinic, interacting with as many as thirty patients a day, while Katrina gets to know the Four Diamonds children during extended hospitalizations on the pediatric oncology wing of 7 West (Marathon Street). School visits are another way for Janiece and Katrina, accompanied by other members of the Four Diamonds medical team, to ease the

transition of our patients back into the classroom. Peer support is important to children facing the challenges of pediatric cancer, and Janiece and Katrina help make this possible.

The Four Diamonds families appreciate the talents and expertise of our child life specialists and are grateful to them for helping to make the tough times a little easier.



Pictured above is Carrie Steele-King, Four Diamonds mother, as she reviews information with child life specialist, Katrina Souder.

The child life specialist positions are two of the fifteen positions funded by The Four Diamonds Fund. Thanks to the generosity of so many donors, Four Diamonds can continue providing unique services, such as the child life program, to the Four Diamonds patients and families.