



# Four Diamonds forum

## Survivor: Palau and the THON™ Connection

Were you among the millions of viewers who were glued to their television sets a few months ago as Penn State THON™ alumnus Ian Rosenberger made it to the final three on *Survivor: Palau*? Although he wasn't named "Ultimate Survivor," Rosenberger easily won the title of "Ultimate Good Guy" in the end. During a final immunity challenge, Rosenberger stood on a buoy for almost twelve hours, finally giving up his chance to win the \$1 million grand prize in exchange for repairing a broken friendship with eventual winner Tom Westman of Sayville, New York. When asked how he ever endured twelve hours on that buoy, Rosenberger admitted that he focused on the courageous Four Diamonds children he has come to know, love, and admire through his involvement with Penn State Dance Marathon (THON). They kept him on his feet for forty-eight hours when he danced in THON 2004, and they kept him on the Palau buoy as well.

In May, the final *Survivor: Palau* show was broadcast live from New York City. Rosenberger invited several childhood cancer survivors to be part of the audience, including Marcus Adams, Katie Austin, and Michael Kipphorn. And although Ian is busy getting ready to move to the West Coast, he took time to visit Penn State Children's Hospital on June 21, where he went from one patient room to the next, autographing pictures, sharing his *Survivor: Palau* experiences, and brightening the faces of those who continue to be his inspiration. He did it *for the kids*.



*Pictured left to right are Ryan Mouery, Michael Kipphorn, Ian Rosenberger, Kaitlyn Good, and Brandon Mouery at Penn State Children's Hospital on June 21.*

## Save the Date

**September 7, 2005, 6:30 p.m.**  
Friends of Four Diamonds Meeting  
Academic Support Building, Room 1101  
Hershey, PA

**September 17, 2005, 10:00 a.m.**  
Friends of Four Diamonds Chicken Pita Sale  
Hummelstown, PA

**September 18, 2005, Noon**  
Four Diamonds Family Picnic  
Shank Park, Hershey, PA

**October 1, 2005, 10:00 a.m.**  
Siblings Unique Day  
Penn State Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, PA

**October 2, 2005, 1:30 p.m.**  
Londonderry Fire Co. Basket Bingo  
Middletown, PA

**October 9, 2005, Noon**  
THON Harvest Day  
Harner Farm, State College, PA

**October 23, 2005, 10:00 a.m.**  
THON 5K Run  
University Park, PA

**November 6, 2005, Noon**  
THON Family Reunion Carnival  
University Park, PA

*For additional events log onto <http://www.fourdiamonds.org> or contact the Four Diamonds office at (717) 531-6086.*

# 2004-2005 Mini-thons Raise \$317,374!

During 2004-2005, the Four Diamonds mini-thon spirit filled the halls of middle schools and high schools in seventeen school districts throughout central Pennsylvania with THON

## 2004-2005 Four Diamonds Mini-thons

Annville-Cleona Middle School/High School (7)	\$21,000
Central Dauphin High School (11)	\$51,224
Dallas High School (1)	\$14,470
Dover Area High School (3)	\$38,963
East Pennsboro High School (2)	\$ 3,000
Garden Spot High School & Ephrata High School (3)	\$18,121
Hershey High School Key Club (11)	\$23,500
Lampeter-Strasburg High School (1)	\$24,263
Lancaster Mennonite High School (2)	\$ 6,000
Northern High School (2)	\$19,493
South Western High School (1)	\$ 4,600
Springfield High School (3)	\$24,361
Spring Grove Middle School (3)	\$30,063
Susquenita Middle School (3)	\$ 5,034
Upper Dauphin High School (1)	\$11,801
Upper Dauphin Middle School (Rock-a-thon) (1)	\$11,481
West Perry Middle School Lock-in (4)	\$10,000
	<b>\$317,374</b>

\* The number in parentheses indicates the number of years the school has held a Four Diamonds mini-thon.

Thursdays, Color Wars, Dig Deep Fridays, dodge ball competitions, and faculty challenges. Thanks to a dramatic increase in student participation, this year's mini-thons raised \$317,374, representing a 40 percent increase in total dollars raised over last year!

One new addition to the Four Diamonds mini-thon circuit was the Upper Dauphin Middle School *Rock-a-thon*. More than 150 students and faculty members formed thirty rocking chair teams, with each team member assigned to rock for at least one hour during the twelve-hour event. The students were so excited about this new school project that they raised \$11,481 *for the kids* and are already looking forward to next



Members of the swim club model their winning THON outfits at the 2005 Four Diamonds Dallas High School mini-thon.

year's event. A rock-a-thon is an age-appropriate fund-raiser for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. We hope more middle schools will consider organizing a rock-a-thon for Four Diamonds.

Congratulations to all of the schools who worked so hard *for the kids* this year!



## The Four Diamonds—The Christopher Millard Story

September 20, 2005—7:00 p.m. • Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Auditorium

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. That makes it the perfect time to learn how The Four Diamonds Fund was started by watching the movie *The Four Diamonds—The Christopher Millard Story!* *The Four Diamonds* is a full-length movie produced by Disney several years ago that shares the courageous journey of Christopher Millard during his personal battle with cancer. Co-founder Charles Millard and Christopher's English teacher, Shirley Deichert, who

encouraged Christopher to write his memorable essay, *The Four Diamonds*, will be there to share their memories of Christopher with you.

**Admission is free, but seating is limited. Reservations are required and will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.** Please contact the Four Diamonds office at (717) 531-6086 if you are interested in attending.



Pictured left to right: Golfers Stuart Spisak, Four Diamonds Advisory Board chair; Evan Jacobs, 2006 THON overall chairperson; and A. Craig Hillemeier, M.D., chair, Department of Pediatrics, team up for the annual golf tournament.

## Thank You to ...

**Four Diamonds Advisory Board** for sponsoring the *fifth annual Scramble for Four Diamonds*, held May 13, 2005, at Royal Oaks Golf Club, Lebanon, Pennsylvania. The event raised over \$24,000 this year! A special thanks to Three Diamond sponsor

McKonly & Asbury, L.L.P. for their generous support, as well as the many volunteers who made this fundraiser such a success.

- Mara's Dance III**—\$18,500
- 2005 Kuppy's Diner Spring Cruise-In**—\$8,397
- Fourth annual Broad Street Run-A-Muck**—\$7,000
- Lions Club International District 14D**—\$2,607
- Eastern PA Retreads Motorcycle Club**—\$1,900
- Lafayette College Marquis Players**—\$1,500
- N.A. Trimmer Elementary School**—\$1,444.05
- Elizabethtown Middle School Penny Wars**—\$1,424.72
- Fleetwood Area Middle School**—\$500

*We are unable to recognize everyone who has made a contribution to The Four Diamonds Fund in the newsletter, but we want you to know how much your generosity and efforts on behalf of the Fund are appreciated.*



Heidi Miller

## Portrait of a Little Hero

Prior to November 2004, ten-year-old Heidi Miller of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, was an active girl who enjoyed soccer, riding her bike, and especially riding her quarter horse, Billie, in local equestrian shows. But Heidi's life changed dramatically when she broke her left leg after a simple fall in her living room. After a bone scan and MRI done at the Miller's local hospital revealed a tumor, Heidi was quickly referred to Penn State Children's Hospital. A biopsy confirmed a diagnosis of osteosarcoma, a relatively rare malignant bone tumor.

Heidi began chemotherapy on Thanksgiving Day. Three months later, the tumor had reduced enough in size for doctors to operate. On March 4, surgeons removed the bone in Heidi's left leg and inserted a metal spring knee with a rod that extends up her thigh and halfway down her lower leg. This French prosthesis is unique because its length can be adjusted to accommodate Heidi's additional growth. In about a

year, Heidi will have the prosthesis replaced, and then most likely replaced one more time as she nears adult size. If not for this innovative prosthesis, Heidi would have probably lost her leg.

Heidi, a petite, wise young lady with aspirations to teach, has handled her personal cancer experiences with the tenacity of a giant. When her long hair began to thin from chemotherapy, Heidi donated fifteen inches to Locks of Love. Additionally, she asked the medical staff to take photos during her operation so she could share them during a presentation to her classmates at New Oxford Elementary School. In June, she was back on her horse!

Heidi's parents, Holly and Doug Miller, can't say enough about the support they have received from The Four Diamonds Fund, the medical staff at Penn State Children's Hospital, and their community. With this continued support and Heidi's positive attitude, her dream of becoming a teacher will surely become a reality.

## Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to represent The Four Diamonds Fund at various community events and fund-raisers throughout the year, such as check presentations, mini-THONs, and THON events. Assistance is also needed with occasional activities at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. No experience is necessary—just a desire

to share the Four Diamonds story and help thank those in the community who generously support The Four Diamonds Fund. Please contact the Four Diamonds office at (717) 531-6086 or e-mail Linda Barry at lbarry@psu.edu with your contact information, volunteer interests, and availability.





# the four diamonds fund

*Conquering Childhood Cancer*

Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center  
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P.O. Box 852  
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Please visit our Web page at <http://www.fourdiamonds.org> for information about Four Diamonds or call the Four Diamonds office at (717) 531-6086.

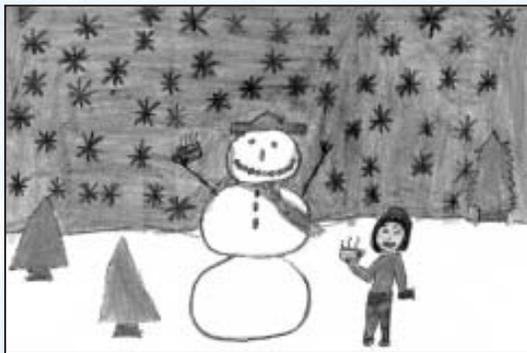
*Information provided to Penn State Hershey Medical Center and Penn State College of Medicine is kept in the strictest of confidence. Please write to us if you wish to have your name removed from future publications. Upon notification, all reasonable efforts will be taken to adhere to your wishes.*

## 2005 Four Diamonds Holiday Cards



**Cards will be available October 1.**

If you would like to purchase or sell the 2005 holiday cards at your school, business, or community organization, please contact the Four Diamonds office at (717) 531-6086.



▶ Artwork by **Jennifer Kreulen, age 11**

**Message Inside:**  
*Warmest thoughts for a happy holiday season!*

▶ Artwork by **Will Doran, age 6**

**Message Inside:**  
*May you have a magical holiday season!*



▶ Artwork by **Aimee Miller, age 14**

**Message Inside:**  
*May you have a magical holiday season!*

▶ Artwork by **Jordan Messner, age 16**

**Message Inside:**  
*Best Wishes for the New Year!*

