

Ryan's Newsletter



The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation
198 Route 22, The Atrium Building, Pawling, NY 12564
845-855-0211 www.ryansfoundation.org

Children's Cancer Foundation

In the foreground is a long wooden table with chairs sized for children. Behind this table a nurse is seated at the medication cabinet. Beside her stands a physician in a white coat. At left a row of cribs and beds extends to the back of the ward. Several nurses stand behind the cribs and beds. They ride tricycles in the hallway, not in the park. They know the names of their chemo's instead of their classmates. Their central lines have names. Nurses and doctors are their new family. They think hair is overrated. Their laughter can make a heart melt. Their strength will make a grown person cry.

If you've ever seen a kid fight cancer, it will change your life forever.

The holidays can be especially tough for a child with cancer and their families. Medical bills add up as well as the time families spend in the hospital year round. Spending Christmas in the hospital is never fun. For most children, Christmas is the most exciting time of year. Many youngsters suffering with health problems can so easily miss out on the magic of Christmas.

The media have focused on the financial crisis. It seems like the joy and good cheer of the holidays are being replaced by fears of losing jobs, savings, or homes. There are many families who worry about a more devastating loss - a child succumbing to cancer or other disease. The Ryan Foundation has made Christmas in the hospital a little easier on many families. So many children don't know what it means to have hope and faith. It is up to those of us who do know to open our hearts so all children can share in the spirit that Christmas instills inside us, allowing miracles to change from dreams to reality. At the heart of everything we do is the conviction that a child should be at home, surrounded by their family, not stuck in a hospital ward. Neither Santa nor Ryan's Foundation can make such wishes come true;

but, together we can deliver the hope that whatever dreadful disease they are battling there are people who care.... EVERYDAY.

Please consider making a donation this year so that we may continue our mission of never having to say NO to a child in need. We offer easy EFT donations which you can make on a monthly basis.

Many of us are struggling to make ends meet in this tough economy, but we should be grateful for what we have and consider helping other families and children that may be in a hospital during the holidays. Donate directly to a local charity; you may even know the child or family who will receive your gift. As a parent or gift giver, you know in your heart the gratifying feeling you have knowing that your generosity will help a child in need. Even if you don't know the child, you will know in your heart that he or she has been helped by you. If you are planning to cut back on your holiday spending or can't afford another gift this season, consider spending a little less on the other fortunate people on your list to allow a donation to a sick child. Surely the others on your list would gladly give up a portion of the cost of their gift to allow a donation to be given to help a child. If you have children of your own, explain to them how donating works and ask for their ideas. You will be surprised at how interested and helpful your children will be about donating.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation. Thank you all for your continued support.



PEOPLE WHO GIVE BACK:

SUZANNE SOBEL "CONSIDER IT DONE"

It was such a pleasure to meet George and Chip and to be able to do something for your organization and, through it, so many others. I have my own business providing consulting and bookkeeping services to small businesses in New York and Connecticut. I have a cousin with a severe form of autism and my husband is a cancer survivor. My sister and mother-in-law both passed away from cancer.

Last year I discovered the adorable Perfect Petzzz toy and decided to sell them at a mall and donate the profit to children with autism and children with cancer. I learned that the breathing pet was very calming for some children with autism. Children with cancer have compromised immune systems and cannot have real pets, but can always use a friend. I had many Perfect Petzzz left over and went online to search for organizations that met the criteria for my donations. I had been making deliveries to hospitals and special needs schools and other organizations when I came across the Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation. I called and spoke with George who volunteered to come pick up the Petzzz. George and Chip both came and I got a chance to hear more about the organization and its needs. They mentioned that they work with other children's organizations, including the Ronald McDonald House, all of which could benefit from further donations. They offered to share the donated Perfect Petzzz with other organizations and children in pediatric wards during Christmas.

I couldn't be happier that they are finding good homes.

Suzanne Sobel

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Ryan's Story

by Dolly Busolt

I arrived for a while and made everyone smile. It wasn't my plan or yours, but God's you see.
He had a different idea of what was to be.
"I had a special destiny."
He greeted me there and said, "Welcome Home." With the angels and family you are never alone.
We're watching below, as you're all part of the plan, for building "My House" it's according to plan.
You're blessing the children and families with "Love" passed on to others from Heaven above.
Keep up the good work, there's lots to be done. We can't forsake the children, no not one!
You need to touch lives and show that you care and pass on to others who are unaware.
Sometimes blessings come in small packages you see, that was the plan God had for me.
Although I was small, I played a big part.
In the bigger plan, I gave others a head start.
The rest I'll leave up to Mom and Dad and when you gaze up, you'll know I'll be glad.
You have the heart of a servant, you see, by taking care of others you are blessing me.
So on to the "House of Hope" where dreams begin and the testimonies of children can hopefully win.
This battle they fight isn't just theirs, you see, it's also up to you and me.
So stretch out your hands and hearts with love as your Father in Heaven does from above.
Your rewards will be great, your compassion a blessing, for reaching the sick children we're learning a lesson.
It's all in the plan of what we're to do, for making life worth the journey for me and you.
The "House of Hope" a great idea Dad, for all my small friends I know it makes them glad.

People Who Give Back - Continued

The Interact Club of Pawling

In February 2011, the Rotary Club of Pawling and the Town of Pawling Recreation Department started a community based "Interact Club" in Pawling. Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12 to 18. Currently there are 44 teenagers actively involved in the Interact Club of Pawling. Each year, they complete at least two service projects, one of which furthers international understanding and goodwill and one which benefits the community in which they live.

In August 2011 the Interact Club of Pawling volunteered at the Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation Car Show and Pig Roast. They couldn't believe how many people approached them to say "Thank You" for volunteering. It was at this event that the members of the club became inspired to organize a dodgeball tournament and fundraiser to benefit Ryan's Foundation. They made a sizable donation to the Foundation.

Dance Works Too!

Dance Works Too! is a group of girls committed to working hard and making dance a priority in their lives. As part of the team, they are required to perform at community events and give back to their communities through their talents and efforts. They do fundraising at the various activities they attend with the idea of helping someone or something out in the process - a kind of "pay it forward" concept. At their recent holiday show, the girls worked hard promoting the event and raised funds to help with their competition and convention needs. The ticket sales would be given to a local charity. They looked at three local charities of which the girls had to choose one to help. The mission statement from each charity was reviewed and each girl had to find the one that spoke to them the most and make their choice. They unanimously chose to support Ryan's Foundation. They sent the Foundation their very sizable donation.

Little did they know that the decision they so easily made would be greatly benefiting someone's life and making some of the darkest times have a little bit of light.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chip McElroy, Chairman
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Some of the children you have helped! Thank You!



ANNUAL GALA OF HOPE - APRIL 7, 2012

The Annual Gala of Hope will be at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie, NY on April 7, 2012. The Gala features a cocktail hour, formal dinner, and live and silent auctions. We rely heavily on the Gala for a significant portion of the funds we use to help families. 100% of the proceeds from the Gala goes to children and families who are faced with devastating illnesses and the hardships that these illnesses put the families through.

Tickets for the Gala of Hope are \$150 per person and a portion is tax-deductible.

Call 845-855-0211 or visit www.ryansfoundation.org for more information and other ways to help the foundation. The Gala is the Foundation's major event of the year and it's biggest fund raiser. We hope you will be able to join us this year!



ABOUT US



Marc & Michelle Bourque
Board Members

Marc currently serves as the Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks Coach at Western Connecticut State University. Additionally, his duties include Recruiting Coordinator and Academic Advisor to the football team. Prior to rejoining the Colonials, Marc spent three seasons at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY where he coached quarterbacks. Before RPI, Marc spent two years at Columbia University where he coached tight ends and h-backs. A native of Hooksett, NH, Marc is a graduate of Plymouth State University where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology and was a four year performer for the Panthers. Marc is a member of the American Football Coaches Association.

A native of Averill Park, NY Michelle began her career working with the Albany River Rats American Hockey League team. Her past experience also includes working as an Account Executive for NewsChannel 13 in Albany NY and currently she serves as a representative for Medtronic in the Neuromodulation Division. Michelle received her Bachelor's Degree in English from Siena College in Loudonville, NY and her Graduate Degree in Public Communication from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY. Michelle has previously served as President-Elect for American Women in Radio and Television Albany NY Chapter. While in the Albany area, Michelle volunteered for the Make A Wish Foundation as well as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Marc and Michelle moved to Putnam County in 2002 and soon after met Chip. Chip's passion and determination to help children quickly became the driving force of involvement with the foundation first as Trustees and then Board Members. Both are honored to assist in a number of activities including the Annual Gala, Spin-A-Thon, Family Fun Day, Golf Outing and Clay Shoot. They are privileged to help keep Ryan's spirit alive to those who knew him and help spread his courage to those who didn't.

Marc and Michelle currently reside in the Village of Pawling, with their two dogs.

EFT is available on our webpage

Ryan's Foundation is happy to announce an EFT feature on our webpage. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is a system of transferring money from one bank account directly to another without any paper money or checks changing hands. Transactions are processed through the Automated Clearing House network, a secure transfer system that connects all U.S. financial institutions. Funds are transferred electronically from one bank account to another in usually less than a day after the scheduled payment date. The growing popularity of EFT is paving the way for a paperless universe where checks, stamps, envelopes, and paper bills are obsolete. The benefits of EFT include reduced administrative costs, increased efficiency, simplified bookkeeping, and greater security.

Please consider signing up for recurring EFT donations so that we may continue our mission of never having to say NO to a child in need.

FROM THE EDITOR

Ryan's Newsletter is published by The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, dedicated to helping children who battle childhood illnesses and cancer by providing support that improve the quality of life for them and their families.

E-MAIL

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email & help us cut costs on printing and postage, please let us know.

Go Green- Go Paperless

And.....If you have a story you want us to know about, please contact our newsletter editor:

sghavelka@gmail.com



GOOD NEWS CORNER!

"Thank You" again goes out to our Monthly EFT donors who help us continue our mission. Thank you to all of our many supporters, volunteers, suppliers, and donors. Without them, none of what we do would be possible. Your continued generosity helps many children and families who are in the fight of their lives. We are truly blessed with the community of people we have on our team!

Happy & Healthy New Year!

I want to help donation form



Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone-day: _____ Phone-evening: _____

E-mail: _____

_____ My check is enclosed. (Make checks payable to: The Ryan Foundation.)

_____ Charge my donation to: _____ Master Card _____ VISA _____ Discover
Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature _____

MAIL COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:
The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation,
198 Route 22 Atrium Building, Pawling, NY 12564

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

A \$100 contribution will cover transportation to a hospital. A \$250 contribution will pay for food or utilities. A \$500 contribution will pay for lodging or rent. A \$1,000 contribution will pay for a mortgage or medicines.
Please help and embrace the tiny things in life. Thank you.