



The Heart Beat

The newsletter of

Steven's Hope
for children SM

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January, 2008

Bond of Brothers

You can see the bond these two brothers share together. Unfortunately they will have to be separated for a short time now. Little 14-month old Jeremy was recently diagnosed with cancer and was sent to Loma Linda University Medical Center. His cancer is called Rhabdomyosarcoma. This is a cancerous tumor that is usually found in children under 6 years of age. It originates in the soft tissues of the body, particularly in the skeletal muscles that attach to bone and help the body to move. The doctors want to have the cancer fought aggressively over a five-week period with chemotherapy and proton radiation at LLUMC.

In the meantime, Jeremy and his mother, Jennifer, will stay at one of the Steven's Hope apartments. Jeremy's brother, Joshua, and Nelson, his father, will stay at their home in San Clemente and try to continue as normal of a life as possible.

"Although the separation will be difficult for all of us, we feel that it is important for Joshua to continue his normal routine while Jeremy undergoes these treatments," says Nelson.

Like so many people in the current economy, Nelson recently become unemployed after working in the mortgage business.



14 month-old Jeremy (left) is all smiles when with older brother, Joshua (6). Their mother is staying with Jeremy at one of the Steven's Hope apartments. On the weekends, the family reunites in San Clemente.

Although his burdens weigh heavy on him now, he is thankful that Jennifer and Jeremy have a place to stay near the hospital. We sure are glad that we were able to give this great family a place to be a family in very difficult circumstances.

Steven's Hope Going "Green"

We are. But not quite the way you think. 'Going Green' takes on a whole new meaning when the Ontario Local Firefighter Union 1430 hosts their Sixth Annual "Tip the Firefighter" event on March 17th at El Torito Restaurant in Ontario. This fun-filled fundraiser will begin at 11AM and continue until the last red-haired Irishman leaves the pub. There will be an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring corn beef and cabbage as well as El Torito's Mexican buffet. Along with great food there will be a karaoke contest, a silent auction, great raffle prizes and so much more. Firefighters in kilts, a bagpiper, lucky leprechauns, great food and fun makes you wonder why you'd even consider being anywhere else on St. Pat's. This event could be the most fun you've ever had on a Monday. SHFC benefits the most when advanced reservations are made so gather up a group and plan to attend. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. See the SHFC website www.stevenshope.org/epatrick.htm or call the office for details and reservations.



SHFC Elects 2008 Board of Directors

Beginning January 1, the 2008 Steven's Hope Board of Directors began their one year term. Each year, Directors are elected during the Annual Planning Meeting. This year's Directors are: Tony Cappelli (6th term), Sandy Cappelli (6th term), Bill Collazo (3rd term) of Chicago Title Insurance Company; Dennis Costantino (4th term) of C-21 Prestige Properties/Costantino Realty; Jim Didion, Jr. (3rd term) of Howard Roberts Development Company; Richard Mayo (1st term) of Pacific Auto Sales & Leasing; Dr. Lothar McMillian (3rd term) of Rancho Family Practice Associates; David Ross (4th term) of First Mutual Mortgage; Glenn Rowan (1st term) of Frontier Homes.



The conference room at Steven's Hope served as a sorting and distribution site for over 1,000 presents donated by SHFC supporters for Winter Wonderland. Kids from three hospitals received presents. For some of the 275 kids that received the gifts, it was all the Christmas they had.

Winter Wonderland Keeps Snowballing

The outpouring of help for our third Winter Wonderland program still has us flying higher than Santa's sleigh. We wondered if we took on too much as we increased the number of requests we took for our families and from Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and Kaiser-Permanente Hospital Fontana this year. It seemed like a daunting task. But, Steven's Hope supporters have really big hearts. We've known that since Day One.

We're thrilled to report that through our generous supporters, we filled the wish lists for over 275 children with well over 1000 gifts total. We provided gifts to ill children and their siblings. We understand a serious illness has a huge financial impact on the entire family. Several parents said they simply would not have had a Christmas at all if it wasn't for the gifts provided through Winter Wonderland, part of our Fill A Need program.

We've received many thank you cards from the families and, we give our heartfelt thanks to each of you who helped spread Christmas cheer. May the blessings you provided come back to you in abundance.

Growing Stronger Everyday

Alexa Arellano has been through so much in her short five months of life. Just weeks after her birth, Alexa was diagnosed with Nephrotics Syndrome, a rare kidney disorder, characterized by the loss of proteins. Generally, about 2 in 10,000 have this disease that is prevalent in children 2-5 years of age. Alexa is not eligible for a kidney transplant until she is two years old. In the meantime, she is receiving kidney dialysis at Loma Linda University Medical Center & Children's Hospital. The doctors are pleased with Alexa's recent weight gain and physical development. Hopefully, she'll be released from the hospital soon.

"Normally, the Steven's Hope apartments are for families whose children have been discharged from the hospital," said Sandy Cappelli. "But, they were an exceptional case. The distance to commute to the hospital from their home every day can be overwhelming. It happened that we just had one family move out the day before, so we moved them in. It was supposed to happen this way."

Her parents are grateful they have housing through Steven's Hope. With their current home in Desert Hot Springs, staying at a Steven's Hope for Children apartment means they can remain close to the hospital in Loma Linda and be by Alexa's side as much as possible. As she continues to get stronger, Alexa's parents look forward to the day when she is released so she can go home and join her brother Fernando.



Alexa is receiving kidney dialysis at LLUMC to fight off a kidney disorder. Her parent are from Desert Hot Springs, CA and are staying at a Steven's Hope apartment. They are hopeful they will only be there another few weeks.

Beach Ball Makes A Big Splash

It's not often somebody throws a beach party sixty miles from the Pacific but, that is just what we did November 17th at the Etiwanda Gardens in Rancho Cucamonga. About 150 people gathered for the 5th Annual Fall Benefit Bash. With beautiful decorations and guests in Hawaiian print attire, it really made it feel like a seaside event.

Sandy made a short speech and announced that Erin Johnson won the "Volunteer of the Year" Award. Along with great food and umbrella drinks, there was a presentation about Steven's Hope. Then, we were entertained by song writer and comedian Paul Aldrich, who was absolutely hilarious. It's a good thing Tony isn't following Paul's retirement planning of Super Lotto! Especially since those there that night pledged or donated over \$20,000 to Steven's Hope. Thanks to all who attended.

Mark your calendars now for the next Annual Fall Benefit Bash on Saturday, November 7, 2008. We haven't gotten a theme for this one yet, but we're working on it. Give us an idea. So far we've had a "Stay Away" Ball, a "Disco" Ball, a "Grease" Ball, a "Crystal" Ball and a "Beach" Ball. And, No, Tony! We're not having a "Meat" Ball! Aloha!



Comedian Paul Aldrich (top) entertained the crowd and his fingers never left his hand. The attendees had a great time and wanted to wave 'hello' to you.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are in the process of implementing a volunteer data base for Steven's Hope. It is our desire to match your gifts and talents with our needs. There is a wide range of volunteer opportunities available from being on a 'prayer team' for the families to helping with the website or administration and organization help in the office. We periodically need help with inventory, upkeep and decorating the apartments. Until we are able to successfully clone Tony, he could use help with handyman jobs in the apartments including small painting projects, securing and repairing furniture as well as moving furniture. Getting involved with one of the special events is always fun. So, if you have some time and talents you'd like to share, please contact us by phone or through our website to become part of our volunteer team. We simply can't do it alone!

Exposure! Exposure! Exposure!

Many of our supporters are feeling the effects of the current economy. We are all tightening our belts. But, don't be discouraged. Steven's Hope was started by taking a difficult situation and turning it into something good. You can too!

There are many ways to support SHFC. One of the best ways is to share us with others. Talk about us to your friends, relatives and colleagues. Request additional newsletters to distribute to friends and co-workers. Better yet, ask if you can put them on our mailing list and we'll send out quarterly newsletters. Display our newsletter in your place of business or ask your dentist/doctor/dance studio if you can display our newsletter in their lobby. We'll send additional newsletters and a display stand. You can also link your email friends to our website so they can check us out that way. Do your online shopping in hundreds of stores through one of our electronic malls like www.igive.com/shfc or www.shopforcharityday.com/181658. Consider hosting a small gathering of friends at your office or home to introduce your group to Steven's Hope. Promote our upcoming events by inviting new people to them. If you have an idea, call us. Let's talk. Let's impact a life.

Support Steven's Hope beyond opening up your wallet...but you can do that too!

Golf Tournament Pre-Registration Begins Feb 1.

Steven's Hope will begin taking pre-registrations February 1, for the Sixth Annual Golf Tournament May 15. This year, the tournament moves to Sierra LaVerne Country Club. "We're looking forward to our new venue. It's a beautiful course and fun to play," said Tony Cappelli on behalf of the 2008 Golf Committee.

"Sponsorships for the event are now being accepted and vary based on your budget. We have sponsorships for as little \$100 up to the Grand Sponsorship for \$12,000 that includes green fees for 8 golfers and other incentives. We are very excited Howard Roberts Development has taken one of the Grand Sponsorships again."

Other sponsorships include a "Hole" sponsor for \$500 or \$1500 with 4 golfers; a "Major" sponsor that includes golf for 4 for \$3000; "Cart" or "Dinner" sponsors for \$3500 which includes 4 golfers and a full page ad in the dinner program. Sponsorship deadline is April 29. Individual players can go on a first-come, first-in list. Individuals are \$275 each, \$1100 for a foursome.

"The shotgun tourney is limited to 144 players. Each player will get a lunch ticket and a ticket for the banquet. It's just a fun day of golf and friends." There will be a putting contest, a MEGA PUTT, loads of prizes, a silent and a live auction. So, if any one would like to donate a prize for that, just call Susie at the office. A list of the sponsorship levels can be found on the SHFC website at www.stevenshope.org/egolf_sponsor.htm.



Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 1240. Each girl made a soft, beautiful blanket that was donated to Steven's Hope for kids and families in our apartments as their way of giving back. The families loved 'em. Go, Girl Scouts!

Sandy's Snippets

Phew! Winter Wonderland was crazy, but it was great, too. My favorite story was a request for a used computer for a young girl from Guam. The Social Worker said she had no way to communicate with friends back home and she never smiled. We didn't think we'd get one for her, but we'd try. Sure enough, our supporters, our IT guys here at SHFC stepped up & donated a brand new laptop. The social worker said when the girl opened the present, she was all smiles. Wow!! Thank you, Jeff and Eric. . . We wish Bernadette Palos, good luck in her new full-time job. But, Bernadette isn't saying good-bye, she is still very involved with Ride for Hope. . . We also wish Erin Johnson good luck on her pursuing her career. She interned with SHFC for 5 months. . . When you call the SHFC office, you may hear a new voice. Meet Susie Rowan, our newest employee. She will be here part-time and work on Special Projects and Development. . . If you know someone you think would like to get involved with SHFC, please call me! . . . In the next month or two, Tony says that there will be a volunteer questionnaire coming out. It will give you an opportunity to let us know what you like to do. It will have lots of boxes to select from. We want to get more of our supporters involved and active in many ways. . . Ta-Ta For Now

Sandy

Mission Statement

To provide temporary housing and other essential needs to the families of seriously ill or injured children during a child's extended treatment and care while away from home.

2007 Board of Directors

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Sandy Cappelli, Vice President
Marilyn Gengler, Secretary
Dennis Costantino, Treasurer

2008 Calendar

March 17

Ontario Firefighter Local 1430
"Tip the Firefighter" Event
at El Torito, Ontario CA

May 15

Sixth Annual Steven's Hope
Golf Tournament
at Sierra LaVerne Country Club



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Visit our website www.stevenshope.org for the latest updates or call 866-3-STEVEN.

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