



The Heart Beat

The newsletter of

Steven's Hope
for childrenSM

Volume 4, Issue 4

October, 2006

Volunteers Making Maria's Family As Big As Texas

Last year, Maria was diagnosed with Clival Chordoma, a tumor that usually occurs in the spine and base of the skull. Her doctor had recommended receiving "proton radiation" as the best possible treatment for her. Unfortunately, this is a procedure that was not available in Texas. Now the 18 year-old from Texas is receiving critical daily treatment at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

"Generally, at least one parent will stay at one of our apartments with the sick child," says Sandy Cappelli, Steven's Hope co-founder and Program Director. "But, this is a special situation and a very special young lady." Maria's mother is a single parent who works as a janitor and cares for Maria and her 4 younger siblings. Sadly, Maria's mom was unable to come to California for her treatment which will last between two and three months. Maria plays the guitar, enjoys drawing, eating pasta and junk food. Mostly, she wants to major in fashion design and someday she would like to open her very own boutique. But for the ever-smiling Maria, not knowing anyone in California hasn't slowed her down.

"Maria is definitely a capable and mature 18 year old, but," says Sandy, "there is a big culture shock getting used to California after living in a small town in Texas." Since her family is not able to be with her, Steven's Hope set out to create a new family, although temporary, for her. We sent out a notice to our volunteers about Maria's situation and the phone started ringing. At first, we organized trips to the grocery store. Then, the volunteers took over and were organizing dinners, going to events, and more. "Glenn and Susie Rowan were really moved when they met Maria. Susie said that Maria has become family. Hearing her story and getting to know her has changed their lives."

Maria's Social Worker at LLUMC recently told Steven's Hope that Maria felt overwhelmed about how much Steven's Hope has helped her. "What Maria doesn't realize," says Sandy Cappelli, "is that she is helping us as much as we are helping her."



Texas born Maria has been getting the "family" treatment since she started staying at one of the Steven's Hope apartments. Since her family could not be with her, Steven's Hope has been working to make a California family for her. Call the office to find out how you can help Maria or one of our other children and families.

Ride For Hope IV Returns to Upland, Route 66



**Classic Cars. Classic Bikes.
Classic Music.**

On Saturday October 14, 2006 Steven's Hope for Children is proud to host its 4th annual *Ride for Hope*. This special event is planned to be a great day at the park for the entire family. We have planned a fantastic event consisting of a car and motorcycle cruise & show, great food, and entertainment.

Hundreds of participants will begin from 8 different locations throughout sunny Southern California, and gather for registration at Cable Airport in Upland, CA. Upon the 11am hour the roar of the engines will be heard throughout the city streets as they cruise along the Historic Route 66 to their final destination: Upland Memorial Park.

Kick-starting their morning, hundreds of local residents will already be enjoying many planned activities at the park



Although, Jaime didn't speak English, no translation was necessary to understand their need for help.

Chino Family Gets Quick Assistance From SHFC

"Normally, our program 'Housing for Hope' is for families that are needed to be near the hospital for 30 days or more," explained SHFC Vice President Sandy Cappelli. "However, there are situations when we can bring in a family for a shorter period of time. That was the case with Jaime."

Having to get daily treatment for acute lymphomatic leukemia was a tall order for ten year-old Jaime and his family who live Chino. His father is a construction worker and his mother stays at home with Jaime's three year-old sister. Being able to stay at one of the Steven's Hope apartments made a big impact for the family as their financial resources were extremely limited. And despite the language barrier, there weren't a whole lot of words that needed to be said. Just look at his smile. That says it all.

Adopted Twin "Jack" Recovering Well

They say that twins have a special bond. But it was several weeks after their birth before brothers Jack and Isaac were able to see each other. "The boys were both healthy at birth, said the twins mother Rena. Unfortunately, Jack started getting sick and was diagnosed with Herschsprung's Disease. Jack was required to have surgery and it was touch and go for a while. Rena, and her husband Peter, live in Stevenson Ranch and were well beyond any normal commute. "We didn't know how we were going to make it," said Rena. "And, we had never heard of Steven's Hope before. But because of them (Steven's Hope), I was able to spend time with Jack. We would not have been able to be together any other way."

At present, both boys and parents are home and Jack is getting stronger and doing well.



Newly adopted twin, Jack, was separated from his brother because of intestinal problems after being born. Following surgery, and stay with SHFC, Jack and family are now home.



Having his brother, sister and father visit on the weekends at the SHFC apartment put a smile on Omar's face

Coachella Too Far For Omar's Family

Dealing with the stress and financial strain of raising three children seems almost insignificant when you learn that one of your children has Hodgkin's Lymphoma. That is the case for Omar's parents, Ernesto and Guadalupe. The Spanish speaking couple live in Coachella with 13 year-old Omar and his sister Esmerelda (age 6) and brother Jose (age 14).

LLUMC Social Worker, Mildred Saravia-Guzman, told Steven's Hope about the family and their lack of transportation to get Omar his treatments. According to her, being able to have Omar and his mother close to the hospital was a great financial and logistical relief for them. On the weekends, Omar's brother and sister and father would come to visit and stay at the apartment. At least for a couple of days a week, they could be a family.

Upcoming Event: "Crystal" Ball Nov. 18

It's that time again: Time to have fun at the Annual Fall Ball Benefit Bash for Steven's Hope. This year, the "Crystal" Ball, sets the theme for a magical evening including a performance by hypnotist Michael Mezmer. Tickets to the event being held at the Ontario Marriott are \$100 per person. Reserved tables of eight are \$800 and sponsorships are available. Cocktails begin at 6:00 PM and Dinner seating at 6:45 PM. There will be a short presentation by Steven's Hope and dancing will follow the entertainment from Michael Mezmer. As this is a themed event, costume dress is encouraged but not mandatory. For those not in the know, Dave and Gail Ross have won the costume contest two years in a row!! They must be dethroned!!! So get out your best magical outfit and come as a wizard, magician, sorcerer, or favorite "evil" Disney character. It will be a fun time for all. For information on reserving tickets, sponsoring or general information call 909-373-0678.

Holiday Season Call for Volunteers & Projects

Whatever holiday you celebrate this season, many families will be away from home: away from loved ones, friends, relatives and their own bed. While we can't magically heal everyone and send them home, we can try to make them feel at home this holiday season. If you would like to become part of our Winter Wonderland Project, please call Steven's Hope. We need volunteers, unwrapped toys, blankets, games, electronics, etc for families at the Steven's Hope apartments and for families with children being treated at Upland's San Antonio Community Hospital and Kaiser Permanente Fontana.

VOLUNTEERING - Taking action can change your life.

I don't believe in chance meetings or coincidences. When I went out to the Steven's Hope apartments to help Sandy Cappelli clean one Sunday afternoon, I believe it was all part of a bigger plan for my life to cross paths with Maria Mendoza.

Since we were going to be at the apartments anyway, Sandy arranged for us to take Maria to lunch. Her outgoing personality, beautiful smile, and sweet Texas manners captured my heart almost instantly. Hearing her story, I saw this amazing pillar of strength and courage. Yet, I knew that for her to be all alone during this life saving medical treatment must be terrifying. God quickly prompted me to take action.

In Maria's case, I felt like what she needed most was to have people simply be there for her when her family could not. She needed to know that she wasn't alone out here in California. I knew for her to be somewhere other than the apartment or hospital could do wonders for her spirit. So, I have simply included her on some outings, took her to lunch, went shopping and just called to check in on her a couple times a week. She is so appreciative of everything and it has been such a joy to get to know her.

I believe God also brought Maria into my life to remind me of my endless blessings. There are days when my biggest concern is if my son will learn his multiplication tables or if my daughter will make nice friends at her new school. Then, I imagine Maria's mother in Texas and think of the daily agony she must struggle with knowing that her daughter is alone during her medical battle. Oh, how much we take for granted!

In what was going to be a day of cleaning and shopping for one of the Steven's Hope apartments, turned into so much more. My eyes and heart opened up to what is really going on inside one of those apartments. The next time you feel a prompting in your heart to take action - just do it. It may change your life.

Sincerely, Susie Rowan

The above letter was written by Susie Rowan, a volunteer for Steven's Hope. In her letter, she explains how taking action can make a big change in a person's life. Sometimes, the person changed is yourself. If you would like to sign up to be a volunteer, please call Rossana at 909-373-0678.

cont'd from page 1

Ride For Hope IV Returns to Upland, Route 66

while anxiously awaiting the arrival of the cruise participants. Some of those activities include live music performed by "The Silverado's," a rock climbing wall, bouncers, local vendors, kids activities, the Upland Fire Department water safety demonstration, games, artwork created by students at local schools and much more!

Some of the participants we are expecting to see are a blue camouflage Chevy truck with tractor treads, last years' People's Choice Winner a 1940 Willy's pickup, the Porsche 356 Club, Ladies of Chrome and Leather, Corvettes West, several NASCAR sanctioned race cars and trucks, Street Rods Unlimited and so many more.

Registration for the event is \$20 per participant in advance or \$25 the day of the event. Admission to the park for all others is free. Sponsorships, vendor booths and volunteer opportunities are also still available. Please be sure to call 909-373-0678 and ask for Bernadette. We hope to see you there!!!



Events like Ride For Hope increases public awareness of Steven's Hope and it's programs. Pictured above from Ride for Hope III (left to right) People's Choice Award Winner a Willy's Truck, kids having fun with face painting, and motorcycle riders arrive at park to enjoy the festivities. Last year's event raised over \$4,000 for Steven's Hope for Children. This year, the event is expected to be larger with several vendors, food, games and activities for the kids, silent auction, live music and several awards to the participants. Admission to the park is free! For more info, call Bernadette at 909-373-0678.

We Can't Do It Without You!

Times are hard. But, for a moment, think about families like the ones in this newsletter or families that are dealing with some life altering or life threatening situations with their children. Then, think about the good work done by Steven's Hope. Please, do what you can and make a donation today. We, and our families, thank you.

Sandy's Snippets

What a year it has been. We just had our Annual Planning meeting and there is a lot of good stuff on the horizon. . . We are looking for volunteers and interns!!! If you have time available, or know someone that does, call us and sign up . . . Have you heard a new voice at Steven's Hope??? Bernadette Palos has joined us to help with Special Projects and Development. Welcome! . . . We just received an actual conference room table thanks to Mark McClure of Motivations Systems, Inc. (I'm not gonna miss those folding tables at all) . . . Land, land, land. That's all Tony talks about. If you can help him find a site to develop for Steven's Hope House-Loma Linda, it would be great. . . Golf already? Yes, we are accepting sponsorship for the 5th Annual Golf Tournament on May 15, 2007 at Industry Hills Golf Club. We are nearly 50% sold out already!! Those list includes Howard Roberts Development, Countrywide Home Loans, Land America Title, Rancho Family Practice Associates, IndyMac Bank, C-21 Costantino Realty, Orange Coast Title, First Mutual Mortgage, Miracle Financial, Crebs Family Foundation, First Magnus Financial, and more!! . . .

Well, gotta go!

On behalf of all of us at Steven's Hope, have a great holiday season and a safe and Happy New Year!!!!

Sandy

Mission Statement

To provide 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.

2006 Board of Directors

Tony Cappelli, Chairman
Sandy Cappelli
Bill Collazo
Dennis Costantino
Jim Didion, Jr.

Vince Gottuso
Patty Greeves
Dr. Lothar McMillian
David Ross
Mark Tundis

Officers

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

2006 Calendar

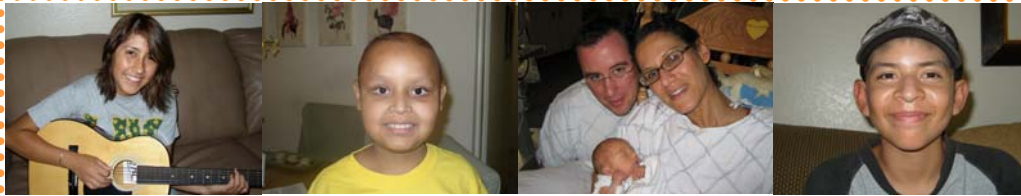
October 14



Classic Cars. Classic Bikes.
Classic Music.

November 18

SAVE
THE DATE!!
Saturday,
November 18, 2006
Ontario Airport Marriott
2200 E. Holt Blvd
Ontario, CA 91764
6:00pm Cocktails
6:30pm Dinner
Sponsorships Available
Call 866-3-STEVEN



Aren't these great smiles? These are some of the children and families Steven's Hope has recently assisted at our apartments. There are many other children not pictured here that Steven's Hope has helped with housing, transportation, food, goods, and items to improve the quality of their lives at a stressful and financially challenging time. Some of them are still staying with us, some have gone home. But, in each case, Steven's Hope has made a positive impact in their recovery and their lives.

Please help us continue developing our programs and services by volunteering or making a donation today.. It's easy to do. And, it comes with a smile.



1014 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite B
Upland, CA 91786
Phone: 866-3-STEVEN
909-373-0678

Between hospital and home, there is hope. Steven's Hope.

Steven's Hope for Children is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded 2002.

Visit our website www.stevenshope.org for the latest updates.

"Steven's Hope", "Steven's Hope for Children and logo" and "Between hospital and home, there is hope" are servicemarks of Steven's Hope for Children, Inc.