



Upcoming Events

December 5, 2008

Gold Ribbon Holiday Reception

7:00 PM – Midnight;
Embassy Suites,
Rt. 20W Northboro Rd
Marlborough MA

March 29, 2009:

Dancing Thru the Decades;

7:00 PM – Midnight;
Hudson Portuguese Club, 13 Port St.
Hudson MA

June 7, 2009:

Leukemia Ride/Family Walk & BBQ

8:30 to 6:00 PM
Leominster Eagles
456 Litchfield St
Leominster, MA

Our Board Members:

John Sousa, Founder

Directors:

*Ann Charbonneau
Dianne Ross
Zenaide Sousa Swenson*

www.AndrewsHand.org

a 501(c)(3) non profit
charitable organization

Welcome to the fourth Edition of Andrew's Helpful Hands Newsletter! We would like to start by saying *Thank You, Thank You! TO EACH AND EVERY ONE* of you who have supported our organization throughout the year. We appreciate all your support!! If you haven't had the opportunity to attend one of our events in the past we look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

This newsletter is just a peak at what is happening. We have had so many wonderful opportunities and involvements, affiliations with so many wonderful individuals, businesses and other organization! This is something to keep around, pick up and read when you want to be inspired, when you want to see how a family is doing, see where we have been and where we are going, or when you want to get motivated to help make a difference in someone's else life. Don't forget, you making someone's heart smile, helps them and you live longer. Making a difference is as easy as giving someone a hug or sharing a little story. Sometimes we are all so busy that we forget simple is good. So enjoy our stories, see the pictures share our sadness and share our joys.

Don't forget if you have any questions, or story ideas that you feel we should feature please feel free to contact us at (978) 375-3704.

Family Update



Kailiah

A lovely young lady who is 5 yrs old and lives in Worcester with her family; Mom, Dad and 5 brothers. Kailiah's journey began on July 27, 2008 when they entered Children's Hospital to start the precondition for the life saving treatment. She was diagnosed in March of 2008 with a rare form of Leukemia, Bi-Phenotypic Leukemia. She underwent one week of high doses of chemotherapy and many rounds of TBI (Total Body Irradiation) all to get her ready to receive her new cord blood transplant.



After one month of working hard on rebuilding her body, she was discharged on September 4th, 2008. But as with many kids, she was readmitted on September 24th for two blood infections. She had her central venous line removed but her new marrow was doing its job, as she was able to heal quickly. She was released on October 2nd. She was doing very well up until last week when she was admitted again for a stomach bug. Now she is doing well again and all her numbers are looking great. She is finally making her own platelets and headed home again!

One milestone that all parents aim for is Day 100. This is when the docs believe that the marrow is keeping its job and any issues that may have occurred prior to is more dangerous for the child. Kailiah's Day 100 will be on November 16! This is a huge accomplishment!

To All Our Helpful Hands!



Many times I ask for help with fundraisers, getting the word out, anything to help in getting the job done. I have looked to many people again and again. Thankfully, you are called upon to get involved and every one of you are there, making things happen, bringing it all together and making it a huge success! Each and everyone one of you should be very proud of what you do for the organization and realize that this organization is all of us together. *We are for the people, by the people and we are the people who make a difference* (my little political insert, heehee). Here are just few of many that we thank :

Marlborough Savings Bank for always supporting us. The employees and patrons of Marlborough Savings chose AHH as the beneficiaries of their Dress Down Day... who knew that “dressing down” aka casual Fridays could be such a great “fun”draiser!.

Distinctive Realty, for always supporting us throughout the year. Sponsoring all of our events from Jan- Dec.(trust me we have a lot). As realtors, they/we help families find their dream homes. As supporters of AHH they/we help families stay in their homes! Distinctive Realty was voted #1 as the Regions Best Real Estate Agency. They are voted #1 to us and our families!

Richard Tomanek, General Manager of Embassy Suites, Marlborough(and his wonderful staff) for sponsoring the Gold Ribbon Holiday Reception and providing a wonderful elegant atmosphere.

Chef Trudeau, Chef “G”and his students in Culinary Arts at Assabet Valley Reg Voc High School for donating some of the delicious pastries for the Gold Ribbon Holiday Reception

Brian at A-1 Copy, at the Rotary, Main St, Hudson for years of support of lots of printing including this newsletter And its all done electronically!

Hudson Portuguese Club/ Riverview for supporting our Dancing Thru Decades every year
DJ Ray Richard for being our exclusive DJ for the various events.

A special thank you to Lauren Stockholm, Hudson, who every year chose AHH as her community project. Every year she and her “cluster group’ raised money and received donated items for the Gold Ribbon Holiday Reception. Then she joined us in making theme baskets. Lauren has graduated from HHS and received a Humanitarian Award for all her “heart”work!

St Mary’s Credit Union for always supporting us. Special hugs to the Hudson Branch for all the time they have spent volunteering at the PGA Championship Tour, the Disco Ball, the Leukemia Ride and the Gold Ribbon Reception... Christine, Todd, Amelia, Maria, Ed, Flo, and Matt, you rock!!

To all the residents especially of Hudson and Marlborough for always supporting our families, by simply attending our events and enjoying themselves, donating items or financial support. Also, so many other communities members who continue to support their residents such as Fitchburg,Leominster,Gardner,Lancaster,Lunenburg,Upton,West Boylston,Worcester,Lynn,Salem,Boston,Ayer,Milford,Ware,Belchertown,Chelmsford, Stoneham and more.

Our Heartfelt thanks to the Fraternal Order of Eagles across Massachusetts who live up to their motto of “People Helping People”.

Businesses such as Classic Occasion Catering, Hair by Chaves, Durand Chevrolet, Avidia (aka Hudson Savings Bank), Chloe, Yates Law Offices, Bacon Spirits, Networks Unlimited, Wal-Mart, Robinson’s Ace Hardware, Dynamic Staffing, Don Voner with TASC, DNS Printing, Salon Selectives of Fitchburg, Clark Consulting, .

All of our volunteers who help out whenever and with whatever they can, none of our accomplishments and families that we have helped could have any relief, if it wasn’t for all of you! You are this organization!

This is just an itty bitty list of so many people, businesses, groups; there are so many more, THANK YOU!!!

If you would like to learn more about how you can become a volunteer contact John or Zee at(508)380-1797 or visit our website at www.andrewshelpfulhands.org.





BONE MARROW DRIVES AKA “HEROES LIST” ARE YOU ON IT?



Each year more than 35,000 children and adults in the US develop life-threatening diseases for which a bone marrow or stem cell transplant could be a cure. Diseases currently treatable by marrow transplants include leukemia, aplastic anemia, Sickle cell Anemia as well as certain immune system and genetic disorders. A bone marrow transplant requires matching tissue types between patient and donor. Because tissue type is inherited, the best chance of a match is usually with a sibling (although not very common to occur.). Over 70 % of patients do not have a donor in their family. The next best chance for survival is with someone of the same race or ethnicity. This is when they must find an unrelated donor to be a match, to be a hero!

AHH works with Caitlyn Raymond International Registry (affiliated with UMass Memorial Hospital) in holding drives anywhere and everywhere that we can. Holding a drive gives hope to the patient who the drive is in honor of but also gives other families who are looking for a donor, the same hope.

It is so simple to be someone’s hero. You complete a basic questionnaire, cotton swabs to the inside of your cheeks and that is it. About 7 minutes of your time gives a lifelong admiration from the donee and their family. The odds of you being a match for someone is 1 in 48,000. So as you can imagine we need to get over 1.4 million people registered to potential save lives for just one year... and now I ask you, ARE YOU ON THE LIST???

We have done bone marrow drives in churches, schools, town halls, banks, hotels, gymnasiums, stores, hospitals, homes, ball fields, parking lots, craft fairs, town fests, farms, carnivals, hot air festivals, airports, network meetings, Business Expos, at Operation Swan Dive with Sister Hazel, PGA Championship Tour, Ladies Night with WXLO, Eagles Lodges, DCU Center, Wallace Civic Center, and more. So please think when you would like to have a bone marrow drive and give me a call! The more places, the more people, the more fun and larger the lists get! Lets add more places and Lets add more heroes!





LEUKEMIA RIDE AND FAMILY BBQ

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN THE MONTH OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR



LOVE ANDREW

The first Sunday of June of every year is a graduation day, usually.

The first Sunday of June of every year is Riding and Fun day, always.

That is if you attend an amazing event that is sponsored by Xtreme Riders, Leominster Eagles # 477 and AHH.

It is a day that is filled with an all u can eat BBQ with chicken (we are told we make the best) hamburgers, hotdogs, watermelon, cookies, chips, soda, water, and most importantly the Table Talk pies (yummy for dessert and pie eating contests!) Amazing live bands, such as Still Burnin' (southern rock), Tim LaRoche (country), and Fingercuff (hard rock); old friends and new friends, music, raffles, stories, bone marrow drive and truly the list goes on.

To participate is wonderful, to help is amazing but to see those bikes come down the street in a never ending line is so emotional that it strikes you speechless (trust me, it is rare that I am speechless).

Kevin "Blade" Corey, president of the Xtreme Riders is a man of stature... not someone you want to meet in a dark alley. Strong voice, strong ideas, strong commitments when it comes to helping families who have a child with cancer. He is, as are all these riders, huge teddy bears, with the biggest hearts out there.

So many times you see motorcycle rides and you always think "I wonder who they are riding for" because that is what the riding community does. They love to ride and love to ride for a cause.

This year, our Andrew was watching, as over 200 bikes road from Framingham (starting point is Ace Hardware on Nichols St(thank you guys)) through a few towns, past "Andrew's Land" (St Michael's Cemetery) through more towns to come up Litchfield St in Leominster and arrived all safely(thanks to Med Star Ambulance) at the Eagles # 477 Hall and ground.

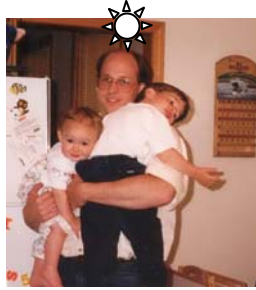
This isn't something to describe, it is something to see. A picture is worth a thousand words, but a vision of this has none, and will last forever!

Thank you to all the different riding groups and individuals that came out and gave us this vision. Because of you we can meet our mission.





LOVE ANDREW



Just sharing a little bit more of our Andrew...
from a little one who is so loved, to a young man who loved so much.
**From start to finish...It is always the little things that make a huge difference
ALONG THE WAY.**



SOME OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING



AHH APPARELL



HUDSON FEST



PUMPKIN FEST



ALL STAR AUTO CAR WASH



PGA CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR



CAN DRIVE SORTING



KIDS HELPING KIDS, AUBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL



GET READY TO MAKE BASKETS



Step by Step Dance Co. Holiday Recital



Tom Pink Deb meet



Operation Swan Dive/Sister Hazel Jay w/ Ken Block



Soap Production Donated by Zsa Zsa

UPCOMING EVENT

DECEMBER 5, 2008 GOLD RIBBON HOLIDAY RECEPTION EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL, MARLBOROUGH 7:00pm - MIDNIGHT

Come Join Us for a beautiful semi-formal night out where you will enjoy an Extravagant Buffet Dinner with so many choices of delicious cuisine and many amazing desserts. *Special Guests Anna Maria College Dance Squad, Malik the Unconventional Magician, Caricatures by Scott Hamilton.* Dancing- music provided by *DJ Ray Richard (who DJ'd our Disco Ball)*, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Cash Bars, Bone Marrow Drive, Balloon Pops and much more!!

Tickets are \$50 per person presale or \$65 per person at the door, so save some money and help us plan better by purchasing your tickets today! Reserve your table (tables seat 8-10) or for a small donation, reserve a private suite for a more intimate dinner where you can enjoy the festivities of Secret Santa, awards/recognition, or annual meeting, then come over and join in the festivities. Your night out would be tax-deductible (to the extent allowed by law) which always helps during tax time, just save your ticket (we keep the stub for our mailing list only) or you can always e-mail/call if you need a receipt. It's so easy to have fun and help families that have a child with cancer.

Help us with this year's goal of 350 in attendance and raising \$17,500. (100% of ticket sales go directly to benefit local families who have a child who is going through the Bone Marrow Transplant process). For those of you who just don't want to leave, (or maybe had just a little too much holiday spirits) there are wonderful rooms available (at a discount for all of our guests) that also include an incredible break-feast.

If you are unable to attend, please consider purchasing tickets and giving them as a gift, Raffle off as your own supporting fundraiser. We are always looking for Gift Certificates to any business that you enjoy, or you can make up your own basket for us to auction off during the Silent Auction. Please consider \$5 gift cards to almost anywhere, pharmacies, restaurants (including Burger King, McDonalds, Dunkin Donuts), Blockbuster, subway, bakeries, gas stations, Walmart, grocery stores, etc...)

Cancer doesn't wait for the economy to improve. Imagine being a family that has to deal with the economy issues and a catastrophic illness and the loss of income, all at the same time. This year we are looking for more help than every, so whatever you can do, small donations, pass the word around, post flyers, attend, etc... is a great help!

We appreciate anything that you can do for our families.

***Book NOW to order your table,
please call John 508-380-1797 or Zee at 978-375-3704***

*“Girl’s
Night”,
High
School
Reunions,
Neighbor-
hood Party,
Elegant
Date or
Office
Party! So
many
choices,
one
excellent
time!*



What we do...

Andrew's Helpful Hands helps families who have a child going through Bone Marrow Transplant. We allow parents to focus 100% on their child, not on financial burden that occurs due to catastrophic illness that caused the need for a Bone Marrow Transplant.

Once an application is approved, AHH **directly** pays the creditors of the family we are helping. The family doesn't have to remember if they mailed in their payment, we do it for them. As a supporter, you know that your donation has gone where it is supposed to. We currently pay from 10-12 months per family, for approximately \$25K per family.

We also organize Bone Marrow Drives. Our goal is to get as many donor volunteers on the Caitlyn Raymond International Registry as possible. For every 48,000 people that we help place on the registry, there will be one family that finds their HERO, their HOPE. .

Our Mission is to give relief of financial burden during one of the most difficult times in a parent(s) life. As a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Charitable Organization, we hold various fundraisers throughout the year so that we can pay the necessities for a family while dealing with the medical crisis of their child.



Order your tickets **Now**
for the Dec. 5 , 2008
*Gold Ribbon Holiday
Reception*

508-380-1797

www.andrewshelpfulhands.org

