THIS ISSUE OF THE CCA NETWORK IS DEDICATED IN _ MEMORY OF STEPHANIE SUMPTER

ccanetwork

newsletter of the children's craniofacial association

Cher-national spokesperson

2014: Issue 1

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Children's Medical Charities of America



are we ever really in control? By Jackie Hafter

зу Јаскіе Натте

blew it. Well, sort of. Saturday night, we were sitting around the table after dinner. Gabriel was talking about the curriculum that he is developing for his class when they read the book, *Wonder*. (This book is phenomenal, and focuses on a kid with a syndrome similar to Gabriel's.)

He was discussing the part when the main character, Auggie, describes the beginning of his life. I am listening. The other kids are eating and talking. In my mind, I'm still overwhelmed by a character dying in the book that I am reading. In addition, I haven't slept well in six weeks while we have been tending to Gabriel's recovery from his third jaw distraction surgery.

And then it hits me. I should have been expecting it. Gabriel has been very passionate about *Wonder* and his connection

see **gabriel**, page 16

message from the executive director

e are very happy and proud to announce that on February 24, 2014, Children's Craniofacial Association began its 25th year of serving individuals and families affected by facial differences. I remember my first two weeks working for this organization. I had never heard the term craniofacial and had no clue what it was about. I was a volunteer for another organization that had a direct impact on my family. When this organization's executive director left to become the first executive director of International Craniofacial

> see **executive director**, page 8

empowering and giving hope to individuals and families affected by facial differences

CCAKIC meet preston dubray

reston DuBray is

eight years old and lives in Nebraska. He's in elementary school, where he has a great time interacting with his friends and saying "hi" to everyone. His favorite subject is music class. Preston also likes to do his schoolwork—and play games, watch shows and just about anything else on his iPad.

He is really close to his brothers, **Victor** and **Harry**. They like to play wrestling games, a lot, much to their mother's dismay. But Preston has a blast. When Harry has his little brother in a lock Mom says she just "looks the other way."

Preston likes to go to the park and visit a nearby farm, where he helps feed the animals, sometimes feeding the horses from his hand. He likes to watch some TV, and would watch the "Price Is Right" all day if Mom let him (which she doesn't). He loves the movie, Monsters Inc., and has just about every toy, gadget, shampoo, etc. associated with the franchise. He loves to go to Walmart, most likely because he knows that's where the toys

and all the *Monsters Inc.* goodies are.

He enjoys listening to music, and his all-time absolute favorite artist in the whole world is Carrie Underwood. He has multiple copies of all her CDs, and in 2009 got to meet her in person! Seeing Ms. Underwood and having his picture taken with her was a dream come true. In fact it was Make-A-Wish that helped make that magical event happen.

Preston and his family would like to go to the CCA annual retreat next summer, but he has to wait and see if he has surgery or not. (Preston was born with Pfeiffer syndrome.)

In the meantime, he is seeing a new team of therapists that are helping him enormously. He is learning to eat without a feeding tube; a big goal of his is to walk without his walker. He's getting there—he stood on his own recently, letting go of the counter. Way to go, Preston!



CCAAQUIT meet stephanie By Vicki Moore

Stephanie was born in Tucson, Arizona, and was diagnosed with Craniosynostosis at birth. She was missing bones in



her hands and feet and she was very small. Stephanie had her first craniofacial surgery at the age of 15 months. The doctors said she would have to wait until she was 19 years old to have any more surgeries because that would be when her skull was fully formed. There was a long period of time in her childhood when it felt like there was nothing that could be done for her condition. When she was 17, she developed epilepsy and that was one of the most difficult times in her life to get through. She has not had a seizure since 2008, and they are controlled. She is really happy about that!

Stephanie has always been active in Sunday school and most people who meet her say she has a lot of confidence and is very friendly to everyone. She enjoys swimming and going for walks by the lake. There is a new program sponsored by a respite service here that offers free bowling on Sunday afternoons. She is planning on doing a lot of bowling this year!

Her favorite song is "Story of my Life" by One Direction, and her



favorite movie this year was Monsters University. Stephanie loves to dance and go shopping and spends a lot of time socializing on Facebook. She is saving up for the CCA retreat in St. Louis and is really looking forward to meeting new peopleand of course the dance! Right now, her hair is just beginning to grow out again after last year's surgery and she likes to go to the hair salon and get it styled and have her eyebrows waxed.

Last year, she found an excellent doctor, Dr. Craig Hurst, at the University Medical Center, in Tucson. She is really happy with Dr. Hurst, and she knows that he will give her the best care possible. She has met a lot of friends on Facebook through CCA and church, and believes that anything is possible if you have faith. She works as a Sunday school aid at church, and she would like to get a job at Fry's in a couple of months.

Stephanie has faced a lot of disappointments in her life, but she has learned that each day is a new beginning with new people to meet! Most people are inspired by her smile through all the obstacles, and they say they have learned one very important lesson from her and that is to never give up!

meet harry dubray

i, I'm **Harry**, Preston DuBray's oldest brother.

I did not see Preston for about a month after he was born. But when I got to see him I just felt joy. The day he got home I was at my grandma's house. who lives next door. I can remember that day like it was yesterday. He was home and he was hooked up to a feeding tube. I was wondering what it was. My mom explained to me that he has to eat like that and then I asked why. She said because he can't eat with his mouth.

When he was three months old, he had to go to Denver for a surgery. I always felt sad when we went to Denver because I only got to see him for a little bit. Then, when he was two, we started going to Dallas for his surgeries; there I was able to spend a lot more time with him.

When I'm with Preston I feel like the luckiest big brother in the world. He is fun to play with and is a funny kid. He is my joy and the reason I want to wake up every morning. I help him get dressed and then we go to school. After school, we hang out in our room and play video games and just laugh over funny things. I'm proud to be his big brother.

My favorite movies are Remember the Titans and The Blindside, and my favorite TV show is Duck Dynasty. I love to play WWE 2k14 with my little brothers, and my hobbies include collecting football cards and watching and playing football.

i, I am Preston's older brother, **Victor**. When Preston was born, I could not see him for a long time. I did not care if he was different. He was my brother, and I loved him. Preston and I play games.

When we go to the store, people sometimes stare at Preston. I felt like

meet victor dubray

just because Preston was different people thought he was a freak. Some kids smiled and liked Preston. At the store one time a little kid waved at Preston and shook hands with him. When I saw that I was very happy. This was the first time Preston made a friend at the store. I love Preston no matter what he looks like.

My favorite movie is *Star Wars*. My favorite sport is baseball. My favorite food is watermelon. My favorite video game is Star Wars.

ccasupersibs

chocolate festival 2013

hat an incredible event this year's Chocolate Festival became. Not only did **Chef Rick Chiavari** and his team of chocolatiers and volunteers raise funds for CCA, they set a new Guinness World Record for the largest chocolate mousse!

Along with tasting the regular fare of chocolate delights, folks at **Aventura Mall** on

AVENT

Sunday, October 6, 2013, were treated to a dessert cup share of the 496-pound mousse! The recipe included a whopping 24 pounds of egg yolk, 108 pounds of chocolate, 20 pounds of sugar, 66 pounds of butter, 50 quarts of heavy cream and five gallons of milk.

The successful day brought in about **\$15,000** for CCA kids like Chef Rick's nephew **Seth**, to whom he and wife **Laurie** dedicate their involvement with CCA. CCA would like to thank them, along with their own grown and volunteering kids, **Kelsey** and **Brett** (Brett's restaurant, B.C. Cafe was also a sponsor), Aventura Mall and the many folks who helped make this, the Sixth Annual Chocolate Festival, possible: Chef Danny Malone; Monica Glukstad and Aventura Mall staff; employees of Turnberry Resort and Ocean Colony and volunteers: Renee, Sarah, Amy, Robin, Harley, Jamie, Denise, Leo, Elaine, Paige, Edna and **Sheree**; and, of course, all the other participating sponsoring restaurants and vendors: Churro Mania, Clarabelles, Color Me Mine/Alisa's Painted Bistro, Crepemaker, Dolce Peccati, Florida



International University, Ft. Lauderdale Art Institute, Mariners Sand Country Club, Munchcakes, P.A.C. Pastries, Porto Vita, Sugar Yummy Mamma, Sweet Tooth, The Daily Melt, Trazos Academy, Turnberry Isle, Turnberry Ocean Colony, and Veggie Express.

Thanks so very much one and all. And congratulations Guinness World Record breakers!

the fourth annual Rick's Raffle is underway. Founders of the fundraising effort, **Ann** and **Doug Burgin**, established the raffle in memory of their beloved grandson, CCA Kid, **Rick Dornier**.

Thomas the Tank Engine toys were among Rick's favorites, so the raffle prizes always have a Thomas theme. This year's prize is another **Deluxe Thomas Train Table**. And, included will be a Thomas Wooden Railway Engine Happy Birthday Special—a "Birthday Thomas" and a "Cake Cargo Car" that plays the Thomas & Friends theme song!

In accordance with the Burgin's wishes and also Rick's family, all funds raised will go toward CCA's Patient Financial Assistance program in Rick's name, to help families defray expenses while seeking medical care for craniofacial conditions.

Tickets are still just \$5 each, five tickets for \$20, or 15 tickets for \$50. Sales started February 14 and will continue through to the drawing of the winning

rick's raffle 2014

ticket on Rick's birthday, Friday, April 25.

You may use our regular online donation site to make a purchase by indicating "Rick's Raffle." Or call CCA at 214-570-9099 or 800-535-4643, or email Jill at jpatterson@ ccakids.com. And, please pass it on!

9th annual friends of jeremy golf tournament

The Dale Family, Back Row: Kristine and George Front Row: Tommy, Jeremy, and Cody

L to R: Frederick Seitz, Jeremy Dale and Ryan Gulich

he 9th Annual Friends of Jeremy Golf Tournament was held on Saturday, September 21st at the Corning Country Club in Corning, NY. And despite the very rainy weather, there was an incredible turn-out and overwhelming support from the community, our co-workers, friends and family. We are so grateful for the tremendous support of our 132 golfers and over 50 generous sponsors that helped to make the day a success! The tournament

included a raffle, silent auction, closest to the pin 50/50, closest to the line prize and a skins game. There was a special raffle for a 40" LCD TV and a Microsoft Surface. The silent auction included many autographed memorabilia including items from the NY Giants, New York Rangers, NY Knicks, Buffalo Bills and a Derek Jeter photo! The event was a huge success raising over \$30,000 for CCA!

Jeremy was again joined this year by fellow CCA kid **Ryan Gulich** and CCA adult **Frederick Seitz**! It is so wonderful to have CCA friends join us for the tournament each year. The golfers really enjoy seeing the kids from CCA! We are so grateful to everyone who supported this event and the kids

from CCA. For more information about the tournament visit <u>www.friendsofjeremy.com</u>.



ily's Fourth Annual Craniofacial Awareness Dinner was a huge success! Of course, true to her diva personality, she planned what she was wearing for three months before her special night.

More than 130 people attended, including **Lily** and three of her adorable CCA friends: **Hope**, **CeCe** and **Hailey**. We held the event at Bella Vista Reception Center in Lindon, UT on Saturday, November 9, 2013. We had a delicious dinner catered by Urban Pioneer Catering.

We are so grateful for our generous sponsors this year. A big thank you to **KLS Martin Group**, **D.R. Horton Homebuilders** and **Rocky Mountain Power**. We could not have held the event without their support. **Dr. Rodney Schmelzer** presented some information about craniofacial surgery and the importance of donating to CCA's cause. I had many comments about how caring, compassionate and sincere his speech was. It truly was an honor to have his presence and support.

The silent auction, as always, was the highlight of the evening. We had some fun items, such as artwork from Dowdle Folk Art, Southwest Airlines tickets, Little Giant Ladders, an autographed football from the Chicago Bears, many dinner gift certificates, stand-up paddleboarding, and many more fun and beautiful gift baskets. We raised **more than \$7,000** for Lily's cause.

Thank you to the many family, friends, donations and supporters this year. We truly are in awe of the support and love of everyone. It would not have been the same without each and every one of you! Thank You! Looking forward to next year!

sponsors needed for cher's family retreat!

n surveys CCA families have expressed to us that our retreat is the most important program we offer. Did you know it costs Children's Craniofacial Association approximately **\$100,000** to hold our Annual Family Retreat each June?!

From time to time we've had T-shirt sponsors. But, we are in need of more sponsors. If you know of anyone who might be interested in supporting this worthwhile program, please have them contact our office. Email **contact@ccakids.com** or call 800.535.3643.



executive director, from page 1

Foundation (CCA today), she asked if I'd like to come to work with them. So, on June 1, 1989, I entered into the world that would become my passion, where I would meet some of the nicest, smartest, bravest and most resourceful people, and where I would spend the next 25-plus years.

It seems amazing now to reflect on those early years. Families affected by craniofacial conditions had so many unmet needs; it was hard to know where to start. We listened to our families and started to develop our programs and services.

The first thing we did was obtain a toll-free number on which our families could call and connect with us since long distance calls were so expensive. The Internet wasn't mainstream back then, so families only found us through word of mouth, by the few craniofacial healthcare providers who knew about us or the rare occasions when we received press coverage. Thankfully, in the early 90s, because of Cher's involvement, we had a couple articles in widely read magazines, and she also appeared on the Maury Povich Show with four of our families.

So, word spread, but it spread slowly. In September 1990, CCA's founder, two craniofacial surgeons and 10 families testified before the House Budget Committee in Washington, DC. While there, families met with CCA's Spokesperson, Cher. When she heard families talk about how this was the first time they had spent time with other families who shared similar circumstances and how comforting it was, she suggested holding an annual meeting or camp. The next June 1991 the first ever Cher's Family Retreat was held in Orlando, Florida.

There seemed to be a few common threads we heard every time we talked to our families: frustration over not having information about the various craniofacial condition(s) their family members had, not knowing where to turn for medical care, and how expensive it was when they did find quality care miles away from home. If they could find information at all it was in medical journals and papers found in libraries written in medical jargon they were unable to easily understand.

Not only did the families not know where to seek quality craniofacial medical care, neither did the healthcare providers at their birthing hospitals nor their pediatricians. In fact we heard many times that their pediatricians couldn't make a diagnosis and it was only because of the "gut feeling" of a parent, that they pursued answers. And, even when they did find medical care they often had expensive, longdistance travel to receive it.

So it became pretty clear what our first programs would be. CCA started by providing the families with a list of the International Society of Craniofacial Surgeons (ISCS). This society was started by the doctors who studied under the "Father of Craniofacial Surgery," Dr. Paul Tessier of France. Members had to have completed a fellowship under an accepted craniofacial surgeon, worked with a craniofacial team of doctors, and performed a certain number of surgeries each year.

The financial assistance program was started to help families with food, travel and lodging when it was necessary to travel to the relatively few centers in the United States. And, in 1993 CCA printed its first two syndrome booklets, A Guide to Understanding Craniosynostosis and A Guide to Understanding Apert Syndrome, as well as the first CCA newsletter. In 1991 we changed the organization's name to Children's Craniofacial

Association to reflect the need to bring families aboard while their children are young so they can fully benefit from our programs and services during each stage of their lives.

Now, 25 years later, we've come full circle. We've raised a whole generation of CCA Kids many of whom continue to attend the retreat every year—and those young adults are now role models and mentors for the youngsters.

And, 25 years later, although technology has changed drastically, many fundamental needs for families affected by craniofacial conditions remain the same, and CCA continues to provide for those needs.

Cher is still CCA's Spokesperson, and in June 2014 we will hold our 24th Annual Cher's Family Retreat that now starts with a one-day Craniofacial Symposium where craniofacial team members in the retreat city, volunteer their expertise.

We now have 14 syndrome booklets in publication, have added 14 one-page overviews that describe syndromes and topics related to having a craniofacial condition, and our newsletter has grown from a 4-pager in 1993 with a distribution of a couple thousand, to 24 pages today with a distribution of around 14,000.

CCA is still providing a list of craniofacial surgeons who are members of the ISCS, albeit a muchexpanded list, and we are still providing financial assistance for families who must travel for their care.

We have a newly redesigned website, a blog, Wiki page, and Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest accounts. We have an extensive networking list, a very active yahoo group, as well as young adults and families who stay connected all year long through Facebook.

As we move into year 25 and beyond, our goal is to bring many more families on board. We started with just a handful in 1989, and today we serve over 7,000 families. But there are still many families who need to be made aware of CCA and what we can do for them. So we continue to spread awareness through our website, social media and our over 420 volunteers around the country who distribute information packets to local hospitals, healthcare providers and schools in their communities.

Though we would prefer it was not necessary for CCA to exist, as long as we *are* needed we will strive to serve all families that are affected. All the while, we continue to envision a world where all people are accepted for who they are, not how they look.

Char Smith

CCA Executive Director

registration is now open for 2014 annual cher's family retreat June 26-June 29 in St. Louis, MO

Please join us for an educational symposium, pool party, ice cream social, dinner/dance and much more!

For more information,

please contact Annie Reeves,

AReeves@ccakids.com

We hope to see you there!

Registration ends May 23, 2014.

calendar of events

2014

2014		
Apr 25	2nd Annual Texas Moms' All the Way for CCA Golf Tournament Battleground Golf Course Baytown, TX (Houston area)	e Becky White ledestiny@gmail.com
May 4 2-6PM	Chase's Quest Zumbathon Richmond Raceway Complex Richmond, VA	Carrie Ingram jcicai@msn.com
May 7-8	3rd Annual Morgan Meck's Match Play Invitational Coto de Caza Country Club Coto de Caza, CA <u>BMe</u>	ecklenburg@redwoodsgroup.com
Jun 26-29	24th Annual Cher's Family Retreat St. Louis, MO	AReeves@ccakids.com 214.570.9099 800.535.3643
Jul 12 8AM	2nd Annual "Miles for CCA Kids" Poker Run The Allen Wickers Pub & Grill Plano, TX	ewis.boykin@aggressiveusa.com
Jul 18-20	11th Moebius Syndrome Conference Bethesda, MD	www.moebiussyndrome.com 660.834.3406 plicht@yahoo.com
Aug	Jaci's Fundraising Effort TBA	Jaci Samhammer countrygirl28576@gmail.com
Aug 16	4th Annual Trevor's Trip to <u>kimtriz@msn.com</u> Triumph Motorcycle Ride for CCA Morganville, NJ	
September	10th Annual Craniofacial Acceptance Month Nationwide	AReeves@ccakids.com 214.570.9099 800.535.3643



pledge to kind choose kind inspired by #thewonderofwonder



thank you for choosing kind!

August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a facial difference that prevented him from going to a mainstream school—until now. He's about to enter 5th grade at Beecher Prep, and if you've ever been the new kid, then you know how hard that can be. The thing is Auggie's just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face. But can he convince his new classmates that

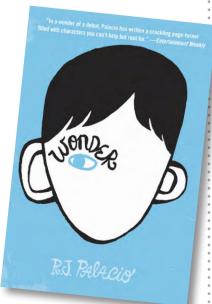
he's just like them, despite appearances?

CA is on a mission to spread the word about acceptance of facial differences and the book, *Wonder,* by R.J. Palacio has given us a perfect platform. The book promotes the message to "Choose Kind" and takes a stand against bullying.

CCA would like to see the "Choose Kind" campaign endorsed by schools across the country, and we are promoting a grass roots effort to make that happen. **If you have children between the ages of 9 to 13 we need your help.** First, please read the book, then share the book and supporting materials with your children's school(s). Educators are excited about *Wonder*, because not only does it have an anti-bullying message, but it also meets National Common Core Standards for K-12 Literature. In particular, the book meets the Character Component benchmark for 5th grade literature.

For more information on how you can help, contact <u>AReeves@</u> ccakids.com.

In addition to the book Wonder, "Choose Kind" Bookmarks, Buttons and Wristbands are available for purchase for personal use or to use as fundraisers. Order from CCA's Webstore or contact JPatterson@ ccakids.com.



Wonder is available at <u>ccakids.</u> <u>org/wonder.html</u> for \$12 Lindsay, Lentil and T.J. Dyson

go team lentil!

uppy power and a simple request from "Momma Bean" moved over 1,000 members of "Team Lentil" to donate over **\$27,000** to make sure more kiddos in local Philadelphia and all across the nation have an opportunity to experience our Annual Family Retreat. The program, considered by those we serve to be one of the most important services we offer, is held in a different city each June and the 2014 event will be in St. Louis, Missouri. Thank you **Team Lentil**, Lentil Bean and Momma Bean, Lindsay Condefer, for your caring support of our CCA Kids!

midwest holiday party

The annual CCA Midwest Holiday Party was held December 14, 2013, at the Parkway Chateau / Brat Stop in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Once again, the lunch fare included pizza and soft drinks followed by holiday desserts. Activities included holiday crafts lead by CCA mom, **Marla Verdone** from Janesville, Wisconsin, and plenty of visiting. Special thanks this year go out to **Lynn, Paul and**

Jessica Jaskowiak for helping us provide toys for Santa to give and to Jon Hansen (Santa) and his helper Erick Gorecki for traveling miles through the snow to join us after a last-minute cancellation. A good time was had by all. See you next year!



matching gifts

hildren's Craniofacial Association (CCA) provides support for patients and their families affected by facial differences resulting at birth, later in development, or from accident or disease. Support is provided through our programs and services at no charge so we rely heavily on your gifts to do this. We encourage you to consider maximizing the impact of your donations through your company's Matching Gifts program. Please contact your Human Resources department to see if your company will match your donations to double your contributions for CCA!

financial assistance

o you travel to receive quality medical care? If you do, and need financial help, CCA has a financial assistance program that will help with food, travel and/ or lodging. Call CCA for an application at **800.535.3643**. All we ask is that you **apply at least four to six weeks prior** to your next appointment.

pete's oktoberfest 2014

Pete's Oktoberfest took place October 11, 2013. The **Dankelson family** of Highland, Michigan (seasoned CCA volunteers) hosted friends and family attending from Michigan, Ohio, Missouri and Indiana for the second consecutive year.

Dede and **Darin Dankelson** wish to extend special thanks to:

- Shawn and Ellie Dankelson for bartending
- **Doug** and **Patty Ogg** of **Watkins Flowers** for donating the beautiful centerpieces for the raffle
- Dan and Jennifer Zamiara for donating Pepsi beverages
- Mr. Steve Suser of Sparkies Catering
- Prestwick Village Golf & Country Club
- Mrs. Helen Beaudry for chaperoning Peter and Jacob and selling raffle tickets

The weather cooperated nicely, providing a beautiful fall night for what turned out to be a very successful party—netting **\$5,000** for our CCA kids! Thanks, everyone!







gingertown dallas 2013

he 4th Annual **Gingertown Dallas** build was held December 3, 2013. The Olympic-themed creations, "Gingertown World Games," were displayed at NorthPark Center through December 8. Donation receptacles were available throughout the effort. Once again, all net proceeds from the auction of the delightful Olympic Village benefited CCA! Founders of the national one-of-a-

kind holiday initiative, Washington, DC–based **David M. Schwarz Architects**, cut a check for **\$8,211.61**, which was presented to CCA by NorthPark's management.

NorthPark Center, one of America's premier shopping destinations, prides itself in its ongoing commitment to the community and serves as host site for an array of important events throughout the year like this one. The Gingertown Dallas project brings together talent from more than 20 local design, engineering and construction firms to create a gingerbread town. Each handcrafted structure is auctioned to benefit a select children's charity.

The exposure and attention to our cause that CCA received during this effort helped us to spread awareness and understanding in the community, invaluable in fostering acceptance of facial differences and critical to our mission.

Everyone involved contributed toward this greater goal while raising much-needed dollars for our Patient Financial Assistance program.

Thank you Gingertown Dallas participants!

Find out more at Gingertown.org. Be sure to "Like" Gingertown Dallas on Facebook.

a living legacy

e wish we could thank those who thought ahead, arranging planned giving according to their wishes—many times without even telling us—all those who made the decision to champion CCA by leaving our charity in their will.



For this reason, we initiated the CCA Legacy Society, for those who wish to name Children's Craniofacial Association as a beneficiary. Through this effort, we will chronicle information about those who care for our future and the future wellbeing of our CCA kids.

If you wish to fill out a declaration form and become a legacy member, please contact us. If you have already set up a bequest in CCA's name, please allow us to include your intentions in our records, describing your gift of security for the future of Children's Craniofacial Association.

GO PAPERLESS and view the newsletter online in FULL COLOR! Email <u>AReeves@ccakids.com</u> and let her know you want to **save the environment and save money for CCA**.

Donate a Car, Boat or Motorhome to

children's craniofacial association

Free pick-up
Tax receipt given
Easy & convenient

Call Today Toll Free:

stephanie lee sumpter

The Sumpter family attended some of the first family retreats in Orlando, Florida.Stephanie Sumpter passed away on January 27, 2014 due to complications from the H1N1 virus. Stephanie was talkative, witty and funny, and had a deep and honest sense of compassion for others. At her eulogy, Stephanie's mother Twyla read a facebook post Stephanie originally wrote in 2009, and updated from her hospital bed on January 22, 2014. Following is Stephanie's post.

May 14, 2009 at 1:18pm

to fully grasp the beauty Lof a person you have to feel it; you can't see it. Everyone is so very different than the next we have to take time out of our lives to get to know someone. Imagine what possibilities we could be missing if we didn't stop and get to know someone only based on their appearance. If this were true, I wouldn't have the friends I do. Life is more than color, religious preference, social status, and political views.

Through many trials and tribulations I have gotten myself to where I am. I am who I am today because of the love and support of those who took the time, who didn't walk past me and wonder or come to their own conclusions.

My downfall is I have always been too open and caring. I think sometimes everyone WANTS to hear my story, sadly they don't. However, I am compelled to tell it because I feel everyone NEEDS to hear it. No one's life is perfect and we all have faults. I was born with a birth defect. I cannot change it, but it has changed me and molded me. I often wonder if I hadn't gone through the 35 plus surgeries that I have, would I be no different or better than those who walk by me? Would I be as ignorant?

The funny thing is, I am now 32 and have reconnected with a lot of old friends. Some I have missed terribly and some that were mere acquaintances. They all talk about how they wish they had gotten to know me better, because I am such a cool person. I am the same today as I was then, only a little wiser. In high school my friends told me after my final surgery, "Just think of all the guys you will get and the ones who didn't want you then will want you now." But if my insides are the same but my outside is different and they now want to be associated with me, I don't want to be associated with them.

I have lived my life this way for 32 years. Endured more emotionally than some will in their lifetimes, I pray. I am strong, I will admit, but this is not for the weak hearted. My emotions run high. Sometimes I can't understand why people wouldn't want to "hang out" with me. Then I look in the mirror, and remind myself that tomorrow is a new day and a chance to make a difference and to tell my story.

Not everyone is ignorant. Don't judge a person by how many friends they have but by the quality of those friends. I will not name any names here, but my best friend and I met in High School. We can just look at each other and know if something is wrong or right. We have been through so much together. Births, deaths, heart break—you name it—and she accepts me and I her, and for that I truly love her.

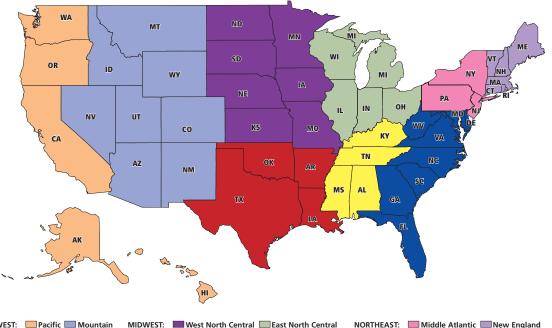
I remember growing up being embarrassed by myself. Having surgery after surgery, having to have my mom come to school to help me eat after another jaw surgery, or not being able to play in P.E. I think I was like in the 1st or 2nd grade before I truly realized I was different than everyone else. My difference is my heart is big, and my strength and determination were established at a young age. Pity is not what I want or look for, it's understanding, compassion for one another and respect. Don't look at someone and say what can they do for me but say what can I do for them. Pay it forward. A little act of kindness goes a long way.

My birth defect for those who don't know is not genetic, they don't know where or how it came to be. And if you think for a minute I don't or haven't questioned my existence once in a while you're nuts, but it's not up to me.

We are all like worker bees. Sent here for a purpose, but until that time comes we won't know what that purpose is or was. These are just random thoughts, not meant for anything or anyone. I just wanted to say what was on my mind at the moment.

Cherish those around you. You never know what tomorrow brings. Extend an invitation to someone you had been pondering about, you never know what joy you might find or might find you. Until next time, this is Stephanie saying, "Over and out!"

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ublic awareness about craniofacial conditions is important on several levels. It's important families find quality medical care, that healthcare professionals are aware of the special medical and emotional needs of children and adults with facial differences, the public understands and accepts facial differences and that individuals with facial differences are accepted.

CCA is looking for volunteers who will distribute educational materials throughout their communities. If you would like to help educate your community and take part in this National Awareness Effort, call or email CCA Program Director, Annie Reeves at 800-535-3643 or areeves@ccakids.com.

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to Auggie. He reads to me the part about Auggie's birth.

"Ima ('Mommy' in Hebrew), did you know I was different before I was born?" My eyes go wide. I sucked in my bottom lip and bit down so hard. I can't blink, I am straining so hard to keep the tears from falling, making everything in my line of sight go blurry. I see all the eager beautiful faces of my children just staring at me.

I think to myself. I have to respond. I have to hold it together. I have to not influence Gabriel to think anything that is hurtful or negative. I swallow hard.

I can't stop it.

I cover my eyes and the tears flood out. I'm trying to hide behind my hands, but the sights and sounds behind my hands deceive me. The kids all say, "What is wrong?" Aviva, his little sister, comes and rubs my back and says "Ima, take a deep breath" I laugh inside. Isn't that the same thing I have been saying to Gabriel, the same sentence I have used to coach him to cope over the weeks that have been passing by. I can't allow the laughter to escape me. I just choke out "Get Abba ('Father' in Hebrew)." I looked at the words blurring in my book and mumble about the book being sad and one of the characters dying.

Abba comes and hugs me. He tells Gabriel simply, "When you were born, we noticed that your ears bent over." Gabriel says, "Like Dumbo...." (He has always had a connection to Dumbo.) Abba continued, "Then we took you to a big children's hospital."

I studied Gabriel's face, took a deep unstable breath and began Gabriel's history like I remember it.

He was born and, yes, we noticed his ears and we noticed depressions in his face under his eyes, that we later learned was his lack of cheekbones. He was taken away to get cleaned and get oxygen. He looks up, questioning in his eyes. I told him he needed oxygen because the medicine that I had for the pain during delivery made his breathing slow down. He was the first one with his birth defect (Treacher Collins) in that hospital. The doctors and nurses didn't know what it was. The next day, a female Indian pediatrician with wild dark frizzy hair and a deep purple shirt, walked into my room with a huge textbook with a faded cover, yellowed-pages and old-looking type. I didn't read the words when she put it on my lap, just noticed the picture.

The pediatrician was so cold, hard and devoid of emotion, just like the faded book. Jay's anger boiled as my fears grew. He sent her away asking her never to return.

My doctor was there and soon sat on my bed. He told me he printed some information for me to read. He told me we would have to take Gabriel to a children's hospital. He tried to be comforting and kind.

I was left with these sheets of paper to explain our future. I remembered how we had to fight to get him released from the hospital. There was a neonatologist who had shoved a tube up Gabriel's nose without our consent. Jay was beside himself that this doctor could have harmed Gabriel and what had he been looking to find. Then, the doctor wouldn't release Gabriel without a CT scan. Jay started calling and fighting for what was in Gabriel's best interests.

Laughter formed inside me, as I relayed this information to Gabriel so many years later. This fight for Gabriel started just hours after he was born and has continued so many times to this day: Jay fighting. Jay finding the contacts to support his gut feelings and medical understanding. Jav advocating and taking on an added unnecessary burden to the emotions and fears that loomed inside of us. We took Gabriel to Children's Hospital in





Gabriel with his siblings: Gabriel, 11; Judah, 10; Aviva, 8; Sofia, 5

Philadelphia. We met with his surgeon who informed us of the future surgeries to his jaw and what complications may arise along the way. We met with his ENT discussing his potential hearing loss. And we met with the geneticists who confirmed Gabriel's diagnosis clinically. But we still needed a blood test to be sent to the only lab in the country that tests for his birth defect.

I explained the genetics to Gabriel. So boring to some, but so defining to our family. The lab needed to find the mutation (a feat compared to finding the one misspelled word in a random book in the Library of Congress). They were looking for a treacle protein deletion on the TCOF1 gene of the fifth chromosome, the one that defines the facial bones. My extremely science-proficient son drinks in this information and gets it.

Then we talked about percentages. Sixty percent of people with Treacher Collins syndrome get it spontaneously; 40 percent had it passed on by one of their parents. I didn't anticipate the natural question that would follow: What is the percentage of me passing it onto my children? Eyes wide and with the pain in my chest digging deeper, I hear myself choke out: "50 percent." I see Gabriel blink and calculate in his brain. He says, "Out of what?" I tell him 100 percent. I hear Judah, his little brother, say, "Wow! That is a high percentage." I scrape something nonexistent off my skirt and while still looking down I somehow manage to say we will discuss that more later.

And I push that part those fears, the emotions, the concern—deep down where it lives buried in my brain, tucked in so far that it will hopefully be a long time before it resurfaces. Gabriel, however, in those three seconds, processes this and says, "Well, that is a discussion you will have to have with my wife one day."

I look up at him wideeyed with my mouth gaping open. Months of postpartum therapy and antidepressants after Gabriel

was born, fretting about how to manage his to process if I was upset that I cried, happy that I can put the anticipation behind me, fearful of Gabriel's processing of this information or stunned as I so often am when reality stops me each time, even with 11 years of knowledge. What I am 100 percent certain about after our discussion is that Gabriel has grown to become an unbelievably

future and in three seconds,

he taught me a brilliant lesson. If only I had had a crystal ball when he was born to see that he would be the one to teach me how to cope with the future.

And that is how the discussion unfolded, the one I knew for the last 11 years would one day happen. I was not able confident, understanding, intelligent, determined, passionate, caring, kind and WONDERFUL kid, who just so happens to have Treacher Collins syndrome.

empowering children to cope with teasing

By Amy Smith • Child Life Specialist • Medical City Children's Hospital • Dallas, TX

teasing can happen to anyone, but some research indicates that children with disabilities are at a greater risk because teasing is usually about a visible difference. According to Ms. Joseph, social worker at Bloorview's neurodevelopmental program, "It's human nature to be curious, so from an early age children with disabilities need to be armed with the information to respond to questions, stares, and unkind comments." Parents and professionals play a critical role in preparing and empowering children with disabilities to cope with challenges of their chronic condition.

Talking with children about their facial difference can be a powerful beginning for more discussions regarding feelings and expectations for the future. It's important to use developmentally appropriate language and concepts children can understand. For example, preschool age children may learn about differences best by understanding differences around them. For example, parents can point out differences such as: some dogs have short legs and some have long legs. Whereas school age children may understand simple explanations, but have guestions about the causes. Such as, "Do other children have these differences?" Is the condition permanent?" In order to come to terms with the condition, children need the opportunity to ask questions, take an active role in self-care, and learn how other children cope with their feelings and condition.

Adolescents need to make the decision about how much or little information they want to disclose to different people. Being involved in decisions regarding possible options is also essential for this age group because this control will foster relationships, increase compliance, and improve self-esteem. Children who learn, practice, and utilize strategies in teasing situations will cope more easily, and have less feelings of helplessness. Ms. Freedman, author of Easing the Teasing: How Parents Can Help Their Children says, "Teasing cannot be prevented, and children cannot control what others say; however, they can learn to control their own reactions."

The following are effective strategies developed by Ms. Freedman to be utilized in teasing situations, which can strengthen coping skills. The self-talk strategy encourages the child being teased to think of positive attributes about themselves. For example the child could say, "Whose opinion is more important, the teaser's or mine?" A teaser is seeking a reaction, so ignoring the teaser can also be very effective. Children should be encouraged to role-play walking away or pretending like they are invisible to show they are ignoring the teaser. Reframing is another way to cope with teasing. For example, if a teaser is calling a child "four eyes" that child can respond back with "thanks for noticing my glasses." Yet another coping strategy is using the "I" message in which children express how they feel and what they want changed. For example, "I feel upset when you call me brace face and I would like you to stop." Other strategies include visualization in which the child pretends to have a protective shield that makes the teasing comments bounce off. Sometimes adult intervention is necessary so children need to know it is okay to ask for help. Strategies that are effective in one teasing situation may not be in all situations. It is important for children to practice possible responses to teasing that they plan to utilize in teasing situations.

Tips for parents to help children cope with differences

- Show your love and acceptance of your child's facial difference by smiling, being physically close, touching your child, especially his or her face and by making eye contact.
- Tell your child about their facial difference in simple, honest words they can understand, emphasizing it's nobody's fault and at the same time pointing out strengths.
- Support your child's efforts in developing friendships by encouraging sharing, giving, fairness, kindness and consideration.

- Help your child make a simple plan to respond to questions or comments. A simple, matter of fact explanation such as "I was born this way" or "This is just the way I am" is sufficient for most children.
- Brainstorm together a list of possible questions to anticipate from children: "How did it happen?" "Can I catch it?" "What is it?" "Will it go away?"
- Help your child understand they are not alone by introducing him/her to other children who share similar experiences.
- Children need the control of how much or little they want to disclose to different people depending on how they feel at that time.
- Communicate with your child's teacher throughout the school year to explain any medical limitations and ways to enhance learning.
- Discuss with your child why some children ask questions or make comments about their differences. Help your child to understand for the most part other children are just curious and do not mean to be hurtful.
- If your child is teased, help him or her to problem solve how to handle the situation with a positive response.
- Practice and role-play with your child different strategies to use in teasing situations.
- Allow older children an active role in surgical decisionmaking to help your child feel he or she has a say and that their opinion is valued.
- Your young child may want to present information such as a show and tell session in their classroom about their facial difference.
- It is human nature to protect your child from stressful situations; however, when children try new things they gain confidence and obtain the skills necessary to be successful in life.
- Consult with a child psychologist or social worker for additional support and resources.

Books for children and parents

- *The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Teasing* by Stan & Jan Berenstain
- Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henken
- Anansi and the Talkling Melon by Eric A. Kimmel
- Princess Penelope's Parrot by Helen Lester
- Snail Started It by Katja Reider & Angela von Roehl

- Easing the Teasing: Helping your child cope with namecalling, ridicule, and verbal bullying by Judy S. Freedman
- Bullies are a Pain in the Brain by Trevor Romain
- What to do...when kids are mean to your child, Parenting Guides, vol. 1 by Erin McCoy
- How to Handle Bullies, Teasers and other Meanies: A book that takes the nuisance out of name calling & other nonsense by Kate Cohen-Posey, & Betsy A. Lampe
- Stick up for yourself. Every Kid's Guide to Personal Power and Positive Self-Esteem by Gershen Kaufman, & Leu Raphael

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Kelli Agnich, for Deena Dyson Anonymous, in honor of Nathan Anderson Anonymous, in honor of Teresa Joy Dyson Anonymous, for Jon & Jesse Anonymous, in honor of Robin Nichol Anonymous, in honor of Sheila Romano Anonymous, in honor of Randi Rush Anonymous, in memory of Tom scally Anonymous, in honor of Max Labrador Weinraub

Chris Abel, in honor of Max Abel Leslie Bagwell, in honor of Brian, Edward,

& Leslie Michael Bannon, in honor of Dr. Jeffrey Fearon

Thatcher Bartlett, in honor of John Gorman Susanne & John Benjamin, in honor of Jeremy Dale

Charles William Bluman, in honor of Seth Swihart/Seth's Stride Margaret Bordonaro, in honor of Jill Patterson's birthday Veronique Boyd, in honor of the kids Christine Brocco, in honor of Lindsay Condefer & Lentil Bean Joe Brooks, in honor of Jill Patterson's birthdav Kristin Byington, in honor of Teresa Dyson Krista Carleson, in honor of Teresa Joy Dyson for TCS John Clark, in honor of Christine Clark Jessica Clayton, in honor of Sydney Rose Ford Sandra Cloninger, in memory of James Carson Gerard & Karen Cruso, in honor of the wedding of Marissa & Ryan Kopke Mollie Cummins, in honor of Royal Gonzalez' Birthday Joann Cundiff, in honor of Irvin Brewin III & in memory of Ruby Bigelbach Judith Cunningham, in honor of the Dinsmore family Jeremy Dale's Teacher's retirement collection donated in his name Judith Dano, in honor of Connor Carlisle's birthday Dede Dankelson, in honor of CCA Kids Dede Dankelson, in memory of Paige Leflar Dede Dankelson, in memory of Gavin Mohney John Dean, in honor of John Gorman Detroit Medical Center, in honor of the Dankelson Family Linda Dietz, in memory of Brian E. Leslie Directed Technologies, in honor of Irene Tunidas Chelsee Dodd, in honor of Randi Rush Tama Eichen, in honor of T.J. Dyson Steve & Joan Elder, in honor of Peter Dankelson Christine Eppinger, in honor of Wade Smith's 5 year's at Structural M. Brian Evans, in honor of Erica Mossholder Danielle Fabre, in honor of Henry Johnson Jeffrey Fearon, MD, in honor of his colleagues Alice & David Fernlius, in memory of Brian Leslie Deborah Fogg, in honor of Sheila Romano Alison Galbraith, on behalf of Lila Sox Robert Gannon, in honor of Emerald Rain Demor Terri Graupner, in honor of Scott Guzzo's 30th Birthday Raynold & Karen Griff, in memory of Brian F Leslie Mat Gruen, in honor of Angela Harper Kimberly Haycraft, in honor of the Greer Family Denyse Halperin, in honor of John Gorman Jackie Halpin-Osteen, in honor of John Gorman Kenneth & Ardis Hasenbeck, in memory of James Carsen for Luke Bowen Arleen Heirty, in memory of Walt Frye Arleen Heirty, in memory of Richard Johnsen Arleen Heirty, in memory of Jerry Kane Arleen Heirty, in memory of Brian Oliva Arleen Heirty, in memory of Marcie Seeger Arleen Heirty, in memory of Frank Whittle Tracy Holloway, in honor of Nathan Anderson James W. Holbrook, in honor of John Gorman Max Horton, on behalf of Luke Bowen, in memory of his great-grandfather, James E. Carson Jerome & Kay Hughes, in memory of Brian E. Leslie Mary L. Hughson, in honor of Ryan Gulich Michael Kirk, in honor of Scott Guzzo's 30th

Bell Mortgage, in honor of Maddie Jurek

Gary & Kay Leslie, in memory of Brian Leslie In Honor of Joe Brooks' Janice Liddic, in honor of Marjorie Rosencrance

Jefferson Lumber & Millwork, in honor of Avery Lytle

Ann & Don Lucas, in honor of Ann & Don's 48th Anniversary Ann & Don Lucas, in honor of Brody Lucas/

Be Brody's Angel Ann Lucas, in honor of Don's Birthday Emily Lukowski, in memory of Steven

Havcraft Molly Lund, in honor of John Havcraft

Scott Lundy, in honor of Judy Lundy, Ron Lundy, Lois Harter & Geoff Harter

Mary Lytle, in honor of Avery Lytle James & JoAnn Maddock, in honor of Shierry Doe Lance Laugharn

Barbara Mann, in honor of Lindsay Condefer and Lentil

Kimberly Martin, in memory of Ellery Walker Susan Martin, in memory Ellery Walker Victoria Mata, in honor of Salem Mickley Ellen McPadden, in honor of Jeremy Dale Modesto Kitchen and Bath, in honor of

Henry Johnson Alison Morrissey, in honor of Jill Patterson's birthday

Beverly Murphree, in honor of Shierry Langharn Beverly Murphree, in honor of JoAnn

Maddock Robin Nichols, in honor of Shierry Doe Lance Langharn

Robin Nichols, in honor of JoAnn Maddock Diane Parker, in honor of Shierry Doe Lance Langharn

Diane Parker, in honor of JoAnn Maddock Janice Phillips, in honor of her granddaughter

Andrew & Andrea Potash, in honor of Bill

Mecklenburg Doug & Shelly Potter, in honor of Luke

Bowen Patricia Prater, in memory of Brian Leslie Christie Ray, in honor of Sadie Bono Jessica Raisch, in honor of daughter, Preslee

Rose Jodi Reinert, in honor of Jill Patterson's birthday Linda Repp, in memory of Gavin Mohney

Andrea Richard, D.O., in honor of Tadd, Erica & Harry Redmann

Robin Rush, in honor of August Pullman and Randi Rush Cheryl Schmidt, in honor of Randi Rush

Michael Schnur, for Morgan Mecklenburg Clark Schuler, in honor of Nathan and Owen

Raymond Scotto, in honor of Bill Mecklenburg

Dale Shephard, in honor of Megan Cronin Charlene & John Smith, in honor of Ron

Janet Smith, for Donovan Godfrey Laura Smith, in memory of James E. Carson for his great-grandson, Luke Bowen

Gary Uttke, in memory of George Harter Versaillies Education Association, in honor of Peter Dankelson

Ken Vesey, in honor of Peter Dankelson Priscilla Voss, in honor of the Meck Family Emalee Walker, in honor of JoAnn Maddock Max White, in honor of Wade T. White Barbara Wiedenman, in memory of Jennifer Walker

Ann Williams, in honor of Teresa Joy Dyson Deidra Wilson, in memory of James E. Carson for Luke Bowen

Marty & Mike Willson, in honor of Avery Lytle David Wolfe, in honor of Channing Dickson Ann Marie Wood, in honor of Teresa Joy Dyson

Cathy Wright, in honor of Shierry Doe Laugharn

Cathy Wright, in honor of JoAnn Maddock

Birthday

Anonymous Michelle Bridgins Debra Clark Patricia Cook Maureen Iredell Kelli McBride Jill Patterson Tiffany Quevedo Annie Reeves Rose Seitz Char Smith Becky White

In Honor of Annie Reeves Birthdav

Mario Adamo Krysta Anderson Anonymous Michelle Bridgins Joe Brooks Michelle Gonzales Kellie Griffin Lana Humphreys Christopher Jones Patsy Jones Kelly McDade Jill Patterson Karin Perry Jennifer Powell Colleen Reinert Jodi Reinert Nicole Reinert Sayler Rose Seitz

In Honor of Cher's Birthday Beth Ann Amaral

Sharon Allbright Lou Anderson Anonymous Larry Armstrong Dominique Baillot Chrissy Barrett Sheryl Barkas Davide Bonati Karen Campbell Larry Carpenter Anthony Cimolo Alice Covil Emma Dawson Suzanne Dolby-Dawson Brandon Elrod Iill Emerson Michael Fitta Travis Fountain Nancy Franzese Scott Greenwood Nina Hagen Courtney Hart Delores Horton Brian Krassa Manuela Kubisch Temuri Latsuzbaya Vanessa Martinez Debra Matera Darren Matthews Keith Miller Sheri Muha Betina Nelz Janet Novick Alena Palamarchuk Jill Patterson Robert Radmore Brian Reichel Rene Rodriguez Kerrie Rogers Jonsie Ross Michelle Ross Julie Simpson Mark Allen Smith Carrie Trask Doug Wemple

In Honor of Arleen Heirty's 75th Birthday

Dan & Rosemarie Alexander Anonymous Susan & Richard Austin

William Bogdan B. Tina Bouzarielos Pamela Fenning Gregory Fenton Merlyn Fessler Deborah Fogg Margaret Gawlik Arleen Heirty Karen & Kevin Irvine Thomas & Kathleen Johnson JoAnn & Kenneth Mathis Barbara Pritchard John Puetz Leatrice Shay Connie Sweeney

In Memory of Rick Dornier

/ Rick's Raffle Timothy & Glenda Ballard Melanie Benedict David & Helene Bergin Robert & Julia Boyce Martha Brown Robby & Linda Brown John Burgin Jimmy & Beverly Butera Chad & Shannon D'Gerolamo Sue Dunn Mary Lib Guercio Brenda Hargrove Sheryl Harrison Margaret & Michael Hogan Joshua & Kelly Kent Paul Kyle Penny McKee Lipsey's Debra Lloyd Roseann Opdyke Jill & Greg Patterson Jana Peace Jodi Reinert Marie Rourke Phyllis Saucier Laurie Scimeca Jeff & Pat Sharpe Lorraine Socha Marie Sylvester Tosha & Nathan Walker Julie Warren Amanda & William Willett Eric & Charlene Williamson

In Memory of Debra

Kassack Anonymous

Ellen & Steven Baliff Andrew Blumenthal Barbara & David Blumenthal Michael & Jane Cohn Alvson Distel Jon Hayes & Colleen Sommer-Hayes Lawrence Krame Lenore & Allen Kulek Yvette & Walter Myers Denise Paley Andrea Pittari Barbra Stanislawczk Jessica Wasserman

In Memory of Paul Mattison

Bonjulie's Inc. Dana Gotham Hardinge Employees Marie Heher David Kane Clair Marquart Susan M. Kucko William & Mary Jane Kucko H. Mattison Roxanne & Philip Ragan Michael Spirawk Carol Taber

In Memory of Evan Joseph Meder

Annie Agard Anonymous Ronald & Barbara Arneson David & Ritalyn Arps

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Anderson Micetic

Birthday

Tracy Kraft, in honor of Scott Guzzo's 30th Birthday

Brian Krassa, in honor of Cher's Lovelies/ Cher Crew

Tamara Laugharn, in honor of JoAnn Maddock's birthday

Paul & Fran Leatherwood, in honor of Char

Smith

Matthew & Judith Boort Troy & Christine Buettner CCA Staff Robert & Kay Clausen Linda Curl John & Margaret Dalton Nicole Doebert Emerald Heart Productions Karen Eclavea Christine & Todd Freigien Jackie Frosch Green Bay Foundation Gregory & Carol Griffin William & Dorothy Hamre Kia & John Hauter Paul & Pamela Heiser Kenneth & Audrey Hindman Rosemarie & Michael Hogan Barbara Ellen Huebner Elizabeth Jackson James & Phyllis Johns William Johnson Annette Lee Karen Manion Joan Mathison Susan McGinnity Patricia McKloskey Randall & Margaret Meder Dale & Denise Mekash A.William Meo Shirley Petasek Carl & Susan Romey Sarellen Schuh William Schultz Schwab Charitable Fund Emily Slavek Stuart & Beverly Smith Edith Sylvester Mary Tejeda Danny & Jacqueline Trochil Heath & Lisa Urick Jean Vandehey Deborah Van Pay John & Dawn Walczyk Wendy & Anders Ward Stanley & Anne Way Annette Zernike

In Memory of John Moulton

Anonymous Classmate toward retreat scholarships Cap'n Am's Cottages Janice Cook Dede Dankelson Julie Geller Melissa Jurek Orland McPherson Naval Lodge #184 A.F. and A.M. Jill & Greg Patterson Jana & Hugh Peace Annie & Tommy Reeves Sales Proceeds of John's CDs St. Aspinquid Lodge 198 Char & John Smith

In Memory of Cynthia & J. **Bowling Wills**

Anonymous, in memory of James Wills Gloria Dawber, in memory of J. Bowling Wills J.P. Fairey, in memory of J. Bowling Wills Carl & Julia Feichtel, in memory of J. Bowling Wills Mary Funari, in loving memory of Bow & Cynthia Wills Raymond Kaelin, in memory of James Wills Aunt Gloria, Jeffrey, John, Victoria Kemp & Olivia Wills, in memory of Bowling & Cynthia Wills Stefanie & Richard Knauss, in memory of J. **Bowling Wills** Charlotte Kowitch, in memory of J. Bowling Wills Louis & Mary Ann Lucchetti, in memory of J. Bowling Wills Carl & Mary Maio, in memory of Cynthia Wills Carl & Mary Maio, in memory of J. Bowling

Wills

Rev. Gerald Miller, in memory of J. Bowling Wills Susan Miller, in memory of James Wills Bruno Morabito, in memory of James Wills Margaret Post, in memory of James Wills Elissa Siegel, in memory of Bow Wills Paul & Denise Silverman, in memory of

James Wills Charles & Holly Weillbrenner, in memory of James Wills Reed Wills, in memory of James Wills

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Up to \$1,000 American Legion 50/50 Raffle / Jaci Samhammer Thatcher Bartlett's Birthday / Bartlett Family CCA Wristband Sales / Lucas Family Kids Connor's Birthday Donation / Connor Carlisle City of Shelton Mohegan School / Wonder Funder/ Students Dannemora Credit Union Jean Day / Heather Rancour Greenwich Academy Bake Sale / Wonder Funder / Students Indoor Flea Market / Anjolene Whaley Jaylin's Birthday Donation / Davila Family Lake Highlands Wonder Funder in honor of Sadie Bono Lake Highlands Book Club Cluster Wondergram Sale Pampered Chef Funder / Jennifer Lucas, Hostess Scentsy Funder / Bev Grim CF Picnic Funder for CCA / Central Christian Church, Waco, TX / Mickley Family Lila's Lemonade / Lila & Ethan Plummer 31 Funder in honor of Connor Carlisle Blue Jeans Funder toward 2014 Retreat / Team Lentil Hannah Twedt's Summer Fundraising / Hannah Twedt \$1,000-\$5,000 Arleen Heirty's 75th Birthday / Sheila Romano Chance Raffle / Retreat Attendee Families Lovelies Birthday Surprise for Cher / Jill Emerson "Miles For CCA Kids" Poker Run / Lewis

Quilt Raffle / CCA Families & Friends Rick's Raffle / CCA by Burgin/Dornier Families "I Support Lola's Voice" Benefit Walk / LaTonya Williams Sadie's Night at the Ballpark / Bono Family, Gorman Family T.J.'s Spa Day for CCA raffle / Teresa Joy & Deena Dyson Annie's Birthday Wish for CCA / Annie Reeves, CCA Program Director \$5,000 or more Owen Anderson's Fundraising Effort at Stevi

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Boykin, Frank Leach

Fling proceeds

B's Restaurant / Owen Anderson & Family Lily's Dinner / Tosha & Nathan Walker Raegan's Rally / Ashley & Boz Daugherty & family with Raegan Daugherty Scott Guzzo's 30th Birthday Celebration Funder / Guzzo Family Seth's Stride / Stacy & Barry Horne with Seth Swihart 3rd Annual Trevor's Trip to Triumph Ride / Trzanowski-Larys Family

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\$50,000 or more

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inquiring, found out that each year they let one of their children pick a charitable cause for the family to support. This time, their daughter, **Emma** chose CCA after having read

the book, *Wonder*, at her school, **Greenwich Academy**, and having helped with a bake sale for which the proceeds were donated to CCA last fall! In fact, Emma didn't realize it, but her image had already graced our pages in the photo that accompanied that article in our last issue! Special thanks to Emma and her family, our 2014, issue one, "Donors in the Spotlight."



donors in the spotlight

This first issue of 2014, we want to call attention to new donors for Children's Craniofacial Association, the **Carney family**, of New Canaan, CT, who sent a year-end gift around the holidays and then surprised us by having it matched **200%** by Mr. Carney's firm, **The Warburg Pincus Foundation**! We just had to ask how all of this came about and upon