

Friend to Friend

No Rainee Days for a Brave Little Girl

ST. LOUIS - **Rainee Arnold**, 7, has been battling Aplastic Anemia for almost three years. This disease has prevented her from doing some of the normal childhood things that most of us take for granted; such as simply going to the local playground.

Friends purchased the backyard playground set for Rainee and her family from **Ellen's Fund** (see page 3), as well as arranged for it to be put together. **Tom Lynch**, a *Friends* Board Member, was able to get workers from his Lion's Club to construct the playground set. This has enabled Rainee to cherish the experience of swing sets, playhouses, a slide and so much more, all from the safety of her own backyard!

"This has been a really long road for



Rainee," said **Stacy Arnold**, her mother. "We are very fortunate to have someone like *Friends* to help us along the way."

Rainee recently completed a bone marrow transplant that has given her a second chance at a normal life. While her body is still



adjusting from the ordeal, it has not stopped her from enjoying her brand new playset as much as possible.



Families Discover a New World at the Magic House

KIRKWOOD, MO - With the renovation and expansion of the **Magic House** opening this year, patients and their families were introduced to a whole new world of discovery; from a three-story rainforest to a revolving fireplace right out of a Sherlock Holmes mystery.

Kids, siblings, parents, grandparents and a lot of *Friends* were on hand to enjoy a night out at the Magic House. Hot dogs and burgers, provided by **Hanlan's Meat Market**, were only the start as families filed in the door. **North Star** popsicles, as well as snowcones, popcorn and the ever popular snake man from **Santa Needs Help**

volunteers, were waiting outside every new adventure the Magic House offered.

With the kids occupied in fairy tales and face paint, parents were able to relax and catch up with each other. Being able to let the kids have fun and take some time to themselves is important, and this event provides that every year.

Friends also raffled off two brand new mountain bikes at the event. Congratulations to **Colby Wideman** and **Regina Gregory** on winning the new bikes!

Thank you to the **Talx Corporation** for sponsoring this event and providing the volunteers to make it so successful. Also, thank you to **Kris and Emily Arneson** for co-chairing the event committee.



pssst...
What's
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Friends of Kids with Cancer

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Friends of Kids with Cancer is devoted to enriching the daily lives of children undergoing treatment for cancer and blood related diseases.

Our mission is to be an advocate for these special kids and provide them and their families with the recreational, educational, and emotional support needed throughout the long hours of chemotherapy, illness and isolation.

A Message from the President

Hello Friends,

What a great turnout we had for our annual spring events: the Walk with a Friend and the Golf Tournament. In both cases, we were blessed with good weather, good friends and family, and generous supporters.

We would like to thank you for turning out in full force to support our great kids. Because of your loyalty and generosity, we continue to provide quality tutoring and therapy programs, as well as lots of toys and fun events. Thanks for all you do.

All the best,
Kathy Richey
 President



Board Member Mary Mercurio wins St. Louis Business Journal CFO of the Year Award



Friends of Kids with Cancer's own Mary Mercurio has been named CFO of the Year for Small Private Companies by the St. Louis Business

Journal. Here is an excerpt from it: "Both in the forefront and behind the scenes, CFO Mary Mercurio has helped build Gundaker Commercial into one of St. Louis' largest commercial developers.

Mercurio is front and center, working with municipalities to establish escrow accounts and prepare financial documents for multi-family developments throughout the St. Louis region.

'Many CFOs are not known for their gregarious nature,' said President and Chief Executive Mike Hejna. 'Mary is a warm, inviting person with a great sense of humor.'"

We would like to congratulate Mary for her well-deserved accomplishment. We feel very fortunate that we have her as the Treasurer of our organization. Thank you for the time and the effort that you give to Friends while maintaining this high level of excellence.

Board Member Spotlight

Allen Brockman

As one of the original Board Members now in his second term as Vice President of our Board of Directors, **Allen Brockman** continues to provide quality leadership and a dedication to the *Friends of Kids with Cancer* mission. This passion has brought *Friends* another outlet to continue our mission.

Camp Rainbow began in 1988 with 28 campers and counselors with 15 staff members. and has since helped thousands of kids. Allen and his wife **Ronnie** were inspired to start Camp Rainbow after visiting children in the hospital and hearing that they wanted to go to camp with their friends.

"Camp Rainbow is a magical place where campers, counselors, unit heads, staff, nurses and doctors come as individuals and over the week form a strong community," said Allen.

Camp is held at the Babler Outdoor Education Center at **Babler State Park** in Chesterfield. *Friends* contributes arts and crafts materials, and plans a weeklong project for the kids to complete in their time there.

Camp and *Friends* create a place where each child can see how wonderful they really are. Both are strategic partners who work together by helping kids with cancer...be kids!



Hats On Day Takes on a New Partner - Casual for Kids



The oldest ongoing fundraiser at *Friends of Kids with Cancer*, **Hats On Day**, which was created in honor of Kevin Beffa in 1995, has been steadily growing over the years. Schools all over St. Louis and the surrounding areas have embraced this fun and educational way to help kids with cancer...be kids!

This groundbreaking program has been reaching out to local businesses to participate in Hats On Day, with places such as Heartland Bank and Fabick Cat getting in on the fun. Now, a new take on a classic promotion, casual Fridays, allows businesses to participate without wearing a hat. **"Casual for Kids"** was created by **Nikki Brewer** of **Baumann Property Co.** and has been successful so far.

Many offices around town already have similar programs for *Friends*, such as "Casual for a Cause" at Copying Concepts and The Koman Group. Here is what **Herb Baumann**, CEO, says about the program at his company:

"My employees were pressing me for a casual dress code on Fridays. When Nikki Brewer, my office manager, told me they were willing to donate money each week to Friends of Kids with Cancer in order to dress down, I said, why not. From there we set up auto-deduction through ADP payroll and we were off and running. Rick Lommel came up with the name "Casual for Kids" and now we have almost 100% participation from our employees. It's easy to administer and for a great cause. We collect from as little as \$1 a week from participating employees and some give much more each week. They never see it so they don't really miss it and they know it goes to put a smile on the face of a child in need."



Rick Lommel and Nikki Brewer of Baumann Property Co.

To find out more on how to be a part of this new program, at no cost to you or your business, please call the Friends Office at 314-275-7440.

Program Spotlight

Ellen's Fund

Ellen's Fund was created in memory of **Ellen Henry**, daughter of **Rick and Molly Henry**. They helped start *Friends of Kids with Cancer* back in 1992 after going through treatment with Ellen, who passed away at the

tender age of two. Rick and Molly continue to serve as Board Members today.

The fund began with a donation in 1997 from **Joseph and Mary Ellen Mooney**, Ellen's grandparents. It now serves as a supplementary recreational source of funding for projects such as Rainee Arnold's playground set (see Front Page). We are proud to honor Ellen's memory with this special fund, as it continues to help our organization reach out to kids battling cancer and their families.



Ellen Henry

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Walk with a Friend is Becoming a Family Tradition!

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ST. LOUIS, April 25th - The 9th Annual *Friends of Kids with Cancer* "Walk with a Friend at Sunrise Celebration" welcomed almost 1,000 participants to Maryville Centre and raised \$40,000!

Thank you to **Duke Realty**, **First Watch**, **Bender Inc**, and all the volunteers and participants that made this event a major success. Also, a big thanks to the 2009 Walk Committee, especially co-chairs **Chuck McDonnal** and **Debra Patterson**

Family teams were the talk of the Walk again, with **Lauren's F.A.R.T. Team (Friends and Relatives Together)**, **Connor's Team** and **Nick's Army** out in full force. A first-time team made a huge impression in 2009, with **C.J.'s Journey** bringing almost 100 family members and friends out to celebrate the Walk along with **C.J. Aubuchon's** life and 19th birthday.

"This event has become an important way for families to show their support for kids with cancer," said **Judy Ciapciak**, Executive Director of *Friends*. "Banners, signs, t-shirts and lots of family and friends honor kids in treatment and remember those we have lost."



Want more Walk?
friendsofkids.com



2009 Walk Sponsors:

Olympic Champions:

Duke Realty • First Watch
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 Jake's Crew • Nick's Army • Kailey's Krew

Dear Friends of Kids with Cancer,

Tonight we went to the event at the Magic House. My son Jacob (who is 2 has A.L.L.) and his sisters Grace and Sarah were OVERJOYED at all the fun things! There were so many nice people who "catered" to them too, with popcorn, snow cones, and snakes! The snakes were a favorite for sure! It was a very special evening for all of them! It meant the world to me (mommy) to watch Jacob get his courage and strength back and to watch him climb everything his sisters did! I want thank you from the bottom of my heart for bringing such big smiles and joy to them! It made a wonderful memory! Thank you so very much to all.
 -Jacob's Mommy

From the
MAIL BAG



Fresh Faces A new generation of Friends

Friends of Kids with Cancer is interested in starting a "Young Friends Board" group of burgeoning St. Louisans who want to be involved in something important in their community. You can help us put a smile on the face of a child battling cancer.

If you would like to be a part of the "Friends" Family, give us a call at 314-275-7440, or email us at friends@friendsofkids.com

Help kids with cancer...be kids!



'09 Golf Tournament

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ST. CHARLES, MO - The clouds parted and the sun shone down brightly on the **2009 Golf Tournament**. Thank you to our sponsors, golfers, volunteers and all who supported the 2009 Golf Tournament. You helped us raise **\$125,000!!**

A special thanks to our title sponsor, **Waste Management**, our co-chairs for the event, **Rick Lommel** and **Bob Nuelle**, as well as everyone on the '09 Golf & Auction Committee. This would not have been possible without you!



Golf brings back "Friends" Alumni



Brooke Nicholson and Luke Weaver

One of the highlights from the 2009 *Friends of Kids with Cancer* Golf Tournament was seeing some familiar faces and making new Friends.

Three patients came out to **Whitmoor Country Club** to be a part of our 11th Annual Golf Tournament. **Taylor Rozier**, 16, volunteered with her mom, **Lisa**, at the

North Star station. They both were able to see her father in action out on the course as well, as he was a participant in this year's tournament. Taylor was recently seen at the 2008 Fashion Show as one of our models. **Luke Weaver**, 19, played a round of golf at Whitmoor, marking one year since he was at our 2008 tournament as the featured speaker. Also, **Brooke Nicholson**, 15, made his first appearance at the event as our featured speaker, along with his mom and sister.

Thank you to these three brave kids who showed everyone why we love helping kids with cancer...be kids!



Taylor Rozier and her mom, Lisa

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Want more Golf?
friendsofkids.com

Dear Friends of Kids with Cancer,

I want to thank you all for everything that you do for these families. My daughter was in the transplant unit for over a year, and you guys helped us out so much by providing toys, support and a friend. Margie you are wonderful! We were sponsored us for Christmas and made it a memorable one for us all, even though we weren't able to be all together. It's hard when you have a sick child, and you all make things so much easier on the families. God Bless you all and one day our family hopes to pay it forward!





17th Annual Fashion Show and Boutique

November 5th, 2009 • Ritz-Carlton Clayton

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Call 314-275-7440 or visit friendsofkids.com for more information



Third Party Events



\$1,300
Kirkwood HS Kick for Cancer



\$2,238
Sandrina's 1st Annual Flag Day Pig Roast



\$5,300
The Koman Group's Hats On to the Cardinals Grill



\$4,000
Baxter Crossings and Bella Gente Salon's Fashion for a Cause



\$7,600
Aaron Hubbell Memorial Golf Tournament



\$12,000
The Austin Scott Murphy Memorial Golf Tournament



\$8,000
Village Green's Splash Day



\$750
Youth in Action Trivia Night



\$1,735
CBC Auto Club Car Show



\$2,000
Coachman Car Club's Trivia Night

UPCOMING 3rd PARTY EVENTS:

More Recent Events:

- Shop for Friends with Lisa Nixon \$1,400
- Dancing Through Life Recital \$1,820
- Cottleville Weldon Springs Jaycees Trivia Night \$2,500
- Derby Party at Monarch \$4,000
- Dubinsky Gold Party \$155

Ongoing 3rd party Fundraisers:

- United Services Texas Hold 'Em Nights
- Fresh Air Heating and Cooling (see pg. 7)
- St. Louis Corvette Club (Snacks and Toys)
- Twice as Nice Resale and Consignment

- **Black Sheep Foundation Golf Tournament** August 15th
Forest Park Public Golf Course, 8 am Scramble
- **Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament** August 15th
Crystal Springs Quarry Golf Course, Maryland Heights, MO
- **H.O.G.Z. and Zick 24/7's Bandana Bash** Sept 10, 11, & 12
Zick's Great Outdoors Nursery in Ballwin, MO
Bingo, BBQ, Live Bands and more on three consecutive nights!
- **Manchester Homcoming Cute Kids/Pet Contest** Sept. 11, 12, & 13
Paul A. Schroeder Park Manchester, MO
Donate money to vote for the winners!
- **Grand Slam Sports Bar and Grill** Sept 12th
2nd Anniversary All-Day Party Fenton, MO
- **14th Annual Mortland Golf Classic** Sept 12th
Gateway National Golf Links
- **Cocktails for a Cause - Oceano Bistro in Brentwood** September 17th
Chef from Yia Yia's, 5-course meal with wine - \$65
Reservations Required
- **Cope Plastics 3rd Annual Golf Tournament** September 19th
Spencer T. Olin Golf Club Alton, IL - 1 pm Scramble
- **GRAND SLAM Sports Bar and Grill Golf Classic** September 20th
Sugar Creek Golf Club - 1 pm Scramble
- **Smoke N Fire BBQ Competition "Embers Only"** Sept 26th & 27th
Wildwood Commons in Wildwood, MO

Want more info?
friendsofkids.com

Find everything you need to know about your favorite upcoming events at friendsofkids.com, or call the office at 314-275-7440!

Visit us online at www.friendsofkids.com for all the details for these fun events!

2009-2010 Friends of Kids with Cancer Scholarship Winners

The *Friends of Kids with Cancer* Scholarship program is set up to help ease the financial burden for patients who graduated high school and are going off to college, or a patient whose higher education was interrupted by treatment. *Friends* gives \$1,000 scholarships to students who meet the criteria.

These scholarships are a part of our Educational programs. *Friends* also provides cost-free tutoring assistance to kids in treatment as well as educational testing to better understand the effects of their treatment on their learning abilities.

Congratulations to all our deserving winners and good luck in your future!

Matt Cartmell
Oakville Senior High School
University of Missouri-Columbia

John Gerstenkorn
John F. Kennedy High School
Meramec Community College

Charsie Haygood
Fairfield High School
Seattle Pacific University

Kaitlin Lundy
Bellville West High School
SIU-Edwardsville

Todd Mueller
Francis Howell High School
Southwest Baptist University

Puja Patel
Pattonville High School
University of Missouri-St. Louis

Joshua Reynolds
Lafayette High School
Missouri University S&T

“Why do I need this scholarship? While the money will help me pay for my education, and that would definitely be appreciated, this scholarship will mean much more than dollars. It will mean that a person can have brain cancer and still achieve. While the tumor and chemotherapy have caused me some learning difficulties, they have not prevented me from graduating high school and going on to college. With this scholarship, I will be able to achieve my goal of becoming a productive, educated person.”
-John Gerstenkorn



Spotlight Corner

Corporate Spotlight

Fresh Air Heating and Cooling

Fresh Air Heating and Cooling, started in 1987, services and installs heating and cooling equipment in residential homes and commercial buildings.

All year long, Fresh Air donates \$10 to *Friends of Kids with Cancer* for every furnace or air conditioner that they install. On top of that, they are also sponsors of our annual Golf Tournament.

“As a local, family owned business, Fresh Air Heating and Cooling emulates everything that *Friends* is all about,” said **Judy Ciapciak**, Executive Director. “These are people who truly care about the community they live and work in.”

Meg and Mike Sinn started the company 22 years ago, and still run it today with their three sons, Pat, Tim and Kevin, and their daughter, **Katie**, who came up with the ongoing fundraiser.

“The kids and their families deserve all the joy in life,” said Katie. “If we can help give them some sunshine on their darkest day we are happy to do it.”



A longtime survivor, volunteer and supporter of *Friends of Kids with Cancer*, **Emily** has recently began a service trip to Africa. She’ll be travelling to a village in **Tanzania** to work, learn the language and help those in need.

Emily prepared for the trip by trekking around the U.S. as a travel nurse. While in Tanzania, she will be using that experience and her medical background, specializing in pediatric intensive care nursing, to help



the children of the village she will be living in. Also travelling with her is an elementary school teacher, and both of them will use the trip to share their faith with the people there.

“I worried about her until she arrived

Patient Spotlight

Emily Arneson

there, of course,” said her mother **Kris Arneson**, a *Friends* Board member. “But I am just so proud that she has such a big heart for kids, and that she has wanted to use her talents to help the people of Africa.”

Emily has been putting that big heart to good use while at home as well, volunteering her time to *Friends*. She was the co-chair of **Family Night at the Magic House** (see Front Page) with her mom, Kris. She is also a member of the Fashion Show committee and donates her time to the office.

To follow Emily’s journey, go to www.emilyandsarahinafrica.blogspot.com

Volunteer Spotlight

Lauren Daly

Lauren Daly, a 19 year-old student at **Hendrix College** in Arkansas, has been interning at the *Friends* office this summer. In 2008, she worked with a pediatric oncologist at **Children’s Hospital**. This summer Lauren created a literary and art magazine for patients and their siblings called **Colors of Hope**.

“I heard several stories of families struggling through treatments,” said Lauren. “I want this magazine to be a creative outlet for them.”

She worked on the magazine with **Natasha Westrich-Wood**, *Friends*’ art therapist, to gather material from the kids. They

introduced the idea over the summer and got a great response from patients and their families.

“We are very lucky to have Lauren with us this summer,” said **Judy Ciapciak**, Executive Director. “It’s so refreshing to see young people follow through with a project like this simply to benefit others.”

On top of the magazine, Lauren helped out in the office and at fundraising events. She volunteered at the Golf Tournament, and was even a model in Fashion for a Cause (see 3rd Party Events).

“Friends has helped me to realize more who I am and who I want to be,” said Lauren. “I now know with more certainty that I want to help children fight their battles.”





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