

# Friend to Friend



## 2009 Friends of Kids with Cancer Fashion Show and Boutique: The Success is in the Smiles! (Cont. on page 3)



## Young Man Gets a Friendly Boost from the Blues

ST. LOUIS – **Nathan Halbach**, a 22-year old St. John's Mercy patient battling a brain tumor, took a break from his intense treatments to do something he loves: rooting on the St. Louis Blues. But he had never done it like this before.

Friends teamed up with the Blues to create a special evening for Nathan, his friends and family. Excited for the Suite that the Blues prepared for

him, he couldn't contain his smile as he went downstairs, not up, once inside the building.

**Mike Caruso**, VP of Public Relations for the Blues, escorted Nathan and his mom down to the locker room, where he chatted with Blues star **Keith Tkachuk** and General Manager **Larry Pleau**, received a personalized jersey signed by the team, and stood by the rink doors giving each player a "fist" on their way to the ice.

"They treated us like royalty, and the night just kept building and building," said **Pat Bond**, Nathan's mother.

Nathan watched his favorite team from an amazing view. He also made some new friends with Blues alumni and injured players that stopped by to say hello throughout the game.

Nathan, although fatigued from painful cancer treatments, made it through the night like his tough hockey brethren. He got another surprise outside when a limo-bus, courtesy of



Friends' **Erna Deutsch Fund**, pulled up to take everyone home in comfort and style. Then, there was a knock on the door. It was **Renah Jones**, the Community Relations Director for the Blues, surprising him with a goalie helmet signed by the entire team, and the stick used by Goalie **Chris Mason** that night.

His mother could not have been more impressed with everything the Blues and Friends did for him: "It was a beautiful night that Nathan, his family and friends will always remember. It was a true dream, an absolute dream."



pssst...  
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## Friends of Kids with Cancer

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# Our Mission

**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.

Dear Friends of Kids with Cancer.

Wow! What can I say for all of the things you have done for me. It is amazing what you do for all of the kids fighting cancer. all the way from a \$200 gift card to being a model in the Fashion Show. I haven't had that much fun in a long time. I don't know how I could ever repay you but for now I will just say thank you so much! You are such great people and you feel just like family! I love you guys so much! Thanks again for everything! When I grow up I want to be just like you!



. Sasha Age 14

## Kris Kennedy Named 2009 Silent Hero



Of all the marathons that our 2009 Silent Hero **Kris Kennedy** has run, the most important is her never-ending work for *Friends of Kids with Cancer*! Kris received this award at the 2009 Fashion Show, along with a special gift.

This avid runner participates in full and half marathons throughout the year, and pairing that with her generous spirit, she is a perfect match for our Walk/Run Committee!

Kris has co-chaired our Walk for the past two years, and we have seen the fundraiser take off under her watch. In addition, she runs around for Friends on errands, at events and facilitating programs such as Munchie Mondays. But that is just the tip of the shoelace for what Kris means to Friends of Kids with Cancer.

Kris used her capacity as Property Manager for **The Koman Group** to tie in her favorite charity to tenant appreciation events at the CityPlace Campus in Creve Coeur. The annual Hats On to the Cardinals Day Grill, Jazz Fests, Book Fairs, Ladies Nights and Toy Drives are just a few of the events in which she incorporated Friends. All of these featured many fun and innovative ways to entice employees at the campus as well as raise money for Friends, including the famous Dunking Booth (which she even jumped in herself!)

We would like to thank Kris for her unsurpassed passion and dedication to our mission and for representing this organization with such grace and compassion. Congratulations Kris!

## Granting Our Wish

Thank you to the groups who have given a grant to Friends as of 11-30-09:

- **St. Louis Men's Group Against Cancer** - \$5,000
- **Pott Foundation** - \$1,000
- **Cardinals Care** - \$6,000
- **St. Louis Blues 14 Fund** - \$5,000
- **The Boeing Foundation** - \$4,000
- **Vatterott Foundation** - \$2,500
- **Gaylord Foundation** - \$1,500
- **Saigh Foundation** - \$10,000
- **Tremain Family Foundation** - \$10,000
- **ESCO Technologies Foundation** - \$8,000
- **Gershman Foundation** - \$10,000
- **Bill and Amy Koman Fund** - \$25,000

**Congratulations to Allen Brockman for winning the Rams Community Quarterback Award**

**Allen, a Board Member, was honored for his longtime work in founding and running Camp Rainbow, a summer camp for kids with cancer.**



## The 2009 Fashion Show: Having the Right Attitude!

CLAYTON - The Fashion Show and Boutique is one of those rare events that do more than just raise money- it raises the spirits of everyone involved. This year was no different, as all the kids shined as they strutted down the runway.

Boutique shopping lit up the lobby of the **Ritz-Carlton in Clayton**, while an upscale raffle and an oral auction featured unique items, such as a puppy!

The featured speaker tandem of **Shane Brewer** and **Jaxton Willman** warmed up the crowd with a speech that mixed some humor into their tale of their struggle against cancer.

"Like most teenagers, I don't usually listen to my parents," said Shane during his speech. "One time, I decided to listen to my mom and see the doctor, and three days later I was diagnosed with cancer. I don't listen to my mom anymore."

"Don't worry Mom, I still listen to you!" Jaxton chimed in on cue.

Lunch MC **Guy Phillips** of Y98 and



Dinner MC **Ed Goodman** of KEZK kept the program lively and entertaining until they gave way to the stars of the show. It was then **Jan McCormack's** turn as she orchestrated the models through a wide array of fashion, compliments of Dillard's, Distinctions and the Fur and Leather Centre.

From there, the phrase commonly used with the event, "Touch the Heart of a Child", was turned around - the kids touched the hearts of the audience. We would like to thank the kids for their hard work and the bravery that they display every day. Also to our sponsors, volunteers and attendees, and everyone who helped make this day so special for the models. We would like to especially thank the Fashion Show Committee and its co-chairs: **Marianne Bergamini, Mary Mercurio, and Debbie Stock.**



## Rock the Sheldon was a Groovy Good Time!

ST. LOUIS - Friends' first ever benefit concert brought in a great crowd of fans, those of Earth, Wind & Fire, Steely



Groovethang performs the hits!

Dan and helping kids with cancer. **Groovethang**, a tribute to the aforementioned bands, put on an amazing show as the audience danced the night away at the **Sheldon Concert Hall**. They also enjoyed mountains of delicious food donated by **Russo's Gourmet Catering**. We even raffled off a Fender guitar to one lucky ticket holder!

We would like to thank **Tommy Russo**, Groovethang, our co-chairs **Karen Dubinsky** and **Rick Lommel, Laurie** at the Sheldon for the donated space, and everyone who attended!

## 2009 Sponsors 3

### Priceless Corporate Sponsors

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### Major In-Kind Donations

- Mount Pleasant Winery
- McGurk's Public House - O'Fallon and McGurk's Irish Pub - Soulard
- Video Gate Studios
- Patti Gabriel Photography
- Bella Gente Salon



Above: Tommy Russo, Karen Dubinsky and Rick Lommel.



With the holiday season quickly approaching, my thoughts turned to my childhood and our family traditions:

- Waking up to the aroma of cookies, getting to decorate them myself and spilling sprinkles all over the place
- Taking the bus downtown to see window displays and meeting Santa Claus
- My aunts, uncles, cousins & grandparents all coming to my house to celebrate.

I'm sure for all of us, the list of family holiday traditions goes on and on.

### What traditions will a kid with cancer have to hold on to?

- **Not having enough energy to even get excited when Santa rings his bell in the hospital halls**
- **Eating store bought cookies instead of Mom's home-made (Moms who have a kid with cancer have no time to bake)**
- **Not celebrating with all their family around**
- **Missing the school candlelight concert and classroom party**

So when you are shopping with your extensive holiday gift list, waiting in long check-out lanes and fighting for a parking spot, remind yourself what is most important. Does my brother really need another red sweater? Do I really need something else crammed in my closet? The answer is obvious:

**NO, I don't, BUT KIDS WITH CANCER DO.**

This year change your traditional ways of giving. A donation to Friends of Kids with Cancer in honor of family and friends is the best gift of all...one that will touch the heart of a child not only during the holidays but throughout the year. It's easy shopping that really matters!

## How Can I Help?

**There's no Christmas in July, and Friends gives out toys all year long! Here are some recent toy drives!**

- **Alan and Leslie Nehring** donated toys in memory of their son, **Caleb**
- **Terry Chisell** worked with **Living Lord Lutheran Church** to donate toys
- **Brandy Koenig** gathered up toys in honor of **Jaxton Willman**
- **Ellen Rosenbaum** dropped off toys
- **Julie Sokolik** gathered up toys and books to donate to Friends
- **Cathy Castner** asked for toys for her 50th birthday, & gave them to Friends!

## Take a look at some innovative ways people are helping Friends of Kids with Cancer!

### Pound for Pound Pledge Drive

Jeanine Aubuchon's son C.J. lost his battle to cancer six months ago. One of the last things he told his mom was to take care of her health. So now she is trying to lose the 50 lbs she put on during C.J.'s treatment by her 50th birthday on December 24th to honor his wish. She started in August, and has already lost an amazing 37 lbs! She has collected pledges per lb, and you can still help by signing up at [friendsofkids.com](http://friendsofkids.com), and follow her and C.J.'s Journey!

### Hats On Day/Casual for Kids

You can still hold a Hats On Day at your school, business or place of worship! Can't wear a hat? Try Casual for Kids, and dress down at your business for a great cause. Call the office for more info!



**Jake**

**Jake Franzel**, a 16 year-old patient at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, got the ultimate opportunity for a teenage boy in St. Louis - throwing out the first pitch at Busch Stadium. For his big day, Jake decided to give back.

Jake and his family worked with the Cardinals to take a block of tickets to the game and sell them for a discounted price, \$10 off. For every ticket sold, the difference was donated to Friends of Kids with Cancer. Jake worked tirelessly to get the word out and sell as many tickets as he could. Through the sales to many family and friends who wished to see his pitch, and some donations along the way, Jake raised an amazing \$7,100.

Thank you to Jake and his family, along with everyone who purchased tickets or donated.

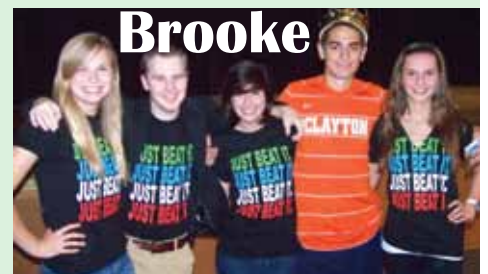
### Patient Spotlight

**Jake Franzel**  
**Brooke Nicholson**  
**& Rainee Arnold**

### Rainee



**Rainee Arnold** (right), an 8 year-old patient at Cardinal Glennon, wanted something different and special for her 8th birthday; she wanted to give back to Friends of Kids with Cancer. Rainee had a party and collected money, as well as picked out a toy to donate. She was helped by her sisters, **Adelle** and **Evy**, and her mom **Stacy**.



**Brooke**

Clayton High School's DECA program sold t-shirts (seen above) and put on the 1st Annual Mr. CHS Contest. Seven seniors danced, answered questions and showed their talents to help raise money for Friends. This was a special project because their classmate **Brooke Nicholson** (2nd from left) is an 18 year-old patient at Cardinal Glennon. Brooke himself helped out with the project, and even was the MC of the evening event. He has had plenty of experience there - he was the featured speaker at our Annual Golf Tournament. Thanks to Clayton High School, DECA leaders **Maggie Lanter** (left), **Emily Rosen** (middle), **Gabby Mottaz** (right) and Brooke for their help!



# Kids Helping Kids

We would like to thank everyone involved with these selfless acts. Kids today are so giving of what they have, and much of that goes back to the parents. We appreciate all the passion, excitement and effort that goes into helping others. You have helped kids with cancer...be kids just like you!

- **Cub Scout Pack 496** held their annual Haunted Trail and raised \$58
- **Kelli Nestle** helped raise \$1,200 for a Hats On Day at Cor Jesu High School



• **Carly Pass** made and donated hats for all the models of our annual Fashion Show herself after learning at a summer camp.

- **Emma Bourstein** donated toys from her 10th birthday party
- **Shane & Alyssa Murphy** gave toys from their birthday parties in memory of their brother, **Austin Murphy**



- 5th grade Girl Scouts from **Kennerly Elementary** made activity books



- **Oak Brook Elementary Girl Scout Troop #3376** donated cookies and \$40
- **Lydia Schorfheide** donated \$50 from winning Little Miss New Baden



- **Campbell and Penelope Cross** donated the toys from their 2nd birthday!
- **Thea Hempel** and the **FBLA Club at Lutheran South HS** created cards and went shopping for the kids!



- **Alana Askins** and **Girl Scout Troop #2443** from **Russell Emge Elementary** donated cookies and made blankets for the kids!



- **Josh Mannis** (left) donated toys from his 13th birthday party

## Volunteer Spotlight

**Brianna Bennett  
&  
Katherine Mirbaha**

In its third year of business, **BK Jewlery and Accessories** is booming, which is a great thing for Friends!.

**Brianna Bennett** and **Katherine Mirbaha** have been making their own jewleryandsellingit atcraftshowsforthree years, giving all of their profit to Friends.

Recently, Brianna and Katherine attended the Rotery Craft Festival at Lindbergh High School and raised

5  
When Life Gives You Lemons...



- **Caitlin and Emily Brasser** have raised \$91 from two lemonade stands
- The **First Baptist Church of Dixon's Kids Care University** group raised \$162 from a lemonade stand
- **Lynn Sprick** did a lemonade stand for current patient **Lydia Saenger**, and raised \$500 in only 2 hours!
- **Abbey Russell** raised \$162 from a lemonade stand with friends



- **Melanie Brucker** did a second lemonade stand for a Sunkist Charity Contest and made \$36.25



\$307.50 for Friends. To date, these two enterprising young ladies have raised about \$1,600 by selling their jewlery.

We would like to thank them for the many hours they put in, not just making the jewlery themselves, but spending the time at the shows as well. You two have helped kids with cancer...be kids just like you!



## FRIENDS' 2009 PATIENT FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY!

The clouds parted and the sun shone brightly on the 2009 Patient Family Halloween Party. After a week of bad weather, it was dry and clear for the kids and their families to enjoy a day of spooky fun at Blue Heron Farms. A special thanks to **Billy Busch, Gene Deutsch, Arthur & Karen Wasserman** and all our volunteers for making this day special!



## Young Girl Gets Puppy Love from Friends

**Chloe Murphy**, a young patient at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, got the ultimate pick-me-up: a lick on the face.

Friends of Kids with Cancer was the recipient of two puppies from a local Maltese breeder looking to help kids with cancer. One of them was designated for

the Fashion Show Oral Auction, and the other went to Chloe to share with her big sister, **Jordan** and twin brother, **Jayce**.

Chloe has not been able to leave the hospital since getting the puppy in late October, but her mom brings him in so they can visit. We wish you nothing but the best!



## St. Louis Ram Richie Incognito Tackles Kids with Cancer

Rams offensive lineman **Richie Incognito** used his one day off during the week to visit kids receiving treatment for cancer at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Armed with autographed player cards and a great attitude, Richie walked through the treatment centers and

the hospital floor, stopping to talk to each kid and their family. We want to thank Richie for his generosity, and to **Scott Rucinski** for connecting him to Friends of Kids with Cancer and making this uplifting day possible.





# Third Party Events



\$1,300

STL Scion and STL Subaru Car Show



\$20,000

Black Sheep Foundation Golf Tournament



\$3,700

Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament



\$8,000

Zick's 24/7 Bandana Bash and H.O.G.Z. Pig Roast



\$1,400

Manchester Days Cute Kids/Cute Pet Contest



\$13,000

Grand Slam Bar and Grill's 2nd Anniversary Party



TBA

Mortland Golf Classic



\$1,300

Love Management Sidewalk Sale



\$3,000

Cope Plastics Golf Tournament



\$800

Koman Group's Jazz Fest



\$1,800

Smoke N Fire BBQ Contest - Ember's Only Booth

**Holiday Light Display in O'Fallon - Nov. 27th-Jan. 1st**

Come see this dazzling light display for Friends! Go to 1355 Presidents Landing O'Fallon, MO 63366

Get into the Holiday spirit for the benefit of Friends of Kids with Cancer!



\$2,000

Chaminade Soccer Shootout



January 23, 2010 • CBC High School • \$25 per person • 10 per table

Hosted by Channel 5's Heidi Glaus!

Includes free wine, beer and soda, but remember to bring your own snacks!

**NOW FEATURING:** General Knowledge Trivia  
Including: Sports, Pop Culture and More!



- Sponsorships are available!
- Totally Random Thoughts - \$2500
- It's All Greek to Me - \$1500
- Not So Wise - \$500
- The Weakest Link - \$250
- Sponsor a Round for \$100!

Don't let the New Year pass by without getting this great deal! Reserve your FULL table by Jan. 1st and get \$25 off!

For reservations, sponsorships or information, call 314-275-7440 or visit [www.friendsofkids.com](http://www.friendsofkids.com)

We would like to recognize everyone who donated to Friends of Kids with Cancer with an Honorary or a Memorial donation in 2009. These tributes to friends and loved ones have been made special by helping touch the life of kids with cancer.



We appreciate your support, and so do the kids and families everyday. *2009 Donations as of 11-30-09*

## 2009 Honorary Donations

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*Every effort is made to list your name correctly. If there are errors, please accept our sincere apologies and call 314-275-7440 so we may correct them.*

Congratulations to **St. John's Mercy Children's Hospital** and the **David C. Pratt Cancer Center** on completing the first phase in the construction of the brand new **Cardinal Kids Cancer Center**, formerly the Pediatric Cancer and Hematology Center. *Friends of Kids with Cancer* is proud to be a part of this groundbreaking expansion, and look forward to the realization of our dream.

Look for more updates in future volumes of **Friend to Friend!**

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## 2010 Friends of Kids with Cancer Calendar

**Trivia Night** - January 23rd, 2010 at CBC High School  
Hosted by Channel 5's Heidi Glaus • General Knowledge Trivia  
\$25 per person, includes beer, wine and soda • 10 per table  
Reserve a full table by Jan. 1st for only \$225!

**Walk with a Friend at Sunrise Celebration** - April 24th, 2010  
5k Run/1 Mile Walk • Maryville Centre Campus  
Start gathering up your team today!

**Golf Tournament** - May 24th, 2010 at Whitmoor Country Club  
Noon shotgun start • Catered lunch and gourmet dinner  
\$15,000 Raffle is back, and tickets are available now!

**Fashion Show and Boutique** - November 4th, 2010  
At the Ritz-Carlton Clayton • Lunch and Dinner Shows  
Save the date for this special experience