

# Currents

JANUARY 2004

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS MEMORIAL

VOLUME 9.1

## FROM THE BOARD

Dear Friends,

Much like Brendan, the fund named in his memory has been blessed with good and loyal friends. Since the fund's inception in 1992, the Cape May County community has extended its friendship and unparalleled support to our organization. They have opened their hearts and lent their time and talents to area families struggling with the grim realities of pediatric cancer.

The ages of our children range from infants to young adults. Each child's illness and needs are unique. Each family's circumstances are different. Because of the hard work and dedication of so many of our good and loyal friends, Brendan's Fund is able to respond to individual needs with emotional and financial support. This provides a needed lifeline to these special children and their families.

One family's recent expression of thanks says it all:

"Our son was diagnosed in 1998 at age 15 with ALL. He was on chemotherapy for 2 1/2 years when in 2001, at age 18, he relapsed, and a bone marrow transplant became necessary. He is now two years post transplant and doing very well.

We appreciate the help your organization has been to our family... The food coupons, gift certificates for new clothes, mall gift certificates, food baskets, phone cards, and so on were a tremendous help to us in a difficult time. Not only did those things meet our needs in a very practical way, but it helped emotionally to know that we were not alone in our struggle with difficult circumstances. Somebody cared."

We at Brendan's Fund know just how many people really do care.

Many local organizations and individuals have extended their help to Brendan's Fund in varied ways. We also have the additional good fortune to be the recipient of support beyond the local community. The goodwill Brendan's Fund strives to extend to the pediatric cancer community has come back to us a hundred fold.

This issue of Currents is a tribute to the many good Samaritans who have helped us over the years. Although we could not highlight all of the many individuals and organizations who help Brendan's Fund, our sincere appreciation goes out to each and every one.

Sincerely,  
Lydia C. Borek

Eileen L. Johnston Mary B. Kane

## Remembering Brendan



A Day of Winter Surfing 1988

Brendan Borek (L), Scott Roth (M), John Morrow (R)

Brendan lived for 18 years and filled his life with joy. Active, athletic and well liked, you could always find him on the beach, a skateboard ramp or the soccer field. He was loved and supported in all his efforts by his family and was blessed with good and loyal friends.

Brendan's carefree life changed shortly before his seventeenth birthday when he was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a cancer of the bone. For the next sixteen months he fought a courageous battle against unbeatable odds.

Although Brendan experienced great suffering in his life, he also experienced great love. Brendan's Fund was born out of this love.

His memory lives on each time Brendan's Fund brings comfort, help and hope to children and families facing the same battle.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 14th Annual Spirit Walk

Sunday, May 2, 2004, 12:00pm - 4:00pm  
Wildwood Catholic High School, 15th and Central Avenue,  
North Wildwood, New Jersey

Lace up your shoes and join us for Spirit Walk! Our annual 10K walk-a-thon is hosted by Wildwood Catholic High School. Mary Kane, Secretary and Member of the Board of Trustees of Brendan's Fund, the staff and the many students of Wildwood Catholic started this tradition in 1991 to support the Borek family during Brendan's struggle with cancer.



**SPIRIT WALK**

## Local Artist and Friends Art Show

Tuesday, August 17, 2004, 6:00pm - 11:00pm  
Avalon Yacht Club, 7th Street and Bay Avenue, Avalon, New Jersey

The Art Show has moved! Come see local talents as they showcase a variety of work at the Avalon Yacht Club including watercolors, abstracts, photography, pottery and sculptures. Our annual art show is organized by Deanna Ebner, a friend of Brendan's who incorporates their shared love of art into a vital fundraiser for Brendan's Fund. Enjoy music, food and beverages. All ticket proceeds and forty percent of artwork sold benefit Brendan's Fund



**LOCAL ARTISTS AND FRIENDS  
ART SHOW**

## Circle Pizza's "Pizza Day"

Wednesday, August 18, 2004, Open to Close  
2108 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey

Make it a pizza day! All net proceeds from the sale of any eat-in or take-out pizza on August 18 go directly to Brendan's Fund.



**Circle Pizza's "Pizza Day"**

## Surf Memorial Movie Night

Friday, August 20, 2004, 7:30pm - 10:00pm  
Avalon Community Hall, 30th Street and the Beach, Avalon, New Jersey

Under the direction of Scott Soens & Company, Brendan's Fund continues an old Avalon tradition, the "Friday Night Surf Movie." Re-live some old memories and create new ones while previewing great surfing footage.



**SURF MEMORIAL  
MOVIE NIGHT**

## 14th Annual Brendan Borek Surf Memorial

Saturday, August 21, 2004, 6:30am - 10:00pm  
30th Street and the Beach, Avalon, New Jersey

### All-Day Surf Memorial

6:30am - 4:30pm, 30th Street Beach

### Local Bands on the Beach

10:00am - 3:30pm, 30th Street Beach

### Circle of Friends Memorial Ceremony

12:00pm - 12:30pm, 30th Street Beach

### Homecoming Party

6:00pm - 10:00pm, Avalon Community Hall

Every year on the 3rd Saturday in August, people from near and far, young and old join the Avalon Community to participate in and support the Brendan Borek Surf Memorial. This one-day event is Brendan's Fund's largest and most successful fundraiser. Join us on the beach for a day of true community spirit and see why Avalon is "cooler by a mile!"



**SURF MEMORIAL  
HOMECOMING PARTY**

## OUR GOOD AND LOYAL FRIENDS

Brendan's Fund supporters are numerous and generous and deserve more recognition than we are able to give. To help understand the diversity of people who help make Brendan's Fund possible, highlighted below are a few of the groups who raise money and provide support throughout the year.



### Boy Scout Troop #77, Woodbine, NJ

Troop #77 Woodbine Leader Byron Cerrachio and his troop volunteer a full day at the annual Brendan Borek Surf Memorial. A crew is there to help set up at 5:00am, be runners for the surf contest judges throughout the day and serve soda and hotdogs at the Homecoming Party. And when it's the most difficult to get helpers, they are there at the end, helping us clean up! The Boy Scouts always come through with a winning smile and live up to their motto of "Be Prepared." They are always prepared to help wherever needed and we couldn't ask for better volunteers.



### The Mothers Club of Upper Township and Ocean City, NJ

The Mothers Club continues to give and give to Brendan's Fund. Over the years they have donated thousands of pounds of salad for our Annual Homecoming Party. They also donate goodies and help assemble Easter and Thanksgiving baskets distributed to each family around the holidays. It adds a special element when moms help other moms. Brendan's Fund couldn't be more grateful for the Mothers Club's unwavering support.



### Wildwood Catholic High School and Students

Brendan's alma mater was a strong supporter of the Borek family while Brendan struggled with cancer. WWC continues to be actively involved with the organization named in his memory. Our annual Spirit Walk is hosted by WWC and current and former students can always be found participating. During the holidays, students also take time to deliver to each of Brendan's Fund families their annual basket of goodies made by the Mothers Club. Year after year, new students offer their support and time to help Brendan's Fund and its special families.



### Jersey Shore Parrothead Club

The Jersey Shore Parrotheads, a group who likes to "Party for a Cause," held their Fourth Annual Spring Island Frenzy in April 2003. "Changes in Lattitudes," a Jimmy Buffet cover band, played throughout the night and guests listened to music while eating cheeseburgers, feeling like they were in their own South Jersey paradise. In one night, the Parrotheads raised \$5,000 for Brendan's Fund.



### Tau Epsilon Phi, Penn State University

Penn State students rose early on a Sunday to bowl for Brendan's Fund. Members of the Penn State College TEP chapter organized a bowl-a-thon at State College in November 2003. Bob Johnston, nephew of board member Eileen Johnston, brought the idea of raising money for Brendan's Fund to his fraternity and they fully supported the event. Over 60 people participated and TEP raised more than \$700 for Brendan's Fund.

## Sad Goodbyes and Happy Hellos

Ellen Wooley, Brendan's Fund Social Worker, is a longtime friend and family advocate for the fund. As a social worker for our organization since its inception in 1992, she was frequently the primary contact for the families, advising and evaluating the best way Brendan's Fund could provide emotional and financial support. Ellen is leaving us to pursue the great occupation of retirement and we wish her nothing but the best.

Diane Breder is following in Ellen's footsteps. She recently finished her master's in social work from Rutgers University. Diane's personal and professional experience shows a strong commitment to children and families and she has already proven herself to be a wonderful new addition to the organization. Welcome!



Mary B. Kane (top left)  
Eileen Johnston (top right)  
Ellen Wooly (sitting)

## OUR MISSION

The Brendan Borek High Tides Memorial Fund, Inc. (Brendan's Fund), is a grassroots organization whose efforts are directed toward providing comprehensive, compassionate and personalized assistance to Cape May County pediatric cancer patients and their families. Since its inception in 1992, Brendan's Fund has helped families through the crisis of their child's illness. Services range from professional counseling and advocacy programs to financial and material assistance. To help in the fight against cancer, Brendan's Fund also contributes to pediatric cancer research on a discretionary basis.

## HIGH TIDES SCHOLARSHIPS

Part of Brendan's Fund mission is to create "High Tides" conditions for Cape May County families. As our children get older, we decided to create a scholarship fund to help with schooling. Brendan's Fund proudly announces the first two recipients of the High Tides Scholarship: Rosemarie Miller and Megan Hannigan. Congratulations!

## A UNIQUE WAY TO DONATE

From bequests to memorial donations, many people choose to honor the celebration of life through Brendan's Fund.

In another unique way to celebrate life, several brides and groomsmen recently shared their special day with Brendan's Fund. Instead of wedding favors, they made a donation in the name of all their guests.

We appreciate them thinking of the families of Brendan's Fund as a way to honor the lives of those they love.

Visit our office and The Store  
21st & The Circle, Avalon, NJ

Other ways you can reach us:

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Phone 609.967.0100  
Fax 609.967.3480  
Email [bren@brendansfund.org](mailto:bren@brendansfund.org)

Find us on the web  
[www.brendansfund.org](http://www.brendansfund.org)

## *In Memorium*

Always Loved  
Always Remembered  
Always in our Hearts

Brendan Borek  
Hannah Clark  
Allison Clayton  
Dominique D'Amico  
Christina Filippo  
Arthur Jermain Graham  
Frannie Hardwick  
Tyler Mahoney  
Joanna Matthews  
Scott McCaffrey  
Jason McCullen  
Isabella Morin  
Christopher Nordberg  
Joseph Schulte, III  
Stephanie Selinsky  
Christine Smith  
Harold Snyder  
John Sorensen  
Guy Stauble  
Shanna Whelan  
Nathaniel Wood

With a heavy heart, Brendan's Fund is sad to report that our friend Terry Yughes, known to all as "Doc X", died December 22 after a valiant

struggle with cancer. "Doc X" counted Brendan among his multitude of friends on both the east and west coasts. He was a supporter of Brendan's Fund from day one and was at the backbone of our largest event, the Surf Memorial. Mere words cannot express our sadness. Doc X, we'll miss you.

