

Currents



JANUARY 2006

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS CEREMONY

VOLUME 11.1

FROM THE BOARD

We face challenges each and every day. Some challenges are more difficult than others. How we face them shapes us as individuals and helps us grow and mature. The most difficult personal challenge I have faced was my son Brendan's diagnosis of cancer and his tragic death.

After Brendan's death, with the help of family and friends, the process of healing my broken heart began by establishing the Brendan Borek High Tides Memorial Fund (Brendan's Fund). Our mission was a simple one; to provide financial and emotional support to families in Cape May County who have a child with cancer. Our tragic loss of Brendan evolved into a gift of hope and love.

For 15 years, Brendan's Fund, along with their family and friends, has supported many special children as they face the unexpected, life-altering challenges presented by cancer. Many of these children are alive and well. Some suffer the residue of their cancer and its treatment. For others, cancer was their final challenge and they now rest in God's hands.

As an organization, Brendan's Fund has created its own challenge which is to ensure the perpetuation of our mission. To secure our future, Brendan's Fund has established an endowment fund. This will allow us to be a continuing presence in the lives of future generations of children who will be diagnosed with cancer.

Our *Legacy of Love* Fundraising Campaign begins on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2006. Please help us ensure that Brendan's Fund continues its mission of providing financial and emotional support for future pediatric cancer patients.

Visit our website, www.brendansfund.org, for more information on how you can contribute.

To help understand the challenges of our children, we introduce you to Lauren Mulholland on page 3. I am honored to say Brendan's Fund has been a large part of Lauren's family life during these difficult times. There is no doubt you will be touched, as I have, by her determined spirit and love of life against daunting odds.

Sincerely,

Lydia C. Borek

Lydia C. Borek

Eileen L. Johnston Mary B. Kane

Remembering Brendan



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.

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 7

16th Annual Spirit Walk (10K)

11:00am - Registration; 12:00pm Start
Wildwood Catholic High School, 15th
and New Jersey Ave., Wildwood, NJ

The smell of the ocean, the sound of boardwalk games, the sight of the beaches all while getting exercise! Enjoy a 10K walk and support Brendan's Fund.



15th ANNUAL SPIRIT WALK

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

Crabcake Day at Sylvester's

9:00am - 9:30pm
21st & 5th Avenue, Avalon, New Jersey

Eat a crabcake! A portion of net proceeds on any crabcake sold at Sylvester's Fish Market and Restaurant will go to Brendan's Fund.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

Local Artist and Friends Art Show

6:00pm - 10:00pm
Avalon Yacht Club, 7th Street and Bay Avenue, Avalon, New Jersey

Local talents showcase a variety of work, including watercolors, abstracts, photography, pottery and sculptures. All ticket proceeds and fifty percent of all artwork sold benefit Brendan's Fund.



LOCAL ARTIST AND FRIENDS ART SHOW, 2005

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

Circle Pizza "Pizza Day"

All Day Until Closing
2108 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey
Phone 609.967.7566

Circle Pizza generously donates all net proceeds from the sale of any eat-in or take-out pizza directly to Brendan's Fund.



CIRCLE PIZZA'S "PIZZA DAY"



davidmccartyphoto.com
15th ANNUAL BRENDAN BOREK SURF MEMORIAL

Be sure to visit our website
www.brendansfund.org for
the most up-to-date
information.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

Skate Board Jam

11:00am - 2:00pm
Avalon Skate Park, 30th and the Beach, Avalon, New Jersey

The Borough of Avalon is running, in conjunction with Method Skate Shop, a day of demo and competition in honor of Brendan's Fund. There will be give-aways and sign-ups will be held the day of the event.

Surf Memorial Movie Night

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 Movie". Viewers re-live some old memories and created new ones while previewing great surfing footage. Tickets can be purchased at Community Hall the night of the movie.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

Surf Memorial Weekend

All events held at 30th Street and the Beach except the Homecoming Party

- All-Day Surf Memorial, 6:30am - 4:30pm
- Local Bands on the Beach, 10:00am - 3:30pm
- Circle of Friends Memorial Ceremony, 12:00pm - 12:30pm
- Homecoming Party, 6:00pm - 9:00pm, 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 Surf Memorial. The surf contest is one of the largest amateur events on the east coast and this one-day event continues to be Brendan's Fund's largest and most successful fundraiser.

FACING CHALLENGES

During the past fifteen years, Brendan's Fund has provided emotional and financial support to Cape May County area families whose children have been diagnosed with pediatric cancer. All of our children are special. Each one faces the challenges presented by cancer with a courage and spirit well beyond their young years. They face these challenges with the love of their families and the support of Brendan's Fund. The support and services we offer are made possible by your generous contributions.

Brendan's Fund introduces you to Lauren Mulholland. Like all our children, her challenges have been extraordinary and responses exceptional. We invite you to read Lauren's story and respond to her courage, stamina and perseverance in the face of daunting odds.

LAUREN'S STORY

At the age of nine you don't know much about life. All that matters is going to school, family, friends and whether or not your homework is done in time to watch your favorite TV show. In 1999, at the age of nine, all of that changed. My childhood ended and a whole new phase of life began.

On my ninth birthday I had a biopsy. It confirmed I had cancer, Wilm's Tumor Stage 3, with a tumor on my kidney. For the next eighteen months I went through chemotherapy, radiation and surgery to remove my kidney. That was just the medical side.

On the emotional side my family and I didn't know what to do or how to act. It was a family's worst nightmare. My hair was falling out; I was losing weight; I wasn't myself. That was when we remembered how tight a family we were and that this challenge would only make us closer.

Finally, the day I had been waiting for arrived - I was in remission!

Fifteen months later I went to the hospital for a routine doctor's appointment with blood work and xrays. After the physical, the doctor sent me out of the room to talk to my parents. I knew something was wrong; the only time doctors didn't tell me what was happening was when I was first diagnosed with cancer.

My fear was true, I relapsed. Cancer was in my lung area and would require another eighteen months of radiation and chemotherapy. After just 12 months, doctors stopped my treatment due to all the blood and platelet transfusions I needed and I was once again considered "in remission". I had a hard time believing this since I relapsed once, how could the cancer be completely gone?

At the end of the 2002 school year, I started having problems not associated with the cancer. A pulmonary function tests showed I had 40% lung function. The very treatment to cure me of Wilm's was making me sicker. I didn't think much about my lung function since I was still playing basketball, softball and soccer. I continued until it reached 25%. There was not much to make my situation better. That summer I was sleeping at night with oxygen to give me more energy throughout the day and help me gain some much needed weight. By May of 2003, I needed to sleep with a B-Pap.

Things continued to get harder everyday. The doctors mentioned the possibility of a lung transplant and I was shocked. I wasn't going to go through it. I didn't want it if it was the last thing I did.

Over time, my feelings changed and my name was added to the transplant list. My lung function had decreased to 9% and I kept praying for the phone call from Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh where I would have the transplant.

On June 12, 2005 the phone rang. My sister Morgan answered and said "Lauren, it's Pittsburgh"! My mom took the phone and soon came barging into the room saying "They're here! Your lungs! They have them!" My mouth dropped, I was in complete shock. I thought I was ready for the experience until that very moment. But I said to myself 'everything was going to be OK and I was ready to do this.'

I had the transplant and am now writing this letter to show my support and thanks to Brendan's Fund for everything they have done throughout these past six years. I don't know what my family would have done without them. They have helped us with traveling expenses, hotel stays, gift certificates, holiday gift baskets, a laptop computer, and much more. They are always loving, supporting and caring. Even when we just need someone to talk to you can always count on them. Brendan's Fund continues to help my family as we travel back and forth to Pittsburgh for check-ups and treatments. My experience is a true testimony to what Brendan's Fund does. I thank all the people who have contributed to the support of Cape May County pediatric cancer patients.

Over the past few months I have also realized how important organ donation is. It's something that never crossed my mind until I was going to be a recipient. I hope everyone will realize how much one decision could change someone's life.

DONATE LIFE

Love,

Lauren Mullholland and Family



BRENDAN'S FUND

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 area 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.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDE:

REIMBURSEMENTS: Illness related expenses, gas, tolls, parking fees, lodgings, meals and telephone bills.

ANNUAL ASSISTANCE: Thanksgiving and Easter Baskets, Back-to-School Clothing Gift Certificates and Christmas and Hanukkah gifts for each child and sibling.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE: Payment of utility bills, monthly supermarket food certificates and, in extraordinary circumstances, payment of rent/mortgages.

Visit our office and The Store
2488 Dune Drive, Avalon, NJ

Other ways you can reach us:

U.S. Mail	Phone 609.967.0100
P.O. Box 41	Fax 609.967.3480
Avalon, NJ 08202	Email bren@brendansfund.org

Find us on the web
www.brendansfund.org

Always Loved Always Remembered Always In Our Hearts

Brendan Borek
Kaitlin Anzelone
Hannah Clark
Allison Clayton
Dominique D'Amico
Christina Fillippo
Arthur Jermain Graham
Frannie Hardwick
Matthew Lawrence
Tyler Mahoney
Scott McCaffrey
Jason McCullen
Joanna Matthews
Rose Marie Miller
Isabella Morin
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