

# Ryan's Newsletter



The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation  
198 Route 22, The Atrium Building, Pawling, NY 12564  
845-855-0211 www.ryansfoundation.org

Children's Cancer Foundation

## Our Feature Story Mickey Pallazzo

During the week of March 5, 2007, at the age of 4 1/2 years old, Mickey became very ill. He was taken to his pediatric doctor's office and was told he had a stomach virus. As he was no better on Friday and now complaining of a sore throat, Mickey was taken back to his doctor who had him transported by ambulance to Vassar Brother's Hospital. While at VBH, his throat closed and he stopped breathing. He was intubated and air-lifted to Westchester Medical Center and was admitted to the ICU Pediatric Unit of the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. His neck and glands were swollen and it was determined there were masses in both sides of his neck. After multiple tests, his family was told he had mono.

On Monday, March 12 they were informed that he was NOT mono, it was Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). After a lumbar puncture and another bone marrow test, he was given a treatment of chemo into his spine, all while in a coma. Oncologists began to treat his leukemia very aggressively and, after two weeks, the masses in his throat diminished. Doctors tried to remove his vent but, both of Mickey's lungs collapsed. He had to have chest tubes inserted due to air that was in his chest cavity.

Mickey remained intubated for 2 weeks while his lungs healed; during these two weeks, he developed a very large blood clot in his left thigh. On April 2, doctors were successful in removing his vent. He continued to have serious respiratory problems

and was put on Bi-pap and C-pap respirators.

When he was finally able to eat, he choked every time he swallowed. Another procedure was performed and doctors found that Mickey no longer had an epiglottitis. (This is a flap of cartilage that prevents food from going into the trachea and directs the food to the esophagus when swallowing.) It was decided Mickey would remain on a feeding tube for a while.



During this time, he lost 15 pounds as well as muscle tone and his ability to walk. Once he was stable, he was moved from the Pediatric ICU to the Children's Oncology Ward. When he was strong enough to undergo surgery, a port was placed in his chest for the chemotherapy treatments. Mickey remained in the Children's Oncology Ward for another month undergoing intensive chemotherapy treatments, while learning to walk, talk and swallow again.

On May 11, Mickey was released from the hospital and came home with the feeding tube and continued to receive intense physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech and swallowing therapy. In September 2007, Mickey was able to

have his feeding tube removed and began eating certain foods.

For the past 3 years, Mickey has endured various phases of treatment, which included spinal taps, chemotherapy shots, chemotherapy treatments injected into his port, oral chemotherapy pills, and chemotherapy steroid pills. In addition, he was receiving 2 shots a day for the blood clot in his leg.

On April 28, 2010, Mickey endured another bone marrow test. The next day he received the good news that his bone marrow test came back clean - free of cancer cells!

On May 18, 2010, Mickey will have his last chemotherapy treatment and finally be able to enter into remission. He will be known as a "cancer survivor!"

Ryan's Foundation, with your generous donations and support, was able to help Mickey's family with the enormous costs of his chemotherapy drugs and care. Your continued support of our efforts enables us to never have to say NO to a child.



Mickey Pallazzo

"CANCER SURVIVOR"

# PEOPLE WHO GIVE BACK:



## St. Martin de Porres CYO Program Holds Benefit for the Ryan McElroy Foundation

On April 24, for the second straight year, St. Martin de Porres CYO Travel Basketball Program, under the direction of John Latino, turned its Annual Awards Banquet into a fund raiser for the Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation. With the help of many local businesses and organizations, the raffle conducted that evening netted nearly \$1000 for the Foundation. Participating in the event were Coaches Del Harris and Candice Brown of Vassar College who spoke to the players and parents about basketball and how it fits into their young lives.

St. Martin's connection with the Foundation goes back many years when the parishioners of St. Martin's participated in a walk at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies to support Ryan during his struggle with cancer. People of the parish have also been involved in raising funds for the Foundation through the Annual Pocket Change Fundraiser at nearby Vassar Road Elementary School in the Wappingers Central School District. The St. Martin's CYO Basketball Program is involved in several fund raising activities throughout the year. Recently their efforts have involved purchasing gifts for local families at Christmas through Catholic Charities, Hoops for Hunger that provides funds for local food banks, Haitian Relief, and direct support for families who are in need. Two years ago, the Board of Directors of the Basketball Program, decided to try turning the Travel Program's Annual Awards Banquet into a fund raiser. After consulting with parishioners and the board, the Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation was chosen to be the beneficiary of the fund raising activities again this year.

The event has been catered by Joe Christiano's of Hyde Park which keeps the cost of the dinner low in support of the Foundation. Local business and organizations were contacted to donate items for a large raffle. A list of the businesses and organizations is shown below. Players are given a raffle ticket and families are allowed to purchase additional raffle tickets. Each time a number is called, the winner may come up and select any gift from the prize table.

The people of St. Martin's always seem to respond with tremendous support for these kinds of fund raising efforts and this event proved to be no exception. It is an evening of thanks to the people who have generously supported the basketball program throughout the year, of celebration for achievements on and off the basketball court, and a chance to help people at the Ryan McElroy Foundation for their work in assisting those who are struggling in difficult circumstances.

## Supporters of the Raffle:

Tim Murray & Marist College  
Coach Brian Giorgis & Marist College  
Coach Del Harris & Vassar College  
Coach Candice Brown & Vassar College  
Rick Zolzer & The Hudson Valley Renegades  
Jim & Lynn Santoro & Edge Athletics  
Terry Feeley & The Mid Hudson Summer Basketball  
Notre Dame Club of the Mid-Hudson Valley  
Anaconda Sports  
Joe Christiano's  
Madison Square Garden  
The New Jersey Nets  
Casperkill Golf Club  
Dutchess Country Club  
Joe Latino PGA Teaching Pro  
Bob Viani & Planet Fitness  
Good Fellas Italian Restaurant  
Colanero's Italian Restaurant  
Marco's Italian Restaurant  
Cappuccino's Restaurant  
St. Andrew's Café & The Culinary Institute of America  
Umberto's Mamma Marisa Restaurant  
Oriental Buffet Restaurant  
Unos Restaurant  
Fun Central  
Tony's Pizza Pit Restaurant  
Bacio's Italian Restaurant  
River Station Restaurant  
South Gate Deli  
Giacomo's Restaurant  
Southside Wine and Spirits

St. Martin De Porres School is located in Poughkeepsie, NY.



## ABOUT US



Charlie Daniels  
Board Member

Charlie lives in Pawling, New York with his wife, Lisa, who founded and past Head of the Mizzentop Day School.

Charlie has been a supporter of Ryan's Foundation since it's founding. He and Chip spent many a work out together at the gym, first dealing with grief, but eventually battling around ideas on how best to carry on Ryan's memory that would have the greatest impact on children who face similar challenges. Charlie & Lisa have been blessed by their friendship with Chip, Judy, and Tralee and can think of no other cause that has been so personally rewarding.

Charlie is an Executive Vice President and on the Executive Committee of Rose and Kiernan, Inc. He began his insurance career in 1984 with the Daniels Insurance Agency of NY, Inc. after spending 7 years as a Food and Beverage Director with Hilton Hotels Corporation. In 2004 The Daniels Agency of New York, Inc. merged its stock with Rose and Kiernan, Inc. of East Greenbush, New York.

Charlie is a 1978 graduate of St. Lawrence University and earned the prestigious Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter designation in 1991. He is past Chairman of the Board of Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers. It's 260 members are from all 50 states and 25 countries worldwide. Charlie's community involvement includes a number of civic and human service non-profit organizations. He serves on the boards of the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency, Dutchess County United Way, Community Resource and Service Center of Pawling, Pawling Chamber of Commerce, Astor Home for Children, Partners with Putnam County ARC, and Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation. He is past Board Chair of Abilities First, Pawling Community Foundation, Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation, and Quaker Hill Country Club. He has been honored with Volunteer of the Year awards from Dutchess County Boy Scouts, Anderson Center for Autism, Astor Home For Children, and Community Foundation of Dutchess County.



## Annual Golf Outing

June 28, 2010

The Ryan McElroy Golf Tournament will be held this year on June 28th at The Powelton Golf Club located at 29 Balmville Rd., Newburgh, New York (845) 561-7409. This year we are excited that the whole family is included, not just golfers! The Powelton Club has opened it's doors for Ryan's Foundation! Golf, two swimming pools, tennis courts and more! Unbelievable Lunch & Dinner! With the growing success of this fundraising event, Ryan's Foundation hopes to meet or exceed past years funds raised. The goal has been to stay true to our mission to never turn a child away. A good turnout allows Ryan's Foundation to continue helping families in the community and network with others. Given these challenging economic times, non-profits need support now more than ever and we are grateful to be able to put 100% of this money to work for those in need. Your continued support of our Golf Outing and other events enables us to help children and their families facing physical, emotional, and financial difficulties for which they are unprepared and help them find ways to assure their comfort and needs are met. Your participation in our events has been tremendous in the past. We hope you will be there again with us this year for a day of family fun!

[www.thepoweltonclub.com](http://www.thepoweltonclub.com)

"raising hope"

Registration: 10am  
Shotgun Start: 12:30pm  
Cost: \$175 golfers  
\$100 non-golfers

This includes 18-holes of  
golf, riding cart, lunch,  
and dinner.

Raffles & Prizes!

Lunch 11-12:30 pm

Evening Reception 6:30-8:30pm  
Includes:  
2 Hour Open Bar, Hot & Cold  
Hors D'Oeuvres, Seafood  
Station, Pasta Station, BBQ  
Station, Carving Station, Bread  
& Condiment Station, Powelton  
Club Dessert Station,  
Coffee/Tea

# FAMILY SUMMER FUN DAYS



## RIDE TO RAISE HOPE SPIN-A-THON #1

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June 5 is the date for the Ride to Raise Hope Spin-A-Thon at World Gym Brewster from 7am - 12pm where the music is loud and the energy is high!

The Event: For 5 hours individuals and team spinners will ride in support of the Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation. The day consists of five 45 minute spin sessions, with a 15 minute break in between, 45 bikes per session. Participants are encouraged to raise funds in support of their spin. Prizes will go to top team as well as top individual for raising money! Healthy Snacks and Drinks provided! \$25 donation per session (7am, 8am, 9am, 10am and 11am). You will receive an email confirmation of spin time based on availability. Childcare provided.

Contact for more information:

Michelle @  
mibourque@ryansfoundation.org

Gina @ ginam@nycap.rr.com

Eleanor @  
Enurzia@ryansfoundation.org

Sponsorships available-please email or call for more info!



## FAMILY PIG ROAST & CLASSIC CAR SHOW

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August 22 is the date for the Family Pig Roast & Classic Car Show at Freedom Park in LaGrange, NY. Car show participant registration is 9am - 12pm (breakfast provided), show and pig roast is from 12pm - 5pm. Car show participant donation is \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door which includes 1 car and driver. Each driver will receive a goody bag and event t-shirt. There will be trophies for paint, interior, engine, and best in show. The car show participant donation is also good for the whole day of activities including food and drink. If you are not entering a car, the donation is \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door.

Kids under 12 are free!!! Bee Bee the Clown will be providing entertainment for the kids from 1pm - 4pm. She will be doing magic, face painting, balloon animals, and lots more.

Chilly Willy's Ice Cream Truck will be serving all the favorites to everyone in attendance from 3pm - 5pm.



Whiskey Tango will once again be providing live musical entertainment throughout the entire day.

Of course there will be The Pig Roast which includes fresh roasted pork, hamburgers and hot dogs, corn-on-the-cob and all the fixins as well as beer and soda! All this is included in your donation!

We are also looking for sponsors:

- Beverage sponsor \$250.00 (includes 5 tickets to the event)
- Breakfast sponsor \$500.00 (includes 10 tickets to the event)
- Lunch sponsor \$750.00 (includes 15 tickets to event)

Checks are payable to: The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation and can be mailed to 198 Route 22, Pawling, NY 12564 or can be done online @ [www.ryansfoundation.org](http://www.ryansfoundation.org)

Contact:  
Jeremy Busolt, 845 702 7303 or [jerbus81@yahoo.com](mailto:jerbus81@yahoo.com)  
Carl Merritt, 845 489 8725 or [cmerritt@ryansfoundation.org](mailto:cmerritt@ryansfoundation.org)

THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT

Don't forget to come see us at the Dutchess County Fair in Building B!





## 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June 5 Annual Spin-a-Thon #1

7:00am-12:00pm Town Center, Brewster, NY

### June 28 Annual Golf Tournament

10:00am - The Powelton Club, Newburgh, NY

### August 22 Pig Roast & Car Show

8:00am-5:00pm Freedom Park, LaGrange, NY

### August 24-29 Dutchess County Fair

8:00am-5:00pm Rhinebeck Fair Grounds, Bldg. B, Rhinebeck, NY

### September 18 Annual Spin-a-Thon#2

7:00am-12:00pm Town Center, Brewster, NY

### October 14 Annual Wine & Beer Tasting

6:00pm-9:00pm The Grandview, Poughkeepsie, NY

\*contact our Board members for more information or see our webpage:  
[www.ryansfoundation.org](http://www.ryansfoundation.org)

## EFT is now available on our webpage

Ryan's Foundation is happy to announce an EFT feature on our new webpage. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is a system of transferring money from one bank account directly to another without any paper money or checks changing hands. Transactions are processed through the Automated Clearing House network, a secure transfer system that connects all U.S. financial institutions. Funds are transferred electronically from one bank account to another in usually less than a day after the scheduled payment date. The growing popularity of EFT is paving the way for a paperless universe where checks, stamps, envelopes, and paper bills are obsolete. The benefits of EFT include reduced administrative costs, increased efficiency, simplified bookkeeping, and greater security.

Please consider signing up for recurring EFT donations so that we may continue our mission of never having to say NO to a child in need.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Ryan's Newsletter is published by The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, dedicated to helping children who battle childhood illnesses and cancer by providing support that improve the quality of life for them and their families.

### E-MAIL

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email & help us cut costs on printing and postage, please let us know.

Go Green- Go Paperless

And.....If you have a story you want us to know about, please contact our newsletter editor:

[sghavelka@gmail.com](mailto:sghavelka@gmail.com)



## GOOD NEWS CORNER

In 2010, RYAN'S FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTED OVER \$40,000 TO CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES!

Thank You for making this possible.

BIO-MEDICS has sent us 5% of their sales for this quarter! Thank You!!!

New Fairfield Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

North East Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Danbury Physical & Rehabilitation, PC



Thank You for your donations made through our Newsletter.  
Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Remember [GOODSEARCH.COM](http://GOODSEARCH.COM) & [GOODSHOP.COM](http://GOODSHOP.COM) when searching or shopping online. Sign in: RYANSFOUNDATION

# I want to help donation form



Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone-day: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone-evening: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My check is enclosed. (Make checks payable to: The Ryan Foundation.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Charge my donation to: \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ Discover  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:  
The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation,  
198 Route 22 Atrium Building, Pawling, NY 12564

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

A \$100 contribution will cover transportation to a hospital. A \$250 contribution will pay for food or utilities. A \$500 contribution will pay for lodging or rent. A \$1,000 will pay for a mortgage or medicines.

Please help and embrace the tiny things in life. Thank you.