



Words of Joy
page 2

Twins Pose
Unique Challenges
page 3

Meet Alison Jackson:
Going Above & Beyond
page 4

Josh Cares
Establishes First
Permanent Position
page 5

An "Event-full"
Year For Josh Cares
page 6 - 7

Fire & Ice Party Preview
page 8

Meet Atom

Technology Interface Brings Families Face to Face



Keeping families connected during a stressful separation is a very important role of the Josh Cares Fellows. As technology continues to advance, the fellows are taking advantage of innovative ways to help families stay involved in their children's daily lives despite the obstacles preventing them from being there physically. Fellows Michelle and Amy recently orchestrated the first-ever Skype communication between a patient and a family in a remote location. Skype is a software application which allows users

The Next
Best Thing To
Being There

to video conference over the internet.

Atom is a seven month old baby born with a congenital heart malformation.

After a short hospitalization near his home at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Tennessee, he was transferred to Cincinnati. Atom has already endured several major procedures and faces a future surgery to close the hole in his heart.

Due to the distance and transportation issues, Atom's family has been unable to

visit him for months. While sending pictures and e-mails to the family has been part of their weekly tasks, Michelle and Amy decided the family needed more personal interaction and bonding opportunities, prompting them to arrange a series of Skype sessions. Atom's mother Tabitha was overwhelmed with emotion when first seeing her son in real time. Later, she e-mailed Michelle with her appreciation, "I loved seeing him. I love so much the things you all do for our little man. He is so handsome and is getting so big. I wish I was there with him. You all are doing excellent work with him. It's so good to see him smile and play."

The fellows plan to continue to use Skype and other innovative forms of communication to keep families connected. On their wish list to improve patient care: two iPads. Donations of these items would be used to Skype and e-mail families and to download books, videos and games to help entertain bored children and distract them during stressful medical procedures. Please contact Josh Cares if you have an iPad to donate.

GRANTS RECEIVED

The John and Shirley Davies Foundation

The Rotary Foundation of Cincinnati

The Sutphin Family Foundation

And our ongoing thanks to the Charles H. Dater Foundation for their continued funding of one complete fellowship position designated to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at Cincinnati Children's.



JOSH CARES VISION

Josh Cares ensures that no critically ill child feels alone and afraid while hospitalized.

JOSH CARES MISSION

Josh Cares provides companionship and comfort to children hospitalized in critical care units in children's hospitals. Josh Cares Fellows serve as surrogates for, and links to, the families who would be with their children in the hospital if they could.



P. O. Box 43295 • Cincinnati, OH 45243 • Phone & Fax: 513-459-1911 • www.joshcares.org • administration@joshcares.org

Board of Directors
 • Ray Attiyah • Katrina Baliva • Jim Barney • Mike Collette
 • Dave DeVita • Ann Helfrich • Dan Pierce • Lynn Pierce

Executive Director
 Joy Rowe Blang

One of the things we are most proud of, administratively, is how much bang we get for our buck at Josh Cares. Our top priority is to channel as many of our donor dollars directly to support the time spent with children who would otherwise be alone much of the time at Cincinnati Children's. Our program began in 2005 with two annual fellows. It has steadily grown, in the few years since, responding to the number of children in need of our support and our desire to maximize the time each fellow spends with each individual child we serve. Last year we added a fifth annual fellowship. Here we grow again...we just added a unique sixth position, our first permanent position, which you can read about on page 5.

As our program grows so has our budget, which has literally doubled since I came to work for Josh Cares in 2009. We realized that, to increase funding this quickly, our community outreach efforts needed to grow and evolve. As the only paid administrative staff, and part-time at that, the key to our expansion has been the efforts of our many talented and devoted volunteers.

Of course, I must begin with our fabulous board of directors-the backbone of the organization who join me in welcoming new President Jim Barney and thanking outgoing board member Barbara Weyand (see pages 3 and 4). We are grateful to our many volunteers from Systems Evolution, Inc. who lend their technical and administrative talents in a myriad of ways. Meanwhile not only to our current supporters but also our efforts to attract new ones. A Corporate Cultivation Committee has just been assembled to expand the involvement of the business community in promoting Josh Cares. Special events are definitely the most time consuming of all non-profit fundraising endeavors. What would we do without our Fire and Ice committee (see page 8) or those that headed up our most recent events which you can read about on pages 6 and 7 or are brainstorming new ones? A new feature in our semi-annual newsletter will be a Volunteer Spotlight. Be sure to read about the extraordinary contributions of Alison Jackson on page 4. These are just a few of the many wonderful people who are dedicated to our vision of ensuring no child feels alone at the hospital. The bottom line is that we still could use more individuals to join this cadre of supporters. If you have the time and talent to share with Josh Cares, I promise to help identify a project that you will find personally rewarding. I feel fortunate for all of the support I receive each day from our many volunteers, both personally and professionally. Thank you, thank you, thank you!! You are making an incredible difference in the life of a child when it is needed the most.



Sincerely,

Joy Blang
 Executive Director

MEET THE JOSH CARES PATIENT

Emma and Hannah

Going Two For Two: Caring For Twins

Emma and Hannah are twin sisters born 14 weeks premature which resulted in numerous complications requiring the first 4 months of their lives be spent under the expert care of Cincinnati Children's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

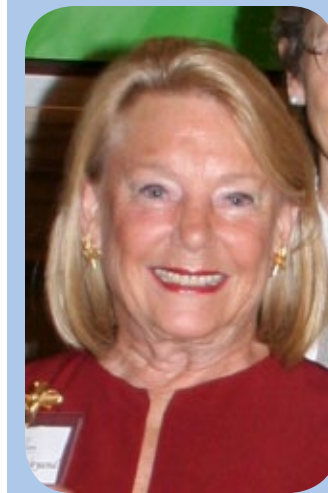
The girls' parents struggled to be at the hospital regularly. Their father was assigned to work in the south during the Gulf Oil Spill clean-up effort and was away from home for extended periods of time. Meanwhile their mother was busy juggling the care of several other children, including a 2 year old and teenager. NICU fellows Megan and Nicole stepped in to provide the sisters with the regular comfort and stimulation they needed to thrive.

Megan and Nicole reassured their mother that her



daughters were receiving plenty of love and attention by regularly sharing with her the events of their days and the many photos taken of the girls' adventures. She missed the fun of dressing them in holiday outfits so the fellows dressed them in outfits she brought in and posed them for photo shoots which the family treasures. At Halloween the

girls were still so tiny that they needed Build-a-Bear costumes! Happily, Emma and Hannah were discharged together in December, just in time to spend the holidays at home with the family. They are settling into the busy routine of life, thrilled at how far the baby girls have come since their very early entry into the world!



BARBARA WEYAND, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

"Barbara was such an asset to our young organization and brought a wealth of fundraising experience to our board. Over the years Barbara has been a 'full-time' volunteer and very passionate about making our community a better place to live. Whether it be a local school, the Cincinnati arts scene, or the area of health and well-being, Barbara has at one time or another done it with much success. We consider ourselves fortunate to have benefitted from her experience and generosity, will miss her at our board meetings, but wish her nothing but the best for the next chapter in her life!"

-Lynn Pierce,
 Co-Founding Board Member

Josh Cares

"12 for 1 Circle"

Sharing A Year Of Caring

The "12 for 1 Circle" is comprised of 12 donors each giving an annual contribution of \$3,100+ to fund an entire month of a Josh Cares Child Life Fellow's time to completely fund an entire position for the year.

"12 for 1 Circle" members receive naming rights for a specific month in 2011.

Months are still available for 2011. To join the circle, please contact Joy Blang at 260-2068 or jblang@joshcares.org.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| January: | The Linnemann Family Foundation |
| February: | The Raymond and Anna Johnson Foundation |
| March: | Ken and Joan Campbell |
| April: | Bruce and Margot Rowe |

JIM BARNEY

Josh Cares is pleased to announce the appointment of Jim Barney as President of the Board of Directors. Jim became involved with Josh Cares in late 2009 when asked to work with newly hired Joy Blang to create a comprehensive strategic development operating plan.

Jim's ability to see the overall picture, in addition to his affable personality and passion for the mission of Josh Cares made him an ideal candidate to join the board in the spring of 2010, leading to his appointment as President this past fall. Among his many goals for Josh Cares this year, he plans to engage more leadership volunteers, increase corporate cultivation efforts, attract new and diverse demographics of donors, and continue to foster relationships with major donors and foundations.

Jim and his wife Wendy (a member of the Fire and Ice committee) relocated to Cincinnati from Canada 12 years ago. They have two children- Sam, a sophomore at Brown University, and Jared, a junior at The Summit Country Day School. Jim is the retired Senior Vice President of General Cable. In his spare time, Jim enjoys coaching hockey at The Indian Hill Winter Club.

MEET THE JOSH CARES VOLUNTEER

Alison

Giving Back In So Many Ways



Alison Giles Jackson is a deeply dedicated Josh Cares volunteer. She is also one of the more experienced volunteers at Cincinnati Children's who works specifically with the patients under the care of the Josh Cares Program. Alison, now a young adult, endured a lengthy hospitalization herself at Cincinnati Children's as a pre-adolescent—an experience which changed her life and her desire to give back to others.

Alison, who is employed by Rockfish Interactive, works in the field of marketing and advertising, but has also taken additional undergraduate courses to better understand the field of Child Life which focuses on eliminating the impact of stress which an illness or injury and subsequent hospitalization can have on children and their families. She learned of Josh Cares through an article last year in The Cincinnati Enquirer and immediately contacted the organization to offer her support.

Alison has volunteered at Cincinnati Children's over the years in various departments. Since August she has spent every other Sunday visiting the Josh Cares patients. Several of the patients she has visited each time have been hospitalized the entire time she has been volunteering, so she has developed some close bonds with them. Together they read stories, play games, tell jokes—anything to help them

to just feel like typical kids. The children look forward to her regular visits and while tearful goodbyes at the end of her visits break her heart, she knows she has added a bright spot to their long days.

What elevates Alison to Super-Volunteer status is that she tirelessly lends her marketing and advertising skills to Josh Cares behind the scenes as well. She served as the Team Captain for Josh Cares' effort at the hospital's annual walk "Cincinnati Walks for Kids" in October. Under her leadership, Josh Cares raised \$16,000. Alison is also a member of the organization's Communications Committee. Always willing to pitch in, Alison volunteers at special events and any other area of need whenever asked.

Alison embodies the volunteer spirit of young professionals today. She is extremely dedicated to her career, but finds great joy and inspiration in knowing that she can make a huge difference in the lives of children at their most vulnerable time. It is rare for a volunteer to be as versatile as Alison is in her ability to connect with young children so beautifully, but to also assume leadership roles which can help an organization grow to a new level professionally.

MEET THE JOSH CARES FELLOW

Sr. Fellow Amy McGrory

Josh Cares Establishes First Permanent Position

The Josh Cares Organization is excited to announce that it has recently added a sixth Josh Cares fellowship, making this role a senior, *and the first permanent*, position within the Child Life area at Cincinnati Children's.

Amy McGrory, who has just completed her first year as a Josh Cares Fellow, brings a wealth of talents and life experience to her new position. Says Lynn Sanner, Clinical Education Coordinator at CCHMC, "Amy's new position will allow us to have a consistent fellow who is very cognizant of the learning and support needs of our group. Since her new role will include spending much of her time tending to patients, she will be the person who is familiar with ALL of the patients. Therefore, she will be able to fill the gaps that occur when other fellows are off or when they complete their 12-month fellowship appointments."

Amy, who brings to the new position 23 years of marriage and parenting her two college age children, Maddy 21, and Michael, 19, along with 15 year-old daughter Colleen, knows well the challenges and rewards of providing continuous support and care to children, especially those who are seriously ill and confined to long-term hospitalizations.

The path that led Amy to the Josh Cares program began several years ago when she began her volunteer work with CCHMC in the activity centers and the bed rest program. Explains Amy, "When I saw what Child Life Specialists do for children and families, I was completely hooked! I knew that this was what I wanted to pursue now that my kids were a little older and more independent."

Amy decided to return to school for a Masters Degree so that she would be eligible to apply for a Child Life internship, which is a requirement to work as a child life specialist. Amy completed her internship at CCHMC in 2008 and completed her Masters Degree in Integrative Studies at Northern Kentucky University in May 2009. Her coursework in education, psychology, child development and counseling allowed her to become certified as a Child Life Specialist in May 2009 after passing the national certifying examination.

Following a year of service as a fellow for the Josh Cares program, Amy was selected to continue her work as a full-time, permanent Josh Cares Senior Child Life Fellow.

Going forward, Amy will continue to work closely with Lynn Sanner, who will remain the official supervisor of the six Josh Cares Fellows. Amy will serve as the team leader and mentor to the annual fellows, who are often just out of college and embarking on their careers. Says Lynn, "I count on the Senior Fellow to join me in providing an atmosphere for fellows



WELCOME NEW FELLOWS!

Angela Brennecke,
Certified Child Life Specialist

PLACEMENT: Newborn Intensive Care Unit

ALMA MATER: Iowa State University

DEGREE: BS in Child and Family Services

INTERNSHIP: Mercy Hospital, Des Moines, IA

HOMETOWN: Des Moines, IA

Sarah Cupp

PLACEMENT: Critical Care Units

ALMA MATER: University of Virginia

DEGREE: BA in Cognitive Science, Minor in Biology

INTERNSHIP: Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD

HOMETOWN: Harrisonburg, VA



You can volunteer too!

Call for Crop Crew

Calling all creative scrapbookers to volunteer one shift a month at Cincinnati Children's to preserve memories our patients and their families will cherish for a lifetime. To learn more about this fun opportunity, contact Ann Helfrich at 859-802-7734.

Youkilis Event A Grand Slam Event

Kevin Youkilis Hits for Kids hit a Grand Slam for Josh Cares in December with an all-star event at the Green Diamond Gallery which raised \$60,000! Kevin, whose baseball career began at Sycamore High School and as a UC Bearcat, is now an All-Star First Baseman for the Boston Red Sox with two World Series rings.

But, as Paul Dougherty conveyed in an inspirational article which appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer the day of the event, Kevin is as much a hero off the field as he is on. He founded his non-profit organization 3 years ago to support small non-profits serving the health and well-being of children. Josh Cares is extremely grateful to Kevin, the staff and board of his organization, and his family and friends who devoted countless hours and resources to make this event a success. We look forward to a continued partnership with *Kevin Youkilis Hits for Kids*.



Mike Youkilis presents Josh Cares with a check for \$60,000 on behalf of his son, Kevin, and Kevin Youkilis Hits for Kids. Left to right: Mike Youkilis and Josh Cares Executive Director Joy Blang with board members Dan Pierce and Jim Barney.



HAM IT UP AT THE FLYING PIG!

Not planning on sprinting across the finish line at this year's Flying Pig Marathon but still want to be part of the excitement? Volunteers are a critical part of the success of the marathon, a premier marathon which attracts runners from all over. Raising money for charities is one of the priorities of The Pig and Josh Cares has gotten in on the action.

On Sunday, May 1st, help us defend our title as "Top Squealers!" Last year, the Josh Cares Fluid Station Volunteers at Mile Marker 23 earned this prestigious honor (with accompanying monetary prize) with their creative and spirited efforts to entertain and motivate weary runners in the final leg of the marathon. This year's theme, "What Happens at The Pig, Stays at The Pig," is sure to be a top contender again...but we need your support!

This volunteer opportunity is perfect for spirited students with boundless energy! Stay tuned to the Josh Cares Cincinnati Events page on our website for additional information.



Students Make A Powerful Connection

Students of all ages, from schools throughout the region, creatively earned money to purchase \$1 links of a holiday paper chain to benefit Josh Cares as part of the *Chain of Love* Student Service Project.

Collectively, thousands of links were sold. These links were connected into one massive chain and displayed in the east atrium of Kenwood's Sycamore Plaza outside Dick's and Barnes and Noble for the entire month of December to raise awareness of the need for Josh Cares Fellows to provide emotional care for the critically ill children who spend so much of their time alone. Many students representing the participating schools volunteered at, and musically performed in, the festive holiday open house which was held at Sycamore Plaza the Saturday before Christmas.

Final Friday Event Is A First For Josh Cares

Josh Cares joined forces with one of the most unique Friday night venues in town last February to host an open house reception during the Pendleton Art Center's Final Friday event. The lively reception, which was chaired by volunteer Jordan Weidner, featured cocktails, music, and a raffle including gift certificates and one of a kind artwork donated by PAC artists.

Josh Cares... and Look Who Else Does, Too!



Kevin Youkilis Hits for Kids Board Members flew in from Boston to support the event.



Cincinnati native, and New Orleans Saints Super Bowl Champ, Troy Evans (far right) was in town to join Kevin and their young fans at the party.



Representing corporate sponsor Total Quality Logistics, Kerry Byrne and his wife Missy hang out with Kevin



Kevin's agent, Joe Bick of Pro-Star Management (far right), with his family



The "Chain Gang" at Cincinnati Country Day School linked together thousands of chains to prepare them for display at Sycamore Plaza



Madeira Middle School's victorious team in the all-school dodgeball tournament to raise funds for the Chain of Love



Villa Madonna Academy's Penny War funds over 800 links of the chain!



Board President Jim Barney (right) with Rich and Julie Coleman



Board Member Mike Collette admires the artwork with his wife Carolyn and parents.



The young professional crowd lend their support to Josh Cares. From left to right: Hillary Kelly, Emma Scharfenberger, Sam McDonald, Ellen Becker and Adrienne Vollman.



Student volunteers MacKenzie Horvath (The Summit) and UC's Anna Damcevski cheerfully direct art center visitors to our reception.




Event Chair Jordan Weidner, with his mother Gail.

For more information and to view additional photos from these three spectacular events, visit the Cincinnati page at www.joshcares.org.



Being There to Care...
for hospitalized children who are alone

joshcares.org

Become our fan on facebook. 

Josh Cares, Inc.
P. O. Box 43295
Cincinnati, OH 45243

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
Cincinnati OH
Permit No 7312

Live Up to Your New Year's Resolutions with Josh Cares:

- ENJOY THE ARTS:** Attend the Josh Cares Final Friday at the Pendleton Arts Center on Friday, February 25
- SEE THE WORLD:** Go on a safari in your own backyard by attending Fire and Ice: A Gourmet Safari Through Southern Africa on Saturday, April 30
- GET FIT:** Organize a relay team to run on behalf of Josh Cares in The Flying Pig on Sunday, May 1
- GIVE BACK:** Josh Cares has plenty of options for volunteers of all ages and interests
- GET CREATIVE:** Join the Crop Crew to create "All About Me" scrapbooks that share precious memories of a hospitalized child's life with their families
- BE A GOOD SPORT:** Meet Boston Red Sox All-Star Kevin Youkilis and other Cincinnati sports celebrities when Kevin Youkilis Hits for Kids and Josh Cares team up again to hit another homerun event after the World Series wraps up
- REFLECT:** Consider the true meaning of the holiday season, and link onto the Chain of Love at Sycamore Plaza in December

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FIRE AND ICE

Saturday, April 30,
7pm-midnight

FLYING PIG FLUID STATION

Sunday, May 1,
All morning long!

CINCINNATI WALKS FOR KIDS

Saturday October 15,
8:30 am -1 pm
Coney Island

HAKUNA MATATA

Fire & Ice

A Gourmet Safari Through Southern Africa



Mark your calendars now for the seventh annual Josh Cares signature fundraiser "Fire & Ice - a Gourmet Safari through Southern Africa" which is planned for the evening of Saturday, April 30 at the Indian Hill home of Dan and Lynn Pierce.

This festive event will be held from 7:00 pm to midnight and will offer an open bar including "cheetinis" for

the adventurous traveler, a fabulous array of safari delicacies to include fire-grilled surf & turf provided by the award-winning chefs of the Heritage Club and Oceanwide Seafood. And last but not least, some very entertaining safari surprises to make the trip oh so memorable with All Inclusive Safari Pricing - **No Auction, No Raffle, No Tie Required!** Just put on your best safari

attire and follow the beat to a fantastic evening of fun and fund raising. For more information on reservations, readers can visit the Cincinnati page on the Josh Cares website. Don't miss out on the party that people talk about all year long!

