

Letter from Steve Balbierz, KRM board chairman

Last year, KRM provided assistance to more than 150 local families who had their lives turned upside down overnight upon hearing that their child has cancer. I hope and pray that it will never happen to any of you, but the sad reality is that it happens EVERY day ... to people just like you and me.

KRM provides all types of family assistance in central and northern California (and Reno, NV) and unfortunately the number of kids with cancer continues to increase every year and has for the last 25 years! These families need our help, and they need it now. The majority of our funding comes from fundraising and individual gifts.

I know that the economy is poor and people are struggling. But cancer doesn't care about the economy. These kids are fighting for their lives and it is during times like these that only make it tougher on our kids and families during their fight.

Come join me and help make a difference. God bless you for helping.

Steve

Steve Balbierz, chairman of the board

News



(insert stbaldricks.jpg)

2009 St. Baldrick's Events Net Big Fun (and Funds!)

Bald really is beautiful! Just ask the 585 shavees (including 35 women) at this year's St. Baldrick's events at UC Davis Cancer Center and Westfield Galleria at Roseville on March 12 and 14. To date, the UC Davis Cancer Center event has raised \$45,644 and the Westfield Galleria at Roseville event has raised over \$125,887. It's not too late to donate. Visit the St. Baldrick's Web site today (<http://www.stbaldricks.org/>).

During these events, the St Baldrick's Foundation inducting the following shavees into the "Knights of the Bald Table" in honor of their SEVEN consecutive years of shaving: Aldo Pineschi, Jake Luigi, Tino Luigi (Neuroblastoma survivor!), Kathi Evans and Harry Oakes.

For the past four years, the students and staff at Eureka School in Granite Bay have hosted a private St. Baldrick's event, thanks to our friends Trevor and Jenni Sanders who coordinate the effort. On March 19, some 40 brave children and staff members shaved their heads and raised \$21,531! Way to go, kids!

Of the total amount raised through these events, 40% or about \$77,000, will be directed to childhood cancer research projects here in Northern California. The remaining 60% is distributed through the national St. Baldrick's organization for national research efforts.

(insert sammy.jpg image)



A proud uncle shaves in loving support of his brave niece Sammie. This year, he also shaved his *back* for St. Baldrick's!
(picture by Kim Demmin)



(insert stbald-ucd.jpg)

A kiss from dad brings a big smile to the face of this little hero at the UC Davis Cancer Center event.



- Kathi Evans of Rocklin is a seven-time shavee.
(insert kathi_evans.jpg) (picture by Photography for a Reason)



(insert chris-riva.jpg) KCRA TV anchorman Chris Riva did double-duty at the Westfield Galleria at Roseville. Not only did he help emcee our St. Baldrick's event, he also shaved a few heads, including cancer survivor Chase shown here. Thank you to Chris and all our emcees for making the events extra special: Adrienne Bankert (KCRA), Steve Art (City of Lincoln) and Kat Madru (the EAGLE). (picture by Terri Balbierz)

Tons 'o Fun at Baldy Bash

Thanks to the generosity of our friends at Westfield Galleria at Roseville, another \$4,000 was raised at the first-ever "Baldy Bash" After Party held immediately after the St. Baldrick's event on March 14 in the Promenade area. Guests were treated to live music, and great food and drinks donated by Il Fornaio, Red Mango, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Cheesecake Factory, Hotdog on a Stick and Roseville Meat Company. Thank you to everyone who helped make Baldy Bash the perfect celebration.

News

Robyn Advocates for Increased Childhood Cancer Research Funding

In February, KRM executive director Robyn Raphael spent three days in Washington, DC, meeting with members of Congress to push for increased federal funding to support medical research to cure childhood cancer. Robyn has been a volunteer state team leader for the CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation since 2000.

Last summer, both Houses of Congress unanimously passed the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which authorizes \$150 million over the next five years to further research that will save more children's lives. "But an 'authorization' is only a promise of funding, not funding money itself," notes Robyn. "I went to Washington with other volunteers to make sure that this Congress and this Administration keep the promise that they made to our children."

Government funding for cancer research has remained flat for more than six years. "For every day that research is underfunded, the road to discovering treatments and cures becomes longer and more children die," Robyn adds. "This is totally unacceptable."

For more information, visit: www.curesearch.org

New KRM Web Site Launches

Check out the new look of our web site: ChildCancer.org Not only do we have a new look, we've made it easier for visitors to find information. We welcome your feedback. Thank you LoJo Group. <http://www.LoJogroup.com>

Families:

Please send us your Caringbridge URL or other update page so we can stay informed of your child's progress. If you do not want your CaringBridge site linked on our web site, just let us know and we will keep it private. Also, please send us any other links that you find useful so we can build a community for our families.

Also, if you have any stories or feedback about KRM and what it means to you, please contact us at

info@childcancer.org.

Upcoming Events



[insert walknrock.jpg]

Link the above Walk 'n Rock logo to: <http://www.active.com/donate/KeatonRaphael>

Kids, Businesses and Classrooms: We Need You

Hope Productions Foundation has chosen KRM as one of six charities to benefit from a unique 5K community walk around Raley Field on **Saturday, May 23, 2009**. After the walk, spend the evening at a star-studded benefit concert featuring Journey, a VIP reception, live auction and more.

We need teams to walk for KRM. Visit <http://www.active.com/donate/KeatonRaphael> to register. Join "Team Keaton" or start your own team. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 for our Family Assistance Program. Families, businesses and the community are welcome--let's walk for the kids!

Volunteer Corner

Join the Walk 'N Rock

We need 30 people to volunteer for Walk 'N Rock. Contact Kendall Burley at events@childcancer.org.

Volunteer Spotlight: Chris Martinez

Chris Martinez is an amazing guitar player and one of our dearest supporters and volunteers. You've probably seen him perform at some of our events. It's always a highlight! Behind the scenes, he gives of his generous heart. Last month he donated a guitar to a little boy whose sister is battling cancer because he expressed an interest in having a guitar. He also met Robyn's Facebook challenge by personally bringing in a donation in to the office.

(insert chris martinez.jpg)



(caption) Chris Martinez, April 2008

"From Robyn and KRM, I've learned that it doesn't take an official 'standing' in the community to make a change. It just

takes a convicted heart. Sometimes it takes only a little effort – like a head-shaving – to make a great change or even save a life. We all need strong support systems and I am so lucky to be a part of the KRM support system which helps so many people in need.”

Snuggle Blanket Gals

Thank you to all the Snuggle Blanket Gals who have done an amazing job of keeping up with our snuggle blanket demand. Norah Leddy, who organizes, shops for, and coordinates the group, and Jenna Brunello, who makes the lovely tags for each blanket, have been amazing.

Newcomer Vanessa Gunn has come out of the gate sewing! At her first meeting with the group last month, Vanessa made three blankets, then went home and sewed 20 more (that's 23 in one week!). She even came up with a creative fundraising idea of her own. She sold her old paperback books to friends and used the money to purchase more fabric.

Another newcomer, Therese Hartner, surprised us with a box of handmade snuggle blankets plus other items to include in the Family Care Packages.

We also welcomed a Girl Scout troop who pitched in and made some beautiful blankets for our kids, proving that you can't be too young or too old to help our kids.

Ways to Give

Whiten Your Teeth: Smiles for Life

Now through June, have your teeth whitened by Dr. Dan Hopper and help support KRM. Through this national program, dentists donate their time and Discus Dental donates the whitening materials.

Thanks to country music star Garth Brooks who pays all the administrative costs, 100% of the proceeds are donated to children's charities: 50% goes to the national Crown Council organization who distributes it to many deserving charities and the other 50% goes to a local charity of your dentist's choice. Dr. Hopper has chosen KRM. Call Dr. Hopper at (916) 624-3119 to make your appointment today.

Donate for a Complementary Portrait Session

Donate a suggested minimum donation of \$25 for a complementary Portrait Session Certificate for Jim Karnopp's, The Art of Photography, Photo Session and a FREE 5x7. Jim has graciously donated sessions with him to us for you to purchase. The \$25 goes directly to us and you get a free session and a free 5x7. If you like your session with Jim you can purchase a portrait package of your choice. There is no obligation to purchase. Visit Jim's site to see his work at www.karnoppgallery.com Jim specializes in People and Dog Portraits! Take Advantage of this great opportunity.

Byers Gymnastics Centers to Donate \$5 for Every New Enrollment

Byers Gymnastics Centers are flipping for KRM! Register your child for one of the many fun and healthy programs at Byers Gymnastics in Roseville or Citrus Height and help kids battling cancer at the same time. Now through the end of April, \$5 from every *new* Byers Gymnastics enrollment will be donated to KRM. You must mention "Keaton Raphael Memorial" when you register. Call Byers at (916) 781-2939 for more information or to register.

Clean Your Carpets & Help KRM Too

When you get your carpets cleaned by Comfort Carpet Cleaning, KRM gets something too: 20% of the service fee! There's never been an easier way to donate and get something in return. Call Comfort Carpet Cleaning at (916) 329-1200 to make an appointment. Thank you, Comfort Carpet Cleaning and local owners Jim and Liz Reego.

Request for Donations

We need photo albums for our Family Care Packages. These are small albums holding 4x6" photos that are easy for families to take back and forth to the hospital. If you would like to donate albums, please contact Angela Hart at (916) 784-6786 or by e-mail to admin@childcancer.org.

We are also in need of small new toys, crafts, etc., for our Family Care Packages. (Because of our limited storage space, items must be small.) If you would like to donate, please contact Angela Hart at (916) 784-6786 or by e-mail admin@childcancer.org.

Very Special Thanks to ...

Michael Jeffries, whose son Will is one of our kiddos, and Marriott Spring Hill Suites and Marriott Towne Place Suites for celebrating their grand opening on March 2 with an event that raised almost \$200 for KRM.

Business Legal Financial Center (<http://www.execsuiteblfc.com/>) for the generous discount on office space they have provided us each month since March 2007.

Girl Scout Troop #837 for painting beautiful pictures with sweet get well wishes that will be included in our Family Care Packages.

First Northern Bank for its \$1,200 contribution to our Family Assistance Program.

Thunder Valley Casino for their generous donation of a booth at the Business Showcase & Mixer at Sun City Roseville on March 11.

More Places to Find KRM in the Virtual World

KRM has joined the social networking world. Visit us at:

Myspace: www.myspace.com/childcancer

friendster: <http://www.friendster.com/childcancer>

care2: <http://my.care2.com/krmhome>

ning: <http://childcancer.ning.com/profile/KeatonRaphaelMemorial>

tagged: <http://www.tagged.com/childcancer>

bebo: <http://www.bebo.com/KeatonR29>

hi5: <http://childcancer.hi5.com>

In Loving Memory

(insert joseph.jpg)



(caption) Joseph became an angel in December

Kendall became an angel in January

James became an angel in February

Estephanie became an angel in September