



Autumn News!

In early November our family gathered to celebrate Grace's 10th birthday. Our yearly gathering is always bittersweet—we remember her short life with us but are reminded of the good work that is being accomplished in her honor.

Although it is hard to believe that ten years have passed, we have not lost sight of the reasons we established the Sweet Pea Foundation. A recent trip to Indianapolis found me on the campus at Riley Hospital. A tour of the Ronald McDonald House, brought back vivid memories of our time there. As I walked through the house to visit the room sponsored by the Foundation, I recalled the many meals we prepared in the kitchen, the TV room where we watched college basketball, and the living room where we would simply sit and try to relax for a minute. We are incredibly humbled by the opportunity for the Foundation to provide a room to the many families that pass through the Ronald McDonald House.

But the work of the Sweet Pea Foundation does not end there. We continue to provide toys and activities to hospitals and organizations that are caring for sick children. Our "Hugs from Grace" program continues to grow and expand. The massage therapy vouchers at Memorial Children's Hospital remain a welcome respite to parents caring for a sick child. We are engaged with nurses and staff at the hospitals to fulfill "Big Ticket" needs and "Grace-E-Grams" are sent all over the country to children needing a little ray of sunshine.

We regularly receive kind words from families that have been touched by the Sweet Pea Foundation. We continue to make a small difference in the lives of sick children. Thank you for your past support and we look forward to many more years of providing assistance to those children who need it most.

Our sincerest gratitude,

Pete and Suzanne

Pete and Suzanne Letherman
The Sweet Pea Foundation

The funds received from the Autumn 2012 Campaign will be broken down as follows:

- 25% for the "Seeds of Grace" fund
- 30% for the Ronald McDonald House reserve fund
- 25% for toys & books
- 20% for "Hugs from Grace"



9th Annual Kickoff Classic Sponsors

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Autumn Newsletter 2012



Happy Holidays!



Recent News from the Sweet Pea Foundation:

Hugs, Hugs, and more Hugs!

What goes into a “Hug”? The seventh grade class at St. Pius X Catholic School can tell you. With the assistance of these students, we were able to double the number of “Hugs from Grace” that we provided to hospitals in Elkhart, Mishawaka, and South Bend, Indiana. For their stewardship project, the seventh graders stuffed 120 Hugs for Thanksgiving and Christmas.



St. Pius X seventh graders hold up the Christmas Hugs they helped assemble.

A “Hug” is comprised of many items that provide a child with needed distraction while

spending an extended period of time in the hospital. The gift bags include stuffed toys, activity books,



As part of their class stewardship project, the seventh graders helped pack 120 Hugs.

crafts, holiday decorations, window clings, story books, and other activities that help entertain a sick child. “Hugs from Grace” are a huge hit.

We continue to receive wonderful feedback from patients, nurses and

hospital staff. The Hugs are loved by all, especially the patients:

“Hi! My daughter just got a wonderful Halloween Hug from Grace and we wanted to say thank you! It’s the first smile we’ve seen from her in awhile. She is 8 years old and this is her third stay in a hospital since August. I’m going to tell all our friends and spread the word about all the awesome things you do!”

-Melissa, Steve and Miss Bekka

“We LOVE the Hugs from Grace gift bags, our kids LOVE them, they give kids something to do and decorate their room with. I think the window clings, bubbles, funky straws, books and activities are spot on!”

*-Tracy Byler, Child Life Program Coordinator
Memorial Children’s Hospital*

9th Annual Kickoff Classic is Best Yet!

The ninth annual Kickoff Classic was held at Juday Creek on September 2nd. It was our best outing yet! Over 70 golfers participated in this year’s event, raising over \$7,000. The weather cooperated, for the most part, and we had



2012 Kickoff Classic Winners!

over 18 door prizes to raffle off. Congratulations to this year’s winning foursome: Bruce Barrow, Greg Kelly, Joe Letherman and Dave Steed. A special thanks to our major sponsors: 1st Source Bank, Advanced Designs Corporation, Ernest Maier, FM Stone Commercial, Laboe Orthodontics, Lawyers Title, McGladrey, Niblock Excavating, Regency Search Group, Solais, Wells Fargo Advisors, and Wightman

Petrie. Additional sponsors are listed on the back of this brochure. If you would like to play in or sponsor the next Kickoff Classic, the 10th annual Kickoff Classic will be Friday, September 21, 2013 at Juday Creek in Mishawaka, IN—the day before the Notre Dame vs. Michigan State game.



Golfers get ready to hit the links at the Foundation’s 9th Annual Kickoff Classic.

Save the Date: 10th & Final Bash!

Mark your calendar for our final St. Patrick’s Day celebration. After ten great years, we have decided this will be our final Blarney Bash. The 10th annual event is going to be held on Saturday, March 16th at the Knights of Columbus in Elkhart. Please join us one last time for traditional Irish cuisine, green beer and Irish music. This is a family-friendly event that is fun for all ages. If you are interested in sponsoring the event, contact Pete at 574-296-1310 or email blarneybash@comcast.net.



The Blarney Bash had a surprise visit from a traveling bagpiper.

The Foundation is looking for ideas for a fundraiser that will replace the Blarney Bash. Any ideas or suggestions would be appreciated. Email them to us at www.sweetpeafoundation@comcast.net.

Holiday Gifts that Give

Looking for a unique holiday gift for a neighbor or coworker? Don’t know what to get the person on your list that has everything? Having trouble finding the perfect secret Santa gift for someone? Consider a gift to the Sweet Pea Foundation in their name this holiday season. Just fill out the pledge card and indicate that the donation is a holiday gift. The Foundation will mail a personalized notecard to the recipient acknowledging a gift has been made in their honor.

Did You Know...

100% of donations received go to the goals of the Foundation.

*Grace
Elizabeth
Letherman,
our inspiration!*

