



## Autumn News!

It was Halloween night in 2002 when Suzanne went into labor. Our daughter Grace was born the next morning on All Saints Day and within hours of her birth, she was transferred to Riley Hospital in Indianapolis. We suddenly found ourselves three hours away from our home and without loved ones nearby who could support us. Many friends and family members were eager to get updates about Grace. I vividly remember setting up a special email account on Yahoo as a “new” means of communicating with everyone. Fast-forward eleven years and we see daily how the Internet has changed our lives in a drastic way.

Although we are not very active in the social media world, we occasionally post updates on our Facebook page. Ten years ago many of the families that received toys and gifts from the Foundation would not have had the opportunity to express their thanks—that is not the case in today’s “connected” world. Last month we delivered Hugs to several regional hospitals. We were delighted to get some very kind words from families that received the Halloween themed Hugs:

*“Thank you, my son just received a bag of Halloween things from your group. I knew they did things like this down at Riley, but I didn’t know they had a local organization that did this for our kids. Thank you!!!!”*

We received another post from a family that has been caring for their daughter at the hospital for three weeks. They expressed their gratitude for the gifts and crayons “that made her day.”

We are extremely encouraged when we receive kind words from families who have been touched by the Sweet Pea Foundation. We encourage you to “like” us on Facebook and spread the word about the Foundation by asking family and friends to do the same. We currently have over 650 people following the Sweet Pea Foundation. This is an easy and powerful way for our supporters to help other families learn about our mission.

We thank you for allowing the Sweet Pea Foundation the opportunity to touch the lives of these children. Your support is genuinely appreciated.

Our sincerest gratitude,

*Pete and Suzanne Letherman*  
The Sweet Pea Foundation



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Yesterday’s Food & Spirits of Granger
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## Autumn Newsletter 2013



## Season’s Greetings!



## Recent News from the Sweet Pea Foundation:

### 10K Toys

It is amazing how a simple toy can brighten the day of a child receiving medical care. We can vividly recall many instances when a small gift was placed at Grace's bedside. We would spend hours holding our daughter and playing with the toys and reading the books that were given to her. These gifts allowed us to interact with Grace and helped to pass the time between doctor visits, tests and the time needed for healing. We still have several of the gifts that Grace enjoyed most during her time in the hospital.



*The Foundation routinely orders stuffed toys from the Disney Store. Here is a picture of our most recent stuffed toy purchase.*

The main focus of the Sweet Pea Foundation is to provide a distraction to sick children and their families while at the hospital. As we learned during our time with Grace, toys and books are an excellent way to provide a needed distraction to families as they care for a sick child. To date, the Sweet Pea Foundation has donated 9,850 toys to hospitals and organizations that are caring for sick children. As the



*Pictured above are toys and games the Foundation recently purchased and delivered to sick children.*

Foundation celebrates ten years, our year-end goal is to surpass 10,000 toys donated.

With several deliveries scheduled over the next few weeks, our goal will easily be reached. Thank you to everyone who has helped us touch the lives of so many children.

### SMC Dance Marathon

Last week, we were honored to have dinner with students from St. Mary's College who are organizing a Dance Marathon in the spring of 2014. Our family was able to interact with the gracious students who are donating their time and talents to help raise money for Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. We look forward to participating in this event on April 5, 2014.



*Dance Marathon*

### A Rosie Place Mural

As we reported in the spring, the Sweet Pea Foundation was honored to have the opportunity to help sponsor a mural at A Rosie Place in South Bend. The "No Barrier Reef" themed mural located in the rotunda of the building is progressing along nicely. We look forward to showing you photos of the completed mural upon its completion.



*We have designed sling bags with the Foundation's logo and web address. These bags are a great way to advertise the Foundation as well as hold the items used for the Hugs!*

*The funds received from the Autumn 2013 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
- 20% for books

### 10th Annual Kickoff Classic

The tenth annual Kickoff Classic was held at Juday Creek on September 20th. It was another great outing as we had over 65 golfers participate in this year's event, raising over \$8,000. The weather cooperated, for the most part, and we had over 30 door prizes to raffle off. Congratulations to this year's winning foursome: Jeff Kloska, Irv Kloska, Michael Kloska, & B.J. Kloska.



*The Kloska men won the Foundation's 10th Annual Kickoff Classic! Pictured (L-R) are Jeff, Irv, Mike and B.J. Kloska.*

A special thanks to our event sponsors: Advanced Designs Corporation, Ernest Maier, FM Stone Commercial, Laboe Orthodontics, Lawyers Title, Niblock Excavating, James Leahy, Regency Search Group, Solais LED + Lighting and Stifel | The Elkhart Group. Additional sponsors are listed on the back of this brochure. If you would like to participate in or sponsor the next Kickoff Classic, mark your calendar for Friday, September 5th, 2014 at Juday Creek in Mishawaka, IN—the day before the Notre Dame vs. Michigan game.

### Holiday Gifts that Give

Looking for a unique Christmas gift for a person on your list that has everything? 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.



*Grace Elizabeth Lecherman, our inspiration!*

