



Autumn News from the Sweet Pea Foundation!



Mary Thomas (on the right) sells Blarney Bash meal tickets for the Foundation.

Last week, as I was driving into work, the recent loss of a dear friend finally struck me. Mary Thomas was a close friend of the Letherman family for over thirty years. As a co-worker at FM Stone Commercial, I

had the great fortune to grow a friendship with Mary that included many talks about our families and events of the day. As I walked into work, I realized that I would not be able to share the happenings of my Thanksgiving weekend with Mary. Her death has reminded me of the importance of cherishing our time together with those we love and who touch our lives on a daily basis.

Mary always remembered Grace. Every year on Grace's birthday and on the anniversary of her passing, Mary would set a handwritten note on my desk in remembrance of Grace. This small act of kindness is one that I will never forget.

Mary was also an avid promoter of the Sweet Pea Foundation since the day it started. She often helped us with our fundraising events that included talking with sponsors and selling tickets at the door during the Foundation's former fundraiser called the Blarney Bash held on St. Patrick's Day. When someone asked about the Foundation, Mary would pull out Grace's memorial booklet and tell the story of how our "Sweet Pea" inspired us to help sick children. She was always there to support the Foundation and we appreciate all that she has done for us over the years and we will miss her.

As we approach the holiday season, let's remember to reach out to our friends and family and let them know how much they mean to us.

Suzanne and Pete Letherman



13th Annual Kickoff Classic Sponsors

Event Sponsors: Mark & Kristina Dobson
FM Stone Commercial
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The Turner Family

Food Sponsors: Cadet Construction
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Stahl Heating & Air Conditioning
Tiedemann Wines

A complete list of sponsors can be found on the Sweet Pea Foundation's web site at sweetpeafoundation.org.

The funds received from the Autumn 2016 Campaign will be broken down as follows:

- 25% for "Hugs from Grace"
- 25% for toys
- 25% for books
- 15% "Seeds of Grace"
- 10% for Ronald McDonald House reserve fund



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Autumn Newsletter 2016



*Grace Elizabeth Letherman,
our inspiration!*





Here is a brief overview of the latest developments of the Sweet Pea Foundation:



Shopping for Christmas?

Support Sweet Pea & Shop AmazonSmile!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Sweet Pea Foundation every time you shop with no additional cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Sweet Pea Foundation! Just select the Sweet Pea Foundation as your charity to support. The Foundation has already received several contributions through this wonderful online opportunity.



Memorial Children's Hospital Child Life Says Thank You!

Over the years we have supported the Child Life Program at Memorial Children's Hospital in South Bend, IN by donating numerous toys, arts and crafts, books and "Hugs" activity bags. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we have partnered with, and established an endowment for, Child Life to underwrite activities inside the pediatric unit for its patients. Here is a shortened version of a thank you letter we received in September from Child Life that we wanted to share.

Dear Pete and Suzanne,

Thank you so much for the wonderful surprise of fun stuff for our pediatric patients today! The kids will get a lot of joy out of all the toys, books and stuffed Disney characters you donated. I really appreciate that you choose to give the Disney stuffed items that are safe for all ages of children. It is these little things that make such a huge difference in the quality of the donation.

Thank you for the gift of activity for our kids! We have been so happy with the way our patients and their families have enjoyed the magicians, the nature program from Parks & Recreation, the steel drum player, and learning origami.

Thank you again so much for all the wonderful things that you have done and are still doing for our pediatric patients and their families. The Sweet Pea Foundation and your family has been a real Blessing to us!

Sincerely,
Tracy Byler, CCLS
Child Life Program Coordinator



Growing "Seeds of Grace"!

Over the years, the Sweet Pea Foundation has earmarked a portion of all donations for its "Seeds of Grace" program with a goal to have multiple "Seeds" (or funds) that will pay for activities that help provide a distraction for sick children. The Foundation has one endowed fund already established to benefit The Ronald McDonald House of Indianapolis' Share-a-Night program. Recently, the Sweet Pea Foundation board members unanimously approved the establishment of two additional funds through the Community Foundation of Elkhart County (CFEC). The CFEC will manage the funds into perpetuity for the Sweet Pea Foundation. All money transferred to the endowed fund will be matched 25% by CFEC.

Here is a short description of the funds established with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County:

Grace Elizabeth Letherman Sweet Pea Foundation Fund:

A non-endowed fund established for anyone interested in making a donation through CFEC to support the mission of the Sweet Pea Foundation.

Sweet Pea Foundation Child Life Fund:

An endowed fund that will be directed to the Child Life Department at Memorial Children's Hospital in South Bend, Indiana. The money in this fund will be used to underwrite activities throughout the year in the pediatric unit. The programs will take place in the hospital playroom, as well as broadcasted to patients' rooms, making it available to everyone including those who are not able to leave their beds. Activities will include magic shows, painting on canvases, origami, storytellers and readers, musical performances, as well as others.

2016 Kickoff Classic is a Success

The Sweet Pea Foundation's 13th annual Kickoff Classic golf outing was a great success raising over \$7,500.00 with more than 70 participants. Congratulations to this year's winning foursome: Irv, B.J., Mike and Jeff Kloska. We want to give a special thanks to our sponsors that are listed on the back of this mailer and on our web site. Save the date! Next year's outing will be held on Friday, September 8—the eve of the Notre Dame vs. Georgia game.

Sweet Pea Continues to Deliver Hugs!

The Sweet Pea Foundation continues to pack and deliver "Hugs" activity bags stuffed with books, arts & crafts, small toys and holiday items. To date, the Foundation has delivered over 2,285 Hugs. Here are a few comments we have received from parents and nurses about the Hugs:

"My daughter was admitted to SJRMC last night and the gift pack has kept her busy all day, and kept her mind off of all her pain."

"Thank you for thinking of us once again and helping to bring the outside in to cheer up our patients."

"The children really do love their Hugs!"



The Kocovski family donated books and helped stuff summer-themed Hugs for the Sweet Pea Foundation!

Donations! Donations!

We would like to thank Michael Quirke, Robbie Seymore, Mary Kate Kocovski, the Lawrence children and the Hemmerling children for their donations of toys and books to the Sweet Pea Foundation. These wonderful kids, some of which opted to have their birthday party guests bring toys for the Sweet Pea Foundation instead of receiving presents for themselves, have brightened the day for many sick kids! Thank you!



Michael Quirke collected toys for the Sweet Pea Foundation instead of receiving birthday gifts of his own!



2016 Kickoff Classic Winners!