

## Camden's Story

**W**hen Camden was eight hours old, his nurse took him for his first bath. Under the bright lights in the nursery, she noticed his skin tone. "I need your permission to take your son to the NICU," she said when she came back into to our room. "He's a little dusky."

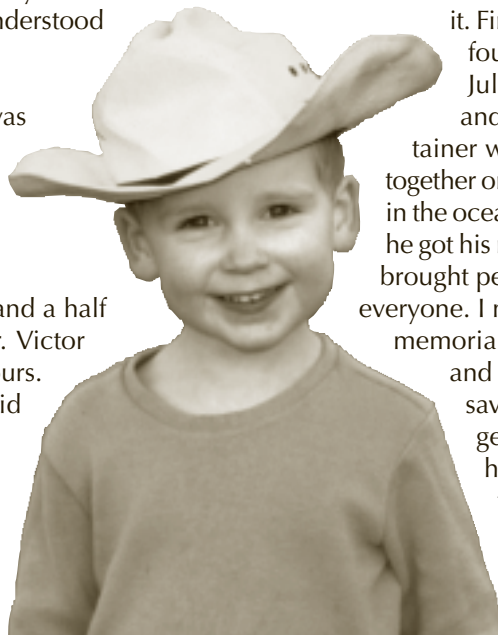
Eleven hours later, two doctors gave us the diagnosis, Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return- Infracardiac. "I know this is hard, but you need to stick with me," the cardiologist said, as he explained that all four of Camden's pulmonary veins came into a confluence which sent his blood down, under the heart, through the liver, and into the right side of his heart, instead of the left. All I heard was "heart," and "surgery;" and all I wanted to know was when I could hold him again. It wasn't until our pediatrician sat on the end of my bed and said gently "Your son is very ill" that I understood exactly what was at stake.

Saying goodbye to Camden before he was transported to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh was the hardest moment of my life, until four days later when I said goodbye right before surgery.

The CICU nurses prepared us for a four and a half hour surgery, so I froze when I saw Dr. Victor Morell in the hallway after just three hours. "We're all done," he said. "Camden did beautifully."

On the anniversary of that moment, which I had relived so many times, Camden took his first steps.

During one sleepless night on the internet, I read the words "this condition is not compatible with life" and thought about all the people, all the research, all the money it must have taken to save our sweet Camden. In order for him to be with us today, many things needed to line up just right: Dr. Morell had moved to Pittsburgh a few months prior to Camden's arrival, the nurse took him for the bath at just the right moment, he was born three blocks away from a CICU that was only 18 months old, the surgery went perfectly, the nurses took impeccable care of him (and us) as



his condition changed, and our pediatrician and cardiologist were fiercely protective. None of this good luck would have helped us if the research hadn't been done to identify and repair Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return-Infracardiac prior to his birth. Camden did not have much time; all that research needed to be in place before he got here. Who figured all this out? And how do I thank all these people?

Camden recovered much faster than I did. Through Little Hearts.org, an on-line support group, I met Holly, Owen Benedict's mom. Owen, who was three months old, had HLHS and was still at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Holly and I started corresponding, and I soon found myself drawn in by this brave little baby and his strong mother. During a cardiac catheterization, Owen's doctors discovered that his heart was not strong enough for the Glenn surgery. Owen needed a heart transplant.

For weeks, Owen walked that line between being sick enough to need a new heart and being well enough to be able to accept it. Finally he got on the list, and then finally, they found a donor. Owen got his new heart on July 1, 2006. We were at the beach that day and I scooped sand into a Tupperware container with the idea that when the kids all played together on the beach someday, I'd pour the sand back in the ocean. Sadly, Owen passed away two days after he got his new heart. Owen Benedict fought valiantly, brought people together, and brought out the best in everyone. I met Holly in person for the first time at his memorial service. Surrounded by all the doctors and nurses who had worked so hard to try to save Owen, I was overcome. With the same generous spirit I'd come to know through our hundreds of e-mails, Holly kept coming over to make sure that I was okay.

The next week I called The Children's Heart Foundation. As soon as I learned about the organization and their mission, I wanted to get involved right away. Jumpers, a local moon bouncing place, agreed to let me use their facility. Local businesses, artists and friends donated items for the raffle. "Hopping for Hearts" began! Luke Benedict, Owen's twin brother, was one of the hundred kids running around. "Hopping for Hearts" raised \$9,406. This year, Gail Harrington co-chaired the event with Owen's mom and seven

Continued on page 4



# President's Message

by Megan Van Pelt, CHF President



## Heartfelt Thanks



**A**s the newly elected National Board President for CHF, it is my honor and privilege, to lead what I believe to be, the most unique and valuable organization in it's efforts to fund the most promising congenital heart defect research and help create brighter futures for children and their families. Having been involved with the organization for the last 11 years, I am excited to be part of our growth and evolution in playing a part in congenital heart research.

As a mother, my journey is not unlike many other parents. When my son Jack was born with Transposition of the Great Vessels, my husband Ryan and I had very little information available to us. Congenital heart defects have affected others in my family. They have provided wonderful support after Jack's birth but there was not an organization available to access critically needed & objective information. I am proud to have played a part in the creation of our parent resource book, "It's My Heart" currently in the hands of over 30,000 families in the United States and throughout the world.

In the past decade, I have witnessed many changes. Our board has a national presence and our chapter infrastructure has been strengthened by our incredibly committed volunteers, the fuel that drives our organization. I would like to thank my predecessor, Leo Cole. As president, Leo's dedication, energy, time and hard work have been invaluable to CHF. Even though, Leo's role as president has come to an end, he continues to work hard, constantly promoting CHF and CHD awareness. Additionally the volunteers on every level of this organization have created awareness and provided much needed funding to young investigators in the field of congenital heart defect research. Just recently, The Children's Heart Foundation was responsible for the initial funding of leading edge research at the College of Pediatric Cardiology meeting in Prague.

*"The volunteers on every level of this organization have created awareness and provided much needed funding to young investigators in the field of congenital heart defect research".*

I look forward to the year ahead and thank all our Chapters, Medical Advisory Board Members, volunteers, supporters and of course my son Jack, who is the driving reason behind my involvement and passion for The Children's Heart Foundation! ♥

**A**s the National Spokesperson for The Children's Heart Foundation (CHF) for the past 6 years, Mac has set a personal goal of raising money to help other children who are born with heart defects. In June 2007, Mac reached her goal of raising her first MILLION dollars! Now, she is set on raising her SECOND million by the end of 2008.

**Medtronic Foundation:** For the grant money for reprinting, distributing and warehousing our Parent Resource Book "It's My Heart". Thanks to Medtronic's generosity over 30,000 copies of our book have been distributed.

**Driehaus Capital Management LLC:** For selecting CHF to receive their generous donation this year.

Thank you to the 2008 Chicago Golf Outing Steering Committee comprised of: **Todd Ford** our 2008 chairman, **Brian Chandler, Gus Backer, Dr. Carl Backer, Dan Keenan, Dr. William Keenan, Dave Liebman,** and **Leo Cole.** Once again, your hard work along with many volunteers made the 9th annual golf outing a huge success.

**St. Jude Medical:** who helped sponsor various events CHF had in 2008, The Family Benefit, Arizona Golf Outing, Florida's Gala, Iowa Golf Outing, Chicago Golf Outing and Heartstrides.

**Anne Marie Sarvis, TCHIN/Ohio** and **Mona Barmash, ED TCHIN** joined forces with **Matt and Amy Pierce CHF-Ohio** to co-host "Heart Strides 2008". This event was a 1.7 mile walk and family fun day at The Cleveland MetroPark Zoo. Proceeds will fund CHF research and vital education, awareness and parent/patient support programs provided by C.H.I.N.

**The John M Mangiante Foundation:** In Honor of Nicholas Venturi and JJ Mirkovic designated CHF as beneficiary of the proceeds from their annual golf outing.

**Gabrielle Olney,** a CHD Survivor: who at age 23 completed a CRIM walk in Flint, MI. Gabrielle walked in honor and in memory of children who are born with a CHD.

To: **Axis Shavers Charity; Arlington Heights Junior Woman's Club; Aurora Rotary Club Foundation; North Bergen Federation of Teachers, New Jersey; Hall Render Killian Heath & Lyman; Stone Lotus Lounge;** and **The Underground;** CHF was chosen as their beneficiary for their various fundraising events. We appreciate their efforts to support research.

And last but not least, to all of our **contributors and volunteers.** We cannot do it without your help! ♥



# The Medical Advisory Board Update



Carl L. Backer, M.D., Chairperson

**T**he major “news” for the Medical Advisory Board is that this year for the first time we have “gone green.” The grant proposals for the Medical Advisory Board this year were sent out on one, small, thin CD, rather than in a large box filled with 30 – 40 grants, each 30 – 50 pages in length. We are saving trees! This is the busiest time of the year for the Medical Advisory Board. The 32 members of the Medical Advisory Board have completed their reviews of 28 grant proposals which were submitted to The Children’s Heart Foundation. The total requested funding is \$4,235,082.40. The members of the Medical Advisory Board reviewed all of the grants and scored them. In addition, each member of the Medical Advisory Board was the primary reviewer on one grant and the secondary reviewer on two grants. The role of the Medical Advisory Board as a primary reviewer is to provide a synopsis and analysis of the grant to present to the entire Children’s Heart Foundation Board. The Medical Advisory Board met at the Union League Club on Saturday, October 25, 2008. Based on the scoring of the grants and the discussion by board members led by the primary reviewer, we re-evaluated all of the grants and then ranked them. It is this ranking that was submitted to The Children’s Heart Foundation on November 3, 2008 for final analysis



and recommendation from The Children’s Heart Foundation Board as to which grants should be funded.

In addition to the 28 new grants the Medical Advisory Board reviewed at the Board meeting the proposals for second year funding of the grants that received first year funding last year. Currently there are three grants that are eligible for second year funding: (1) “The Genetics of Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome,” principal investigator-Vidu Garg, MD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, (2) “Human Factors and Patient Safety during Congenital Heart Surgery,” principal investigator: Emile Bacha, MD, Children’s Hospital, Boston, and (3) “Preconditioning against Periventricular Leukomalacia associated with Neonatal Cardiac Surgery,” principal investigator: Edward Hickey, MD, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada.

In our next Children’s Heart Foundation newsletter, we will report back the grants that were recommended and obtained first year funding and also those grants for which second-year funding was approved. We will also report back our experience with “going green” and putting all of the grant proposals on a single CD rather than shipping each individual Medical Advisory Board member a large box filled with over 1,000 pages of grant proposals! ♥

Carl L. Backer, M.D.  
Chairman, Medical Advisory Board  
Children’s Heart Foundation



## Chicago Golf Outing



**T**he 9th Annual Children’s Heart Foundation Golf Outing held Monday, September 22nd at Conway Farms Golf Club was a wonderful success as 31 four-somes enjoyed, lunch, dinner, player gifts, a silent and a live auction all on a glorious fall day.

**The Exchange** was our presenting sponsor with four outstanding automobiles on the par threes waiting for any golfer to make a hole-in-one. As last year, there were no takers. **TaylorMade-Adidas Golf Company** provided each golfer with a Performance Line Travel Bag.

Our thanks go out once again to **Dave Eanet** from WGN sports. Dave not only emceed the dinner activities, but, as auctioneer, made our live auction a huge success. During dinner, the golfers heard from **Mac Kline** – our National Spokesperson, **Megan Van Pelt** – CHF President and **Todd Ford** – the 2008 Golf Chairman. **Alpine Children’s Charity**, presented The Children’s

Heart Foundation with a check in the amount of \$65,000 from the funds they raised this year.

**Dr. Carl Backer**, Chairman of the CHF Medical Advisory Board introduced **Dr. Edward Hickey** who briefly spoke about his research CHF has funded and its progress.

**Megan Van Pelt** presented **Leo Cole**, our past president, with the Distinguished Service Award for all the hard work, time and energy Leo has brought and continues to bring to CHF.



Leo Cole and Megan Van Pelt

In addition to the **The Exchange** and **TaylorMade-Adidas Golf Company**, our thanks go to our returning sponsors: **Curran Group, Blackhawk Steel, L&W Supply, Donnellan Family Funeral Services, Macquarie Capital USA, Fifth Third Bank, St. Jude Medical** and our new sponsor: **Sprint Nextel**.

Next year’s outing is scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2009. ♥



## Save the Date



Please join us at the activities below.

**November 29, 2008** – Chicago, IL

The Children's Heart Foundation is hosting an event at The Underground from 9pm until 11pm.

**February 21, 2009** – Tucson, AZ

Fifth Annual "Swing Fore Their Hearts" Golf Outing @ the Omni Tucson National Golf Resort and Spa.

**February 21, 2009** – Chicago, IL

The Annual Family Benefit "Hearts at Play" will be held at the Field Museum in Chicago, IL.

**May 16, 2009** – Newton Square, PA

"Share Your Heart" a formal benefit will be held in Newton Square, PA.

**May 16, 2009** – Phoenix, AZ

CHF Golf Outing will be held at the Legacy Golf Resort.

For more information on the above events contact:  
[www.childrensheartfoundation.org](http://www.childrensheartfoundation.org) ♥



## Family Benefit



### Hearts at Play 2009

**The Children's Heart Foundation 2009 Family Benefit**

Saturday, February 21, 2009, 6 p.m.–10 p.m.

**The Field Museum**

1400 S. Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois

Guests of all ages will have the extraordinary "Field" to themselves to explore the museum's many exhibits, participate in a silent auction, enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and adult and children's buffets. Complimentary parking and casual attire.

Tickets: \$100/adult and \$35/child

10% discount on all registrations received by Dec. 31, 2008.

For more information or to make reservations please visit our website at [www.ChildrensHeartFoundation.org](http://www.ChildrensHeartFoundation.org). ♥

## Be Part of Our "Family Circle"

Our "Family Circle" is a group of individuals who want to show their support for CHF. Your \$500 donation will give your family special recognition at the "Hearts At Play" event and in our newsletter. In addition you will receive 2 adult and 2 children's tickets to this event. So make your family part of our "Family Circle." ♥



## Advocacy



### Congenital Heart Lobby Day

February 10, 2009 – Washington, D.C.

The Children's Heart Foundation will join forces with other members of the National Congenital Heart Coalition at the Congenital Heart Lobby Day on February 10th in Washington D.C. The purpose of Lobby Day is to urge Congress to support the Congenital Heart Futures Act which calls for increased CHD research funding, awareness and a national registry. All CHD patients, families, Pediatric Cardiologists and CHD healthcare providers who are interested in participating, please "Save the Date" and join us in Washington D.C. All participants will meet on Monday evening, February 9th at the American College of Cardiology's Heart House. Early on February 10th, all participants will receive training before their appointments with Legislators from their home states. For additional information, please contact **Ellen Weiss** at [EWeiss@ChildrensHeartFoundation.org](mailto:EWeiss@ChildrensHeartFoundation.org).

The National Congenital Heart Coalition (NCHC), is a group of national non-profit organizations formed by The Children's Heart Foundation, the Adult Congenital Heart Association and the Congenital Heart Information Network, committed to improving the lives of CHD patients and preventing congenital heart disease. ♥

### Camden's Story..., continued from page 1

other friends and heart moms. The 2nd "Hopping for Hearts" raised \$24,247 almost half a research project. We are planning a formal event for the spring and hope to widen our network and start the Pennsylvania Chapter.

Camden has a pair of hand-me-down cowboy boots that he wears almost every day. He tries to get out of things by saying "Cowboys don't take naps. Cowboys don't brush their teeth!" At his last visit to the cardiologist, she told us to come back in one year because "Pittsburgh took very good care of your son, so my job is easy." The only way I can express my gratitude to Dr. Morell and all the others who saved Camden, the ones I know and the ones I will never meet, is to love this little cowboy, which is easy, and to try to raise money to help the next heart baby.

*"Cowboys don't take naps. Cowboys don't brush their teeth!"*

Camden's older brother Colin once told me that Owen is watching his family from heaven. I like to think Owen is watching over all of us, cheering us on. ♥



# Kids Helping Kids



# Chapter Development Update



## Alpine Children's Charity

**A**t the recent Chicago Golf Outing, ACC presented CHF with a check in the amount of \$65,000 bringing their 4 year contribution to \$235,000. Alpine Children's Charity was formed in 2004 by a group of fourteen cousins, aged 9 – 19, in an effort to have "kids helping kids" by raising money to support established children's charities that are focused on 1) finding cures and 2) providing education and support services. The foundation strives to engage kids in helping other kids by creating fundraising event opportunities where children can be involved in the planning and execution. Mark your calendars now for the 5th annual skiathon which will be held in Vail, Colorado the week of March 23 – 27, 2009.



Alpine Children's Charity Junior Board and Mike Curran and Paul Mallon looking on.

**Douglas and Haley Vonder Haar** from Fairbanks Alaska, last summer at ages 8 and 6, started an ice cream cart business to donate 20% of their profits to help other kids. After researching, CHF was chosen as their beneficiary. During the winter and summer months to follow, their business ventures led them to place gum ball machines and kiddie rides in various shops and malls. This year, Douglas and Haley presented CHF with a check in the amount of \$712 doubling their donation from last year.

**Anna and Joseph Ehrenpreis:** Joseph a seventh grader, and CHD Kid, and mom have been involved in fundraising at Old Orchard Middle School, Skokie, IL. **Alli Szweczyński:** baked cookies for her parents garage sale and sent CHF her profits. **Girl Scout Troop 2012:** Overland Park, KS has been busy raising funds for CHF. **Sydney and Patrick O'Hara:** For their 3rd and 5th birthdays, donations were asked to be made to CHF instead of gifts. ♥



Sydney and Patrick's birthday party


*VP of Chapter Development, Tom McKeough*

**T**he development of Chapters is vital to the growth and advancement of CHF as the only organization solely dedicated to funding CHD research. We currently have five active chapters. Volunteers in many more states are stepping forward to initiate events on the path to become active Chapters.



**Pennsylvania** – Thank you to renowned Congenital Heart Surgeon and former CHF funded investigator, **Dr. Marshall Jacobs** who has volunteered to serve as the PA Chapter's Medical Advisory Board Chair. **Patty Cheshire** (see front page story) and a dedicated team of volunteers have held a popular family fundraiser "Hopping for Hearts". Now with more volunteers involved, the soon-to-be PA Chapter is putting their efforts into a formal Benefit in May 2009 called "Share Your Heart" in Newtown Square, PA. For more information, please contact **Patty Cheshire** at [Patrish@thecheshires.com](mailto:Patrish@thecheshires.com).

**Arizona** – **Dr. Todd Camenisch**, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at University of Arizona, and has dedicated his professional career to studying heart development. Since 2005, Dr. Camenisch has led a team of volunteers through four successful Golf Outings. As the Arizona team plans its 5th Annual Golf Outing "Swing Fore Their Hearts" at the Omni Tucson National Golf Resort and Spa on February 21, 2009, Dr. Camenisch is eager to find additional volunteers who are interested in volunteering on the event committee and/or serving on the Arizona Chapter Board. Please contact The Children's Heart Foundation for more information.

**California** – **Anna Johnson** planned her first CHF California event, a Movie event, on July 20th at the Speakeasy Theatre in Cerrito, CA. Fifty families joined together for the successful family oriented kickoff fundraiser. For more information on upcoming events, please contact The Children's Heart Foundation. ♥



# Florida Chapter Update



**T**he Florida Chapter is happy to report on another successful annual “For Their Hearts” gala. The Asian Casino-themed event was held over the summer, with nearly 200 people attending. Fun was had by all and more than \$20,000 was raised for the Foundation.

As we move into 2009, we will have a new president, **Dr. Mark Hepp**. Our thanks go out to **Marlee Huggins** for the many many hours she has contributed and still continues to give to CHF.

Another important part of our chapter is the CHF – Florida Chapter Junior Board, made up of teenagers committed to improving the lives of all CHD survivors. Recently the Junior Board, led by **Lindsey Weiss, Ashley Anderson, Lindsay Zallis** and **Danny Hill**, helped plan and participated in the WalMart Fundraisers, our fundraising walk and the Annual “For Their Hearts” gala. CHF Junior Board members have also had the unique opportunity to scrub in and observe open heart surgery performed by **Dr. Jeffrey Jacobs**, CHF FL Medical Advisory Board Member and funded investigator. The Junior Board sets a great example of how to engage teens who want to give back and support an organization.

In addition to our regularly planned events, we’ve had several people take the initiative to bring in extra money for CHD research:

- **Antoinette Romero** launched a fundraiser at Dillard’s at International Plaza in Tampa on October 11th.
- **Melinda Magrone**, who works for the WalMart/Sam’s Club, applied for and received a \$2,000 grant from the Sam’s Club Foundation for our chapter.
- As a Bar Mitzvah project, **Max Kramer**, 13-year-old TOF survivor, ran a Change a Heart fundraising campaign at his former elementary school and raised just over \$1000.
- Every Halloween, **Dr. Donna Nicolas**, a local pediatric dentist, offers to buy back candy after the 31st and then matches that dollar amount and donates it to charity. This year she picked CHF!

We also want to thank the **Jewish Kent Center** for once again donating 50% of the proceeds from its annual swim-a-thon to The Children’s Heart Foundation.

Be sure to check our website, [www.CHFflorida.org](http://www.CHFflorida.org) for a third documentary, which will be posted soon, as well as updates on upcoming events and the 2009 officers. ♥



# Indiana Chapter Update



**T**he Indiana Chapter is being reenergized by Chapter President, **Brian Velez** and Vice President, **Jamie Swanson**. To help jumpstart the Chapter’s fundraising efforts, **Dr. Michael Weiss** and a team of runners from Tampa, Florida traveled to Indiana to run in the Indianapolis Marathon in memory of **Jalynn Kennedy Velez**, who passed away on December 20, 2007 just before her first birthday. If you would like to make a donation please view [www.firstgiving.com/childrensheartfoundationindiana](http://www.firstgiving.com/childrensheartfoundationindiana).

The Chapter will hold their first official event on May 16, 2009 at the Legacy Golf Resort in Phoenix, AZ, former hometown of Chapter President Brian Velez. For more information, please contact [bvelez1980@comcast.net](mailto:bvelez1980@comcast.net). ♥



# Iowa Chapter Update



**O**ur first golf tournament was held, September 8, 2008 in the middle of a torrential downpour. In spite of the weather, 20 die hard golfers braved the elements and had a great time. Due to the weather, our attendance at dinner was down, however our guest speakers were able to get the message about CHF across to all those in attendance. **Bull Wundram**, a local newspaper columnist and guest speaker, brought some of the dinner guests to tears. Word is spreading about CHF and we are currently planning next year’s tournament. ♥

## Good Search

Remember to use GoodSearch.com, the Yahoo-powered search engine, for all of your web searches and we’ll receive a penny every time you do a search!

Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Best Buy, Staples, eBay, Apple and others have teamed up with GoodShop. Every time you place an order, you’ll be supporting CHF! Visit [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) enter **The Children’s Heart Foundation, Lincolnshire** as the organization and then search all the shops. It is that easy! ♥



# Ohio Chapter Update



**O**ur first year has been successful and a learning experience. Our first fundraiser of the year was an event with the Columbus Crew of the MLS. We were able to raise awareness for CHD's and CHF through the outstanding efforts of the kids. This fearless and tireless group of young people passed out all of our marketing supplies. After the game, many of the players made a special effort to spend time with our heart kids and their siblings, shunning the security staff, allowing these kids special access to them. Some of the players have even gone so far as to keep tabs on our special heart kid, **Emily Wrather** as she battles through a tough period. We have established a wonderful relationship with the Crew and look forward to more events in the future.



Left to right: (Unknown), George Josten, Ryan Miller, Angela Wrather (our Marketing Director), Emily Wrather, Stephen Lenhart.

After chapter President **Matt Pierce's** father unexpectedly passed away in July, family and friends honored him through memorial donations and an impromptu golf outing in Myrtle Beach where Matt's father had resided. All proceeds were donated to CHF. There are plans for the golf outing in Myrtle Beach to become a regular event as well as planning a memorial outing in Ohio. Please check back for more information as this develops.

On September 27th and 28th, our good friend **Gary Simpson** of Tri-Valley Alpaca Farms held an "Alpaca Days" event in which awareness and funds were raised through raffle sales for CHF Ohio. It was a fun event with our new, furry friends. Gary, his family and friends were wonderful hosts. We look forward to working with Gary again in the future.

We are always looking for more volunteers and new people wishing to hold an event in Ohio. If you would like to volunteer with our group or hold an event in your area, please e-mail us at [CHFOhioChapter@chfohio.org](mailto:CHFOhioChapter@chfohio.org). ♥



# Oregon Chapter Update



**T**his year, our third installment of "PULSE" was held on Saturday November 8th, 2008. "PULSE" is a one of a kind event featuring emerging artists in Portland. This year, a record 80 artists applied. Together with the 2008 artistic curator, **Mark Woolley**, the event's artistic committee selected 35 artists. These artists worked side by side the day of the event to make individual works of art. Afterwards, these treasures were auctioned off to benefit The Children's Heart Foundation – Oregon Chapter.

The 5th Annual Lionheart held in July was once again a great success. This celebration drew in a large crowd, with local news reporter **Kyle Iboshi** as emcee, and many new booths and activities for families with children of all ages. We had equal representation from OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital and Emanuel Children's Hospital and feel very successful to have gained their support. There were approximately 40 CHD survivors present, including one touching couple who came to the event while their newborn CHD baby was still in the PICU awaiting surgery. We also met a family with two children with very complex and rare CHDs. This family has defied all the odds of modern medicine.

The Children's Heart Foundation-Oregon Chapter and The Bike Gallery teamed up this year to host 4 beautiful bike rides in Oregon's famous wine region. Over 170 cyclists and volunteers participated in four rides this summer. All of the profits from the rides are being donated to CHF-OC. We look forward to more of these rides next year!

The Children's Heart Foundation Oregon Chapter is in the beginning stages of creating a Junior Board. However there is nothing junior, small or little about these amazing kids who have participated in our events. The amount of love, enthusiasm and energy these young people have astounds me.

To become involved in the Oregon Chapter please contact: [chdhelp@yahoo.com](mailto:chdhelp@yahoo.com). ♥

## ProFlowers

Brighten Someone's day and benefit CHF at the same time. The Children's Heart Foundation has teamed with ProFlowers, the online fresh flower marketplace, to raise awareness and funding for the leading birth defect in America. Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and special occasions, say thank you to someone or if you just want to brighten someone's day, visit <http://www.proflowers.com/CHF> and choose from a variety of beautiful arrangements. Ten dollars from each purchase will benefit CHF! ♥

## 2008 Board of Directors

President – Megan Van Pelt  
Past President – Leo Cole  
Secretary – Sue Donnellan  
Treasurer – Martha Hauber  
VP Chapter Development –  
Tom McKeough  
VP Legal – Chris Griesmeyer  
VP Marketing – Gus Backer  
Founder – Betsy Peterson  
MAB Liaison – Dr. Tom Weigel  
Executive Director – Bill Foley

## President's Council

Jaymi Griesmeyer  
Heather Helmy  
Dr. Mark Hepp  
Brian Velez  
Meeta Yadava  
Matt Pierce  
Mick Landauer

## Medical Advisory Board

Dr. Joseph Amato  
Dr. Emile Bacha  
Dr. Carl Backer – Chairperson  
Dr. D. Woodrow Benson  
Dr. Scott M. Bradley  
Dr. Frank Cetta  
Dr. Roger Cole  
Dr. David Cooper  
Dr. Timothy Cordes  
Dr. John Costello  
Dr. Susan Crawford  
Dr. Barbara Deal  
Dr. Nancy Ghanayem  
Dr. Andrew Griffin  
Dr. Richard Hopkins  
Dr. Jim Huhta  
Dr. Jeffrey Jacobs  
Dr. John Lamberti  
Dr. Constantine Mavroudis  
Dr. Marla Mendelson  
Dr. Jane Wimpfheimer Newburger  
Dr. David Overman  
Dr. David Sahn  
Dr. Alan Saroff  
Dr. Robert Stewart  
Dr. Norman Talner  
Dr. Kent Thornburg  
Dr. Martin Tristani - Firouzi  
Dr. Catherine L. Webb  
Dr. Thomas Weigel  
Dr. Gil Wernovsky  
Dr. Vincent Zales



The Children's Heart Foundation™

P.O. Box 244  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069  
(847) 634-6474 • Fax: (847) 634-4988  
www.childrensheartfoundation.org

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage PAID  
Permit No. 213  
Palatine P&DC IL



## About CHF



The Children's Heart Foundation was established in 1996 by Betsy and Steve Peterson to honor the memory of their son, Sam, who died from congenital heart disease at age eight. Today, the Foundation is a national organization with local chapters and a network of volunteers working to eradicate congenital heart disease as America's number one birth defect. To date, CHF has distributed \$3 million through 33 research grants. ♥



## Our Goal



The goal of The Children's Heart Foundation is to bring health, hope and happiness to children impacted with congenital heart defects, the number one birth defect in the United States. We accomplish this goal by funding the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of congenital heart defects in children.

Saving Children's Lives – One Heart at a Time ♥