



THE SICKLE STAR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Holiday Party Highlights

1 On December 9, 2006, we celebrated the season by inviting patients and their families to join in the end of year festivities, held in the Brookdale Employee's Café. The support for this year's celebration was phenomenal. Much to the delight of the 150 children in attendance, there was more entertainment than we've ever had. The entertainment ranged from an up-beat, guitar playing soloist, to the animal balloon making clown who stayed to the very end of the event handing out balloons shaped like tigers, giraffes, dogs and many other animals. Also, for the third year we had Cordone, the Magician. Cardone does a wonderful job of keeping the children engaged and entertained. (also see page 2)

It's A Team Effort

Carlito's Grants Wish

New Sickle Cell DVD Release

Parent Retreat Success



Brookdale University Hospital And Medical Center

Sickle Star Advisory Board

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Bernard Titley (Coach) and members of the invaluable Canarsie Football Team

Holly Jolly Santa and his charges

Magician Cardone mesmerizes his young audience

At Brookdale It's A Team Effort

The Division of Pediatric Hematology /Oncology deals with disorders of the blood. We provide comprehensive services geared to the well being of the patients and families that we serve. We are all part of a team that consists of the staff, you the parent and the child. The most important team member is the patient – your child. Here are some things to keep in mind so that we can work well together as a team:

When completing the pediatric patient demographic insurance forms, please answer all the questions. It is important that we have updated and correct addresses; apartment numbers; telephone numbers (home, cell, and office), insurance information; referrals from primary doctors (if needed); emergency contact numbers, etc. All of this information is needed to help us serve you in the best way possible!

After your child has been seen, please make sure you stop at the front desk, to schedule a follow up appointment.

Supported in part by Project # 2 H46 MC00240-04-00 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration

PLEASE SUPPORT ALL
ACTIVITIES FOR
**NATIONAL SICKLE CELL
AWARENESS MONTH**
U.S. POSTAGE STAMP
FOR SICKLE CELL



We continue to collaborate with the Brooklyn/Staten Island Blood Services to promote community blood donations so please DONATE.

Give Blood to Fight Sickle Cell Disease
1.800.933.2566



At Brookdale It's A Team Effort (cont'd from pg. 1)

In addition when your child is in the hospital please make sure your child's school is notified and you get all the child's school work. This is important because some of our children are falling behind in school. Utilize the resource/play room on the eight floor; by making sure your child gets some educational material and does not spend the entire hospitalization watching cartoons on T.V. We wish to help prepare your child to become an active and participating member of society.

It is important to keep all your appointments, do necessary blood work and go to other scheduled appointments, (e.g., TCD; MRI/MRA; X-RAY; CARDIOLOGY; PULMONARY; OPHTHALMOLOGY; ORTHOPEDICS; AITU). If you are unable to keep an appointment, please call in advance so it can be rescheduled. If you have other appointments or a problem which prevents you from keeping your appointment with us, or if you need assistance with any other issues, please feel free to call the social worker.

Remember we are all part of the same team.

Help us to serve you in the best possible way that we can.

ANOTHER DVD TO BE RELEASED

The Comprehensive Pediatric Sickle Cell Program, Community-Based Sickle Cell Project has completed work on their second DVD, Empowering Our Community: Sickle Cell Education and Care In Brooklyn. It contains an introduction to sickle cell disease and discusses facts about the disease, including its prevalence in Brooklyn among people of African descent, although it can be found in all ethnic groups.

The prevalence of sickle cell disease is high in our community and it is important for us to educate the entire community. We want our population, especially our immigrant population from the Caribbean, South America, and Africa to be made aware of the kind of hemoglobin trait they carry.

This DVD will be shown in several venues, especially, in the local libraries, in schools, in clinics, etc., because we want to ensure that we continue to be a resource for sickle cell disease for the people of Brooklyn, as stated by Dr. Kusum Viswanathan, Director of Brookdale's Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Vice Chair of the Department of Pediatrics.

(cont'd from page 1) **2006 Holiday Party ~ And We're Still Smiling**



We also had wishes granted by The Carlito's Wish Foundation, Inc. Little D, received his wish and the look on his face tells the whole story. Mom and dad are also thrilled! Their biggest problem will be waiting for spring and summer to come so that D. can get his "ride on".

Special thanks to Carlito's for their Holiday and year round support of our programs.

Please see page (4) for a complete list of our donors and supporters.

D is delighted to have his wish come true!

PARENT VOLUNTEERS LEND THEIR WRAPPING SKILLS

No, it's not our latest Parent RAP group, it's our Parent Volunteers who came in to lend a hand with wrapping and bagging gifts for the Holiday Party. Four of our parents took time from their busy schedules to assist with the gift packaging.

We owe you all a special note of thanks for your time and dedication. As one parent stated, "the unit is here for our children this is our way to give back".

These are some of our parents who participate in our monthly support group meeting.



Parents, (left to right)
Onaisis, Julia, Mureal, & Quiana

NOT QUITE ON PAYROLL

Ciara, by way of her mother, joined the staff at the Division of Pediatrics Hematology/Oncology this past October. She is the beautiful daughter of Vicky Martir , the Division's Office Manager. Ciara was born at Brookdale, on October 15th, she weighed 6lbs 1oz., and was 19 inches long.

Congratulation from all of us to Vicky and family.

Ciara, pictured below, is a hearty eater and is thinking about her next meal.

**.....OTHER NEW ADDITION**

Congratulations to Parent **Sparkle**, for the new addition and to Master Nicholas for his new baby sister. Mother and baby are doing well.

Also, Welcome **Jennifer Lane** our new Program Assistant/Data Specialist.

UP-COMING EVENTS ~

- January 13, 2007, Annual Parent's Retreat, Brownsville Heritage House.
- February, Black History Month, Partner with Brooklyn Public Library Branches
- February 25, 2007, Collaborative blood drive with Bridge Street Church, 241st Anniversary Celebration.
- Collaborative Sickle Cell Disease Education Forum - March 30, 2007
- Parent/Teen Vocational/Career Training, May 12, 2007.
- Kings County Sickle Cell, Inc. Community Education Day May 19, 2007.
- National Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Convention - September 17-22, 2007, in Washington, D.C.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS/HAPPENINGS**Parents Support Group**

Meets on the first Thursday of the month. Refreshments are served. We need parents to come out. Next meeting will be March 1, 2007.

Sickle Cell Youth Organization

Come out to our revitalized group meetings, now held on the first Friday each month at 4:00p. m. in Room 346 CHC. Next meeting to be held on March 2, 2007. Come for refreshment and lots of goodies. For more information please call 718.240.5904.

Free Trait Testing for Uninsured Parents

We continue our partnership with the Department of Health-Newborn Screening Program to test parents who are uninsured and whose babies are identified with sickle/hemo-globin trait through Newborn Screening.

Parents of children diagnosed with sickle cell trait, C, or E, or disease can request to be tested.

Through this program , we have identified eight families at-risk for having a baby with sickle cell disease.

Someone with sickle cell needs this pint of blood, won't you donate?



PARENT ANNUAL RETREAT AT THE HISTORICAL
BROWNSVILLE HERITAGE HOUSE

What an important and historical day this was. If you were not there you missed a very special program!!! Below, financial empowerment workshop and participants pictured right, holding up the key to their future during spiritual empowerment.



Ask the Experts....

[**Transplantation for Sickle Cell Disease Fact Sheet**](#)

Donna Boruchov, MD

What is a bone marrow (stem cell) transplant?

Young blood cells called **stem cells** that can grow to make new blood cells are taken from one person (**donor**) and given to another person (**recipient**) to allow them to make normal blood cells.

Why is it done for sickle cell disease?

Stem cell transplantation is done for patients with sickle cell disease so that they can start making healthy red blood cells.

How is it done?

1. The young blood cells can be collected from the donor in 3 ways:
 - taken from the hip bones using a needle in the operating room
 - taken from a vein and processed on a machine
 - umbilical cord blood – collected and stored when a baby is born
2. The person with sickle cell disease is prepared by giving chemotherapy and/ or radiation to wipe out his/ her own body's bone marrow to "make room" for the donor cells.
3. The donor cells are given through an iv like a blood transfusion.

How do you find a donor?

The best donor is a brother or sister who does not have sickle cell disease and is born of the same

(continued from previous column)

mother and father. A special blood test (HLA) tells if they are a match with the patient.

Only about 10 – 20% of sickle cell patients have a matched sibling donor.

What are the problems seen with transplant?

The patient is in the hospital for about a month and needs close medical follow-up afterwards. There is an increased chance of serious infections, infertility, and other complications.

What patients with sickle cell disease should get a transplant?

Children with sickle cell disease who have had serious complications like strokes or multiple acute chest syndromes may benefit from transplant. Discuss this and other treatments with your doctors.

SINCERE THANKS FROM OUR FAMILIES TO YOU ALL

ZITWER FOUNDATION
CARLITOS WISH FOUNDATION
COACH TITLEY & CANARSIE HIGH FOOTBALL TEAM
KINGS COUNTY SICKLE CELL, INC.
STARLIGHT FOUNDATION
TASHA'S LIFE FOUNDATION
SICKLE CELL THALASSEMIA PATIENTS NETWORK
BROOKDALE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION
THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES
PEDIATRIC STAFF
MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION
PEDIATRIC FLOOR
DOUBLE "H" HOLE IN THE WOODS RANCH
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
JACK AND JILL OF BROOKLYN
TOYS FOR TOTS
COMMON CENTS, INC.

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Save the Date

September 2007

National Sickle Cell Awareness Month

FOR INFORMATION ON ACTIVITES, PLEASE CALL
(718) 240-5904