# Four Diamonds Office Property Control of the Contr



"When does three hours in a waiting room at a pediatric hospital clinic turn into a great day? When those three hours are spent getting hugs from social workers, nurses and doctors, and results in the following sentence: "You are in tip top shape to go on a two year adventure."

◀ Childhood Cancer survivor, Gabrielle Sedor, age 29

March 21 is always a special day for me. Like many long-term childhood cancer survivors I celebrate each and every year of remission as if it were the first. This year, on the day that marked my sixteenth year in remission from Hodgkin's Disease, my husband Michael and I set off on a two year adventure—one that is taking us to all 358 National Parks in the Continental United States. We hope to write a book about our travels.

I was 12 when the doctor called to inform my parents that the lymph node he removed from under my left arm was indeed cancerous. Before I knew it, we were spending days at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. Cat scans, X-rays, bone scans, bone marrow aspirations, surgery, chemo, more scans, radiation treatments, and more scans. Even now, that year and a half seems like a blur.

What I do remember is someone pulling my parents aside on one of those first anxiety-filled days and telling us about The Four Diamonds Fund. "Don't worry. We can help." Four Diamonds was with my family and me from the very beginning, providing financial and just as importantly, emotional support.

Michael and I hope that as we travel across the country, we can make more people aware of The Four Diamonds Fund and that a healthy, happy life after cancer is possible.

If you would like to follow Gabrielle and Michael on their two-year trek, please visit their web site at www.usa-c2c.com. They would love to hear from you!

## Save the Date

September 1, 2004, 6:30 p.m. Friends of Four Diamonds Meeting Academic Support Building,

Academic Support Building, Room 2008 Hershey, PA **September 12, 2004, Noon Four Diamonds Family Picnic**Shank Park, Hershey, PA

October 17, 2004, Noon THON™ Harvest Day Harner Farm, State College, PA October 24, 2004, 10:00 a.m. THON™ 5K Run University Park, PA

For additional events log onto: www.fourdiamonds.org, or contact the Four Diamonds office (717) 531-6086.

# Central Pennsylvania Students Dance 4 Diamonds

Congratulations to the middle schools and high schools who participated in the 2003-2004 Four Diamonds mini-thons. Each school did an outstanding job with many of the schools doubling the number of students who participated, as well as doubling the total dollars raised from the previous year. Together, fourteen schools raised a record-breaking



Spring Grove Middle School students were willing to pay big bucks to pour sundae toppings over some of their favorite teachers.

\$229,556! This total is the result of some very creative fund-raising events such as THON Thursdays, class competitions, band marathons, powder puff football games, silent auctions, raffles, survivor-type challenges, canning in the bleachers at sporting events, car washes, a haunted house, and an array of faculty challenges, which included "pied" faces, shaved heads, "red" heads, human

sundaes, sports challenges, and even kissing a pig!
The success of the Four Diamonds minithons definitely proves that the students

Four Diamonds patient, Bruce Kopnisky, age 18 months

throughout central Pennsylvania are ready, willing, and able to reach out and show their support to children and young adults who are battling childhood cancer at Penn State Children's Hospital. It's exciting and heart-warming to see this kind of support and it will be interesting to see how many more

schools will join the ranks of those who are dancing for diamonds. Schools interested in organizing a Four Diamonds mini-thon should contact Linda Barry, Four Diamonds Assistant Coordinator, at (717) 531-1317.

#### 2003-2004 Four Diamonds Mini-thons

Annville-Cleona High School (6)	\$20,090
Annville-Cleona Middle School (6)	<i>\$ 2,346</i>
Central Dauphin High School (10)	\$62,878
Dover Area High School (2)	<i>\$26,458</i>
East Pennsboro High School (1)	\$ 5,000
Garden Spot High School & Ephrata High School (2)	\$15,397
Hershey High School Key Club (10)	\$21,000
Lancaster Mennonite High School (1)	\$ 8,350
Northern High School (1)	\$10,000
Springfield High School (2)	\$16,000
Spring Grove Middle School (2)	\$24,461
Susquenita Middle School (2)	\$ 5,576
West Perry Middle School Lock-in (3)	\$12,000

<sup>\*</sup> The number within the parentheses indicates the number of years the school has held a Four Diamonds mini-thon.

## **Elementary School Partners With Local Mini-thon**

The residents of Denver, PA may have noticed a major penny shortage several months ago when the students of Brecknock Elementary School were asked to participate in a four-week Four Diamonds Penny Challenge in conjunction with the Garden Spot High School/Ephrata High School mini-thon. The project was organized by Denise Longaberger, Four Diamonds parent of Brecknock

student Victoria-Lyn, who asked each student to try to bring in one hundred pennies. Denise had no idea how seriously the students would take this challenge, but to everyone's surprise these pint-sized fund-raisers scoured their community for every penny they could find. The students collected an amazing \$5,946.26! That's 594,626 pennies or approximately 1,101 pennies per student!

# Making a Difference



Wes Robertson and Dillion Stuter

#### Walk-a-thon Honors Classmate

Four Diamonds patient Dillon
Stuter was happy to present a stuffed panther, signed by the East Pennsboro High School varsity football team, to East Pennsboro sixth grade student, Wes Robertson, who

had recently been diagnosed with leukemia. When the East Pennsboro Middle School students heard about Wes' diagnosis, they wanted to do something to show their support. Touched by their concern and enthusiasm the Robertson family encouraged the students to do a fundraiser for The Four Diamonds Fund. In response to that

request, the East Pennsboro Middle School students, who are known for their community service, organized their first Four Diamonds walk-a-thon in honor of their classmate, Wes, and raised \$9,445!

#### Local Community Rallies in Support of Four Diamonds

A special thanks to Carol and Greg Kupp, owners of

Kuppy's Diner, located in the heart of Middletown, PA, for hosting the 2004 Kuppy's Diner Cruise-in to benefit The Four Diamonds Fund. This is the fourth year for the Cruise-in, and the second time that it has benefited the Fund. Thank you Middletown for a great day and your gift of \$5,556!

#### THON™ Alumni Run-a-Muck For the Kids!

The third annual Broad St. Run-a-Muck, led by THON<sup>TM</sup> alumni Michael Del Fra '95, Megan Kiley Del Fra '95, and Rocky Fizzano '91, took place in Philadelphia on May 2. The annual event combines the 10-mile Broad Street run with a tailgate party, games and prizes for the kids, and an afternoon Phillies game. It's a fun day and a great opportunity for THON<sup>TM</sup> alumni to maintain their connection with a "courageous group of kids." Runners and tailgaters are already being recruited for next year's event. Anyone in the Philadelphia area who is interested in participating in the 2005 Broad Street Run-a-Muck should contact Megan Kiley Del Fra

at MegKi@yahoo.com.



Congratulations to the Four Diamonds Advisory Board on the success of their fourth annual Scramble for Four Diamonds held on May 14 at Royal Oaks Golf Club, Lebanon, PA. Because of the generous support from the golfers, sponsors, and volunteers, \$17,000 was raised from this year's outing.



Carol and Gred Kupp—Photo courtesy "Press & Journal"

## Thank You to ...

**Matthew Knepp Memorial Bowling Tournament**-\$4,600

Music in the Air Choir Concert-\$3,843.50

Zion Lutheran Church, First United Presbyterian Church, Mt. Hope United Methodist Church, Oakville United Methodist Church, Newville Church of the Brethren, West Cumberland County of Thrivent Financial

**Hershey Bears Booster Club**-\$3,870

**Hershey Bears Hockey Club**-\$340

Mid-Atlantic Region of Retreads M.C. International, Inc.-\$2,025

**Elizabethtown Middle School Penny Wars-\$1,177.55** 

Central PA Region Porsche Club of America-\$1,390

**Linglestown Elementary School**-\$1,289

Marquis Players of Lafayette College-\$1,200

**Central Dauphin East Middle School**-\$1,000

Friends & Family of Will Doron-\$930

Jamestown Area School -\$600

Although we are unable to recognize everyone who has made a contribution to The Four Diamonds Fund in the newsletter, we want you to know how much your generosity and commitment to the Fund is appreciated.





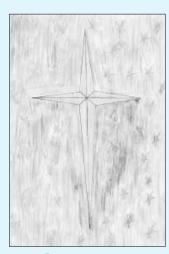
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Office of University Development, A120 P.O. Box 852 Hershey, PA 17033-0852

Please visit our web page at **www.fourdiamonds.org** for information about Four Diamonds or call the Four Diamonds office at (717) 531-6086.

Information provided to Penn State Hershey Medical Center and Penn State College of Medicine is kept in the strictest of confidence. Please write to us if you wish to have your name removed from future publications. Upon notification, all reasonable efforts will be taken to adhere to your wishes.

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# 2004 Four Diamonds Holiday Cards



Gary Martens age 14



Amber Orndorff age 17



Alyssa Fuehrer age 9



Jedediah Smith age 6

## Congratulations to the winners of this year's holiday card contest!

Designed by children being treated for cancer at Penn State Children's Hospital.

Proceeds benefit The Four Diamonds Fund.

#### Cards will be available October 1.

If you would like to purchase or sell cards at your school, business, or community organization, please contact the Four Diamonds office at (717) 531-6086.