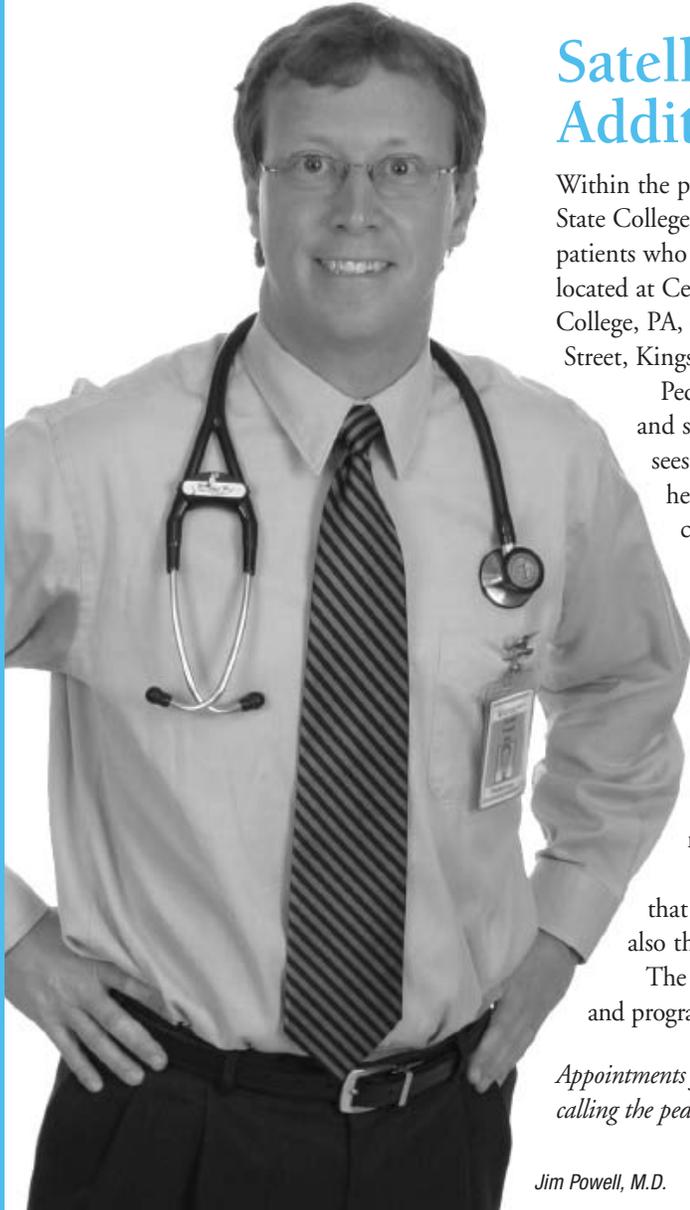




# Four Diamonds forum



Jim Powell, M.D.

## Satellite Clinics are a Welcome Addition to Four Diamonds Service

Within the past year, satellite pediatric hematology/oncology clinics were opened in State College and in Kingston (near Wilkes Barre) to accommodate Four Diamonds patients who live a distance from Penn State Children's Hospital. The first clinic, located at Centre Medical & Surgical Associates Building, 1850 East Park Avenue, State College, PA, opened on February 23, 2004, and the second clinic, located at 540 Pierce Street, Kingston, PA, opened on June 8, 2004.

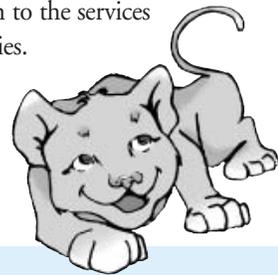
Pediatric oncologist, Jim Powell, M.D. travels to both clinics once a month and sees an average of five patients each month. At this time, Powell primarily sees children and adolescents referred to the satellite clinics for evaluation of hematologic diseases, such as anemia and bleeding disorders. He also sees current Four Diamonds oncology patients for routine follow-up visits after they have completed active treatment. Powell hopes that in the near future, the resources and staffing will be available to deliver chemotherapy and supportive care such as blood product transfusions at the outreach clinics.

Four Diamonds parent, Renee Messina, appreciates the convenience of the State College clinic because the travel-time saved is a big deal when she is trying to build up vacation and sick time at work from all the time off during her child's treatment. One down side is that they miss seeing the other patients and staff.

Four Diamonds patient and Penn State student, Kari Ann Lucas, agrees that the convenience of the satellite clinic not only saves her family time, but also the cost of traveling back and forth to Penn State Hershey for clinic visits.

The satellite clinics have definitely been a welcome addition to the services and programs offered to Four Diamonds patients and their families.

*Appointments for State College or Kingston clinic visits can be made by calling the pediatric hematology/oncology office at (717) 531-6012.*



## Save the Date

**January 5, 2005, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Friends of Four Diamonds Meeting**  
Academic Support Building, Room 1101  
Hershey, PA

**January 22, 2005, 10:00 a.m.**  
**THON™ 2005 New Family Orientation**  
University Fitness Center, Hershey, PA

**February 18-20, 2005, 7:00 p.m.**  
**THON™ 2005**  
Rec Hall, University Park, PA

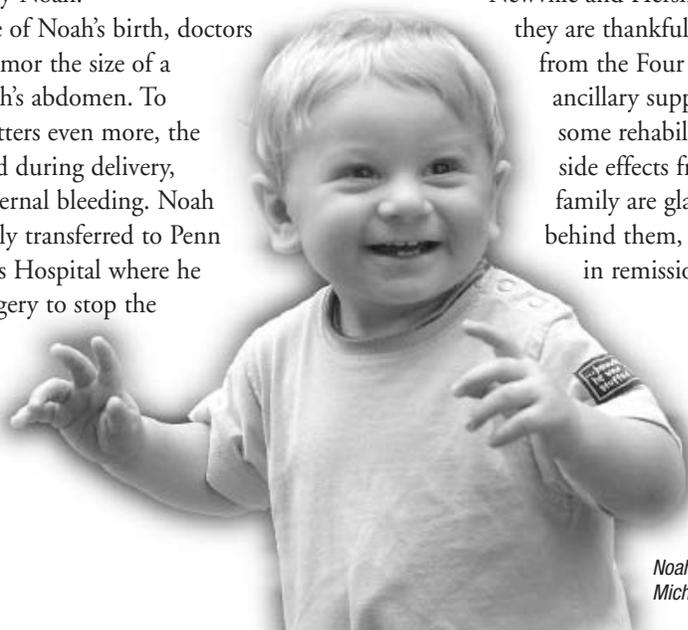
## Noah Spangler Celebrates Milestones

On Saturday, September 25, Four Diamonds patient, Noah Spangler, of Newville, PA celebrated two milestones—his first birthday, as well as completing a year of treatment for a form of childhood cancer known as neuroblastoma, which Noah was diagnosed with at birth. Approximately 385 guests shared cake and ice cream, face painting, hayrides, games, and entertainment by children’s musician, Woody Wolfe. In lieu of gifts, those who attended Noah’s party were asked to make a donation to The Four Diamonds Fund and/or the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank in honor of Noah. It was a great day, as guests donated over \$7,000 to the Fund as well as forty pints of blood to help replenish the amount used by Noah.

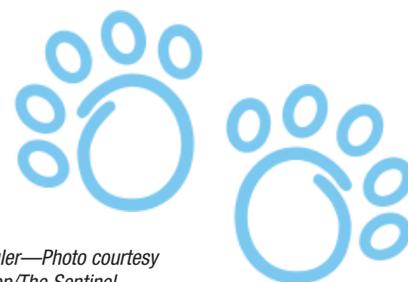
At the time of Noah’s birth, doctors discovered a tumor the size of a softball in Noah’s abdomen. To complicate matters even more, the tumor ruptured during delivery, resulting in internal bleeding. Noah was immediately transferred to Penn State Children’s Hospital where he underwent surgery to stop the

bleeding and remove the tumor. Although the bleeding was stopped, Noah’s tumor compromised several organs and therefore, it was unable to be removed at that time. The diagnosis of neuroblastoma was confirmed and it was not until May 18, after seven months of chemotherapy, that the tumor, along with his right kidney, adrenal gland, and appendix could be removed.

Although their insurance has covered the majority of Noah’s medical costs, George and Rebecca Spangler are grateful for the help they have received from The Four Diamonds Fund, which includes covering co-pays, prescriptions, hospital meal cards, and especially gas cards, since they have logged over 11,000 miles between Newville and Hershey during the past year. Additionally, they are thankful for the excellent care Noah receives from the Four Diamonds medical staff, and the ancillary support teams. Although Noah still has some rehabilitative work to do as a result of the side effects from his year-long ordeal, he and his family are glad to be able to put this last year behind them, and thrilled to announce that Noah is in remission—a definite reason to celebrate!



Noah Spangler—Photo courtesy Michael Bupp/The Sentinel



Four Diamonds patient, Billie Jackson, lands a fish at the fifth annual day of fishing at Lakeside Marina, which was sponsored by Capital City Bassmasters.

### Thank You to ...

**Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church**, Harrisburg, for organizing the **2nd annual Drew F. Comrey Memorial Golf Outing**, which was held at the Manada Golf Club in Grantville on September 6. This year 125 golfers helped raise \$8,400 for the Fund.

**Tom Potter**, owner of The Pennsylvania Roadhouse & Tavern, event sponsors, and bands for helping to make the inaugural **Pleasant Gap Music Fest**, held June 26-27, such a success. With music, camping, and plenty of food and

activities for the kids, they raised \$6,000 for The Four Diamonds Fund to help fight childhood cancer.

**City of Harrisburg Bureau of Police** for raising \$2,000 with their August 7 women’s fast-pitch softball game. This event was held in memory of Four Diamonds patient, Tiffanie Salvadia.

**Cocalico Cruisers** and the **Reamstown Memorial Park Association** for joining forces and organizing a Jam Session on July 31. The Cruisers raised \$750 and the concession stand proceeds totaled \$283.

**Hans Herr Elementary School** on the success of their Family Fun Fest, raising \$400 for the kids.

*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.*

# Making a Difference



Karen and Bob Gula, Bill Joseph, and Mary Gorski, Board Members of the Jonathan Gula Memorial Foundation

presented Sara Firestone, Four Diamonds coordinator and Greg Baiocchi, Four Diamonds social worker, with a check for \$17,000. The money was raised at the 5th annual Jonathan Gula Memorial Golf Tournament, which was held on July 25 at the Blue Ridge Trail Golf course in Mountaintop, PA. The golf classic grows each year and since 2001 the Foundation has contributed \$67,000 to help conquer childhood cancer.

**Concert for the Kids** was an all-day Four Diamonds benefit concert held on July 31 at the Middlesex Township Community Park in Carlisle, PA. Matthew Ferry organized the concert and relied on his musical talent and past involvement with Four Diamonds mini-thons at Central Dauphin High School as inspiration for the event.

Grantham Road, Summit, Herbie, Brooks West, Mick Choder, The Baggins, and The Fat Handsome



*"The Baggins" musicians are left to right: Brandon Kisner, William Noone, Thomas Gordan, Matthew Ferry, Nikolaus Hartman, and Joseph Basile.*

were among the generous local bands and singer/songwriters who were gracious enough to donate their time and talent for the concert. Between musical acts, several Four Diamonds families shared their personal experiences with childhood cancer, as well as the benefits they received from The Four Diamonds Fund. Together, the musical artists and guest speakers blended experience, the beauty of music, and a caring community, to raise \$2,327.28. Matthew hopes to make this an annual event.

## Grow Up Great Program

The **PNC Foundation**, which is affiliated with PNC Bank, recently donated \$2,500 to The Four Diamonds Fund to be used to meet the mission of the "PNC Grow Up Great" program. The program was created to improve school readiness, including language development, literacy, math, science, creative arts, social and emotional development, and physical health.

Katrina Souder, Four Diamonds child life specialist; Greg Baiocchi, Four Diamonds social worker; and Jan Stouffer, Four Diamonds music therapist put together "Grow Up Great" boxes for our younger Four Diamonds patients. Many parents become concerned about the amount of time their child spends in a hospital setting rather than a normal environment and what affect this may have on the child's developmental growth. The "Grow Up Great" boxes are resource boxes that include developmentally appropriate materials to encourage playful interaction between the child and parent. Each box contains a child development book for the parent, a children's storybook, a music CD, and various age appropriate play materials.

The Four Diamonds Fund is grateful to the PNC Foundation for providing support for this unique project.

## Brecknock Elementary School Earns Philanthropy Award

Congratulations to Brecknock Elementary School for receiving the 2004 Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy award from the Central Pennsylvania Association of Fundraising Professionals. The students were recognized for the support they gave to a fellow classmate, Victoria-

Lyn Longaberger, during her treatment for cancer at Penn State Children's Hospital, as well as for their participation in a Four Diamonds Penny Challenge that raised \$5,946.26 towards the 2004 Garden Spot High School/Ephrata High School mini-thon.





Please visit our web page at [www.fourdiamonds.org](http://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.*

## Medallion Ceremony Honors Research Chairs

On September 14, 2004, Ken Lucas, M.D. and Barbara Miller, M.D. were honored at a medallion ceremony for their work in pediatric cancer research at Penn State College of Medicine.

Ken Lucas, M.D. was recognized for his appointment as the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon Chair for Pediatric Cancer Research. Lucas and his research colleague, Qi Sun, M.D. are doing important research with cytotoxic T lymphocytes. Besides research, Lucas leads the bone marrow transplant team at Penn State Children's Hospital. Since his arrival in July 2003, the bone marrow transplant unit has expanded and a new pediatric stem cell clinic was created.

Miller, who returned to Penn State Children's Hospital in July 2004, was honored for her appointment as the Christopher Millard Chair for Pediatric Cancer Research. Miller's research focuses on discovering the



David Hefner, COO, Penn State Hershey Medical Center and Ken Lucas, M.D.

pathways through which blood cell development is controlled. The experiments Miller and her team are

working on are directed at understanding how the influx of ions on cells is controlled, how they are activated, and how they cause cell survival. Miller hopes that this basic information can be used in the future to design new therapies and drugs, which will be more effective and have fewer side effects in the treatment of pediatric cancer.



Barbara Miller, M.D.

On behalf of the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, 2005 THON™ Overall Chairperson Seth Moser accepted a framed medallion recognizing Dance Marathon for its lead gift of \$5 million to the Four Diamonds Research Endowment. Their continued commitment to finding a cure for childhood cancer is truly commendable, and the impact THON™ has made at Penn State Children's Hospital is immeasurable.

Charles Millard, co-founder of The Four Diamonds Fund, accepted a medallion on behalf of he and his wife, Irma. They were honored for their role in creating The Four Diamonds Fund in memory of their son, Christopher, and for their support of the research that is being conducted at Penn State Children's Hospital.