

The mission of T.O.U.C.H. (The Organization for Understanding Children's Hearts) is to empower families, children and adults with congenital heart defects. We believe that through emotional support, education, information sharing, and public awareness we can make a difference. T.O.U.C.H. is supported by and affiliated with The Children's Hospital of Illinois at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center and The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria.

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(309) 655-3453

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TOUCH

Keeping in **TOUCH**

SPRING, 2006

T.O.U.C.H. Board Members:

Gail Eaton, Executive Director, Children's Heart Institute of Illinois

Gina Hulett, Chair (Germantown Hills) (309) 383-4165

Jenn Paulsen, Vice Chair (Rockton) (815) 986-8779

Amie Love, Treasurer (Washington) (309) 444-5756

Kaye Randell, Recording & Corresponding Secretary (Galesburg) (309) 342-1660

Jeff & Cathy Cunningham, Communications & Publicity (Urbana) (217) 239-1440

Lise' Mundwiller, (Dunlap) (309) 243-7154

Terra Boeker, (Metamora) (309) 693-1778

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Amy Zbinden (Morton) (309) 263-7704

Sally Achterberg (East Peoria) (309) 694-1470

Julie & Adam Carlton (Washington) (309) 886-2163

As members of the T.O.U.C.H. board and fellow parents of a child with congenital heart defects, we encourage you to contact us with your concerns. NO question or concern is too small when your child is involved.

Helping Kids Today and Tomorrow!

21st Annual Children's Miracle Network Telethon

Sunday, June 4th, 2006

By Gail Eaton, Children's Heart Institute

This is the time of the year that I am asking all of you to please stop and consider being a VIP Phone Volunteer for the T.O.U.C.H. hour during the Children's Miracle Network Telethon. This year's fundraiser will air on WEEK-TV from 10:00am to 5:00pm from two sites – the RiverPlex Recreation and Wellness Center in Peoria and the Eastland Mall in Bloomington. Our goal this year is to raise \$2.5 million!! With your efforts, Children's Hospital is able to provide specialized care and support services for our patients and families for today and tomorrow.

“What does a VIP do?” The answer is simple; commit to one hour on Sunday afternoon to answer phones during the broadcast, raise \$500.00 prior to Telethon day, have fun, and return home feeling good because you know you just helped to give a little bit back....Our T.O.U.C.H. hour is from 3pm to 4:00pm and one parent and their “heart” child answer phones during that hour. Each person that answers phones during that hour is asked to raise \$500.00 prior to the day of the telethon. You would be very surprised how easy this is done when you ask friends and family to donate to such a great cause. We can even give you some ideas for fundraisers like; A Theme Party, Neighborhood Cookout, Movie Night and lots more.

Please help to make this year's 21st telethon a huge success and consider becoming a VIP. Call Gail at 1-800-443-9898 or 309-655-2650 as soon as possible if you would like to help or just want more information. ---*Thanks!!*

From the Editors:

Readers! We encourage your comments and input. Please contact us to share your story or if you have a question or concern you feel should be addressed in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you or meeting you in person.

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T.O.U.C.H. Website:
www.T.O.U.C.H.hearts.org

*Don't forget to let us know if you are moving
or your email has changed!*

Help us keep our mailing list current by sending your new address
to:



Gail Eaton
The Children's Heart Institute of Illinois
at the Children's Hospital of Illinois
530 NE Glen Oak Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61637

New E-mail? Send it to Jenn Paulsen at mrsp96@hotmail.com
-----Thanks!



T.O.U.C.H. Picnic: Celebrating 20 Years!

Save Sunday, September 24th, 2006 for the annual T.O.U.C.H. picnic at Wildlife Prairie State Park. This year we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary! Lots of fun activities are being planned. If you would like to help, contact T.O.U.C.H. board members Gina Hulett (309) 383-4165 or Jenn Paulsen (815) 986-8779.



The T.O.U.C.H. Website is up and running!

Please check us out at:
www.T.O.U.C.H.hearts.org

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions,
please contact us at:

T.O.U.C.H.hearts@T.O.U.C.H.hearts.org



T.O.U.C.H. Cabin “Megan’s Lodge” Open House

Sunday, May 21st from 2-4 pm

The electricity and plumbing are finished, the drywall and painting are done and the T.O.U.C.H. cabin, to be named “Megan’s Lodge” in memory of heart kid Megan Fawver, is almost ready for visitors! Be sure to save Sunday, May 21st from 2-4 pm to come see the cabin on the grounds of Wildlife Prairie State Park 10 miles west of Peoria. More information can be found on the T.O.U.C.H. website and a special invitation will be sent out prior to the event.

Building Megan’s Lodge One Fundraiser at a Time

The last few issues of the newsletter have documented the tremendous support T.O.U.C.H. has received from many people working hard to raise money to turn the dream of a cabin into reality. **Mr. Bill Rutherford**, founder of the Wildlife Prairie Park, has always had a special place in his heart for all of our T.O.U.C.H. kids and it’s because of his vision and generosity that this cabin project was started. In the beginning, T.O.U.C.H. was going to name the cabin for Mr. Rutherford but he thought it should be named **Megan’s Lodge** after he heard the story of Megan Fawver, a 19-year-old T.O.U.C.H. heart kid who died September 13, 2005 after complications from her heart transplant.

Before she died, Megan donated her high school graduation gift money, over \$6,000, to the cabin project. Approximately \$75,000 has come in from the Fawver family and memorials for Megan for the cabin project. Funds are still needed to furnish Megan’s Lodge and provide for operating expenses such as heat, power, etc. The next issue of the newsletter will feature stories on Megan’s life and the May 21st dedication of Megan’s Lodge at Wildlife Prairie State Park.

In the next pages of the newsletter we feature stories of other individuals and groups who have joined the cause and held fundraisers and benefits to raise money for the cabin project. It is without a doubt an awesome testimony to the notion that many people working together can make dreams come true.



Megan Fawver

Gibson City Benefit For “Megan’s Lodge” Huge Success

November 5th, 2005 was a cold, gloomy Saturday afternoon but inside the Kruse Center in Gibson City the atmosphere was warm and sunny. Longtime friends of the Fawver family; Carole Moore, Jean Goslin, Karen Lynch and Jodi Grover were responsible for a most successful benefit that raised \$14,000 that will benefit “Megan’s Lodge”. This will then be submitted to the Kraft Matching Gifts Program for a total of \$28,000.

The benefit featured a hog roast at the Kruse Center in Gibson City, along with raffles and drawings that included a 42-inch plasma television, remote control plane, numerous gift certificates and much, much more. A thank you also goes out to Bill and Connie Kruse who donated the use of the facility, as well as, Mr. Kruse’s talents as the “Auctioneer”. Mr. and Mrs. Kruse have a special place in their hearts for “Megan’s Lodge” as they too have a granddaughter that was born with a congenital heart defect.

T.O.U.C.H. would like to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to Carol and her team for all their hard work. We hope each of you has a wonderful sense of accomplishment and a feeling of pride knowing that you have helped to keep Megan’s dream alive!

Stamping Event Brings in \$3,500!

The 3rd annual Stamp to Your Heart’s Content and Silent Auction was held in Poplar Grove, IL on Saturday, February 11th, 2006. The four-hour event was filled with card-stamping fun, fabulous door prizes, a silent auction, and live music. A total of \$3,500 was raised for Megan’s Lodge project! Thanks to Jenn Paulsen and the Poplar Grove

United Methodist Church! Both the United Methodist Women’s group and the United Methodist Men’s group from the church consider T.O.U.C.H. a yearly mission. Their generous donations help pay for lunch and supplies for the event so that all proceeds realized that day can go solely to T.O.U.C.H.’s Megan’s Lodge project.

Note: The Paulsen’s extended family have gotten involved in raising money for T.O.U.C.H. A special donation from the Abingdon Rotary Club will be put toward the lights and ceiling fans for Megan’s Lodge. Hannah Paulsen’s great-grandparents are members of the Abingdon Rotary Club.

Hannah’s big sister Grace attends Sunday School at Poplar Grove United Methodist Church. The Sunday School made T.O.U.C.H. their mission project for January/February. They donated six theme baskets to the silent auction and presented T.O.U.C.H. with a check for \$83! What great kids!

4th Annual Brady Weaver Benefit

Brady was born 6 years ago with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. He has had 6 open-heart surgeries and has a pacemaker. He is currently in good health. Brady is a 1st grade student at Hollis Grade School in Bartonville.

Each year, Brady's family and friends have a benefit in his honor to raise money for The Children's Hospital of Illinois and T.O.U.C.H.. This year's benefit is being held on Friday, May 12 at the Bartonville American Legion from 4:00 to midnight. We will have an auction, raffles, great music provided by "Midlife Crisis", and the best food in town, which is all homemade by Brady's loving family and friends. We are also having a Kids Corner, with games, activities, and raffle items just for the kids.

Why don't you plan on joining us as we try to surpass last year's total of \$20,000? You will have a wonderful meal with great entertainment, as well an opportunity to bid on some fantastic prizes.

We hope you can join us!

Zoe Takes Action!

Our son Max was born April 18th 2005 with multiple heart defects. He has had two surgeries so far and has more to come. It is hard to explain your feelings to someone who has not gone through this experience. My wife, Michelle, asked me during Max's first surgery if I could sum up my feelings in one word, what would that word be? "Excruciating." I told her. "Going through all of this makes you feel like you are in some sort of fog."

We had to be strong though. We still had our beautiful seven-year-old daughter, Zoe, at home to look after. At first when all of this was going on she did just fine. Then after a while we noticed that she was starting to withdraw. Not from the family or Max but from herself. It was clear that this ordeal was taking an emotional toll on her too. The straw that broke the camel's back happened when her teacher from school called to express her concerns. Zoe started to see a counselor at her school. Everything was starting to look up again. But what really helped Zoe turn the corner was an idea that a friend of hers had at school.

Zoe and her friend, Nolan Webb, a third grader at her school decided to have a fundraiser. Nolan came up this idea while thinking about Max's situation. They took turns selling lollipops at school to raise funds for T.O.U.C.H.'s Megan's Lodge. The children raised \$358.46! Then Zoe's Girl Scout troop got into the action and helped sell lollipops and some of the T.O.U.C.H. bracelets at a few of the shops on the square in Washington. The Girl Scouts raised an additional \$202.82!

Zoe couldn't be happier. She is so proud of her little brother and we do not know what we would do without her. We feel so blessed to live this close to all of Max's doctors and surgeons. He is doing great. We cannot be sure when his next surgery will be. No matter how much we prepare ourselves for it we will never be ready. But what we have learned so far through all of this is to keep your family strong. No matter how hard it gets, do not forget to take time out for your family. They are the only ones who truly understand how you feel because they are there with you.

*--Jerry, Michelle, Zoe and Max Bannan
Washington IL*



Raising Awareness About Congenital Heart Defects

By Lori Emken

When our Sunday school at Douglas United Methodist Church was looking for the 2006 missions to support we had to look no further than our own Sunday school children. Douglas is a very small country church but right in our own small church five childhood medical issues were represented, Cancer, Traumatic Brain Injury, Juvenile Diabetes, Autism, and Congenital Heart Defect. We decided to take a month for each illness to raise money and awareness. February is National Heart Month and when asked what charity the church should support for Heart month our first and only thought was T.O.U.C.H. Our son Tyler who is now 17, was born with a Congenital Heart Defect. We took him to The Children's Heart Institute every year to monitor his heart. In 2003 it was decided by Dr. Shah that he needed surgery to correct the closing of his aortic valve. We were introduced to T.O.U.C.H. and felt blessed that there was a local support group for parents of heart children.

To start Heart month off we had a soup supper to raise money for T.O.U.C.H. and we also sold T.O.U.C.H. bracelets. The next Sunday during the service at church Tyler shared with the congregation about his heart surgery and what T.O.U.C.H. does to help families who have children with Congenital Heart Defects. He also spoke about the dream of "Megan's Lodge" and how wonderful it is to have such a special place for families to go who cannot get far from the hospital or who cannot afford to take a vacation for financial reasons. After the service that morning the Sunday school children hosted a breakfast where more money was raised for T.O.U.C.H. and red construction paper hearts were sold for \$1.00 to be placed on the walls of the fellowship hall. Throughout the rest of February, we will continue to sell the T.O.U.C.H. bracelets and the red hearts and also, most important, raise awareness for Congenital Heart Defects.



The Sunday School Children at Douglas United Methodist Church displaying the paper hearts they sold to raise money for T.O.U.C.H.

Note: To date, the Douglas United Methodist Church has raised over \$900 for T.O.U.C.H.! Thanks!

What is iGive?

Philosophy

Launched in 1997, iGive.com is designed to help people support their favorite charitable causes through their everyday online shopping.

iGive.com has built an online community that harnesses the collective power of our members to help worthwhile causes. The Internet helps us to create a simple, fast, individualized, and inexpensive connection between our members, their favorite worthy causes, and merchants that provide quality, affordable products and services.

iGive.com channels thousands of dollars from our members' Internet activities to their favorite worthy causes. Through routine online shopping, our members raise significant sums to benefit their favorite organizations, from a local Scout troop or homeless shelter to global disaster relief. iGive.com makes this fundraising possible at no cost or obligation to individual shoppers or the causes they support. Our members are a part of a movement to make charitable activities an important part of the new Internet economy.

IGIVE.com: e-Philanthropy Shopping with A Cause in Mind

Hi, Jenn Paulsen here, along with iGive.com, inviting you to turn your online shopping into support for a truly worthy cause. T.O.U.C.H. has registered with iGive to offer our supporters yet another easy way to benefit T.O.U.C.H.

I'm supporting T.O.U.C.H. just by shopping online through iGive for brand-name items at over 654 well-known online stores. And I'm getting free deals and coupons just by being an iGive.com member. If you join iGive.com and make a purchase within 45 days from one of 654 or so participating stores, iGive.com will donate \$5 FREE to your favorite worthy cause!

How it works

1. Join to support T.O.U.C.H.
It's FREE, private, and easy. Use this link to join and begin supporting T.O.U.C.H.: <http://www.iGive.com/T.O.U.C.H.>
2. Go to the iGive website to Shop the Mall at iGive.com. There are over 654 stores listed on iGive! You'll see familiar stores like:
*Land's End ~ Office Depot ~ JC Penney ~ PETsMART,
Gap ~ Neiman Marcus ~ Expedia.com ~
Barnes & Noble ~ Best Buy ~ Dell ~ Vitamin Shoppe
QVC ~ Shop NBC ~ Drugstore.com ~ Orvis ~
Hallmark ~ Staples ~ eBay
... and many more!*
3. Watch the \$\$ roll in for T.O.U.C.H.! Up to 26% of each purchase gets donated!

Remember, shop within 45 days of joining and get an extra \$5 donation, FREE (this is a limited time offer!)



2006-07 Calendar of Fundraising Events

- May 4** **COUNTRY's Score Fore Kids Golf Outing** – This premier golf outing will be held at The Den at Fox Creek in Bloomington and features an exciting afternoon of golf followed by dinner and awards.
- May 20** **Charity Wine Auction** – Progressive Business Group of Peoria will be hosting a wine auction to benefit Children's Hospital of Illinois. The evening begins at 6 pm at Kickapoo Creek Winery and will include wine tasting from around the country as well as a silent and live auction.
- June 3** **Boomer Grigsby Golf Outing** – Boomer Grigsby, football player for the Kansas City Chiefs hosts a golf outing to benefit Children's Hospital. The event will be held at Wee-Ma-Tuk Golf Course in Canton.
- June 4** **CMN Annual Telethon** – Celebrate the accomplishments of 2005 during the 7-hour broadcast. Telethon locations include: Bloomington's Eastland Mall and the RiverPlex in Peoria. Watch WEEK-TV 25 beginning Sunday at 10 a.m.
- June 7** **100 Holes of Golf in One Day** – Four men in Hennepin, IL will try to golf 100 holes of golf in one day. Through pledges per hole of golf completed, the men will raise funds to benefit Children's Hospital.
- June 15** **Green View Garden Party** – Green View hosts a Garden Party, where guests will enjoy live music and hors d'oeuvres while viewing the beautiful gardens. 10% of evening sales to benefit Children's Hospital.

The Children's Heart Institute of Illinois
at the Children's Hospital of Illinois
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Peoria, Illinois 61637

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