

Children's Hospital of Illinois & OSF Saint Francis Foundation CALENDAR OF FUNDRAISING EVENTS

April	Sigma Chi Derby Days	Sigma Chi– Bradley University
	Gold's Gym "Get Fit for Kids" Event	Gold's Gym– Peoria & Morton
May 7	Country Score Fore Kids Golf Outing	The Den at Fox Creek
May 31	Children's Hospital/CMN Telethon	WEEK 25
August 6	Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day	Local Area Dairy Queens
	Ride the Wake for Kids Sake	Chillicothe Riverfront
	Jump Start Gymnastics Fitness Challenge	Jump Start Gymnastics- Peoria

For more information, please contact Children's Hospital Foundation at (309) 566-5668.

Keeping in T.O.U.C.H.

Winter 2009

The Organization for Understanding Children's Hearts

The mission of T.O.U.C.H. 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. www.TOUCHHEARTS.org



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

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Heart Institute of Illinois*

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Amy Zbinden
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23rd Annual CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK TELETHON Raises \$2,217,215

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL TOUCH FAMILIES who helped make this amazing result possible! Sunday, June 1st was an inspiring, heart-warming and truly wonderful day. The Children's Miracle Network Telethon served not only as the final vehicle for hundreds of fundraising VIPS, but also as a celebration of the tireless year-round efforts of sponsors, donors and volunteers.

Each year, we ask you to respond to the call to help raise money for the TOUCH Hour. The results speak volumes of the commitment you have to the life-saving work of The Children's Hospital of Illinois. TOUCH Families lined the phone banks in both Peoria and Bloomington, raising more than \$53,000!



This years' heart kids that featured were Berkeley Stigall and Hanna Palka of Peoria, and our special angel Joshua Harrison of Bloomington.



Continued on page 7.

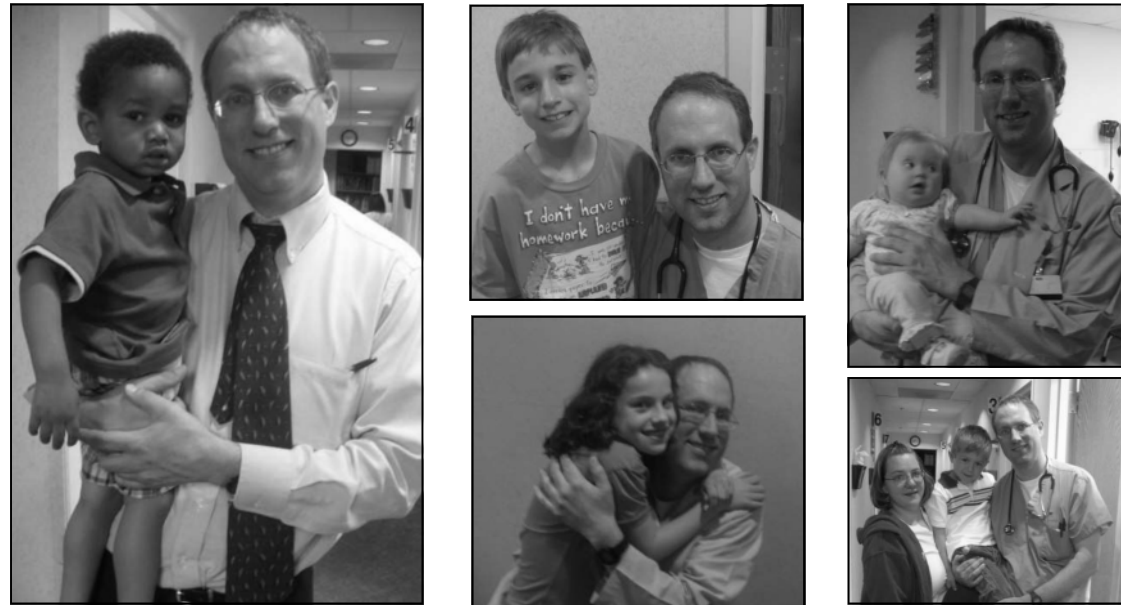
As members of the T.O.U.C.H. Board and fellow parents of children with congenital heart defects, we encourage you to contact us with your concerns, questions and ideas. No input is insignificant when your child is involved.

GOOD LUCK, Dr. Schneider!

As you may know, Dr. Douglas Schneider has accepted and begun a position in the Division of Cardiology at the Kentucky Children's Hospital. The T.O.U.C.H. community would like to congratulate the Schneider family and wish them all the best. Dr. Schneider has been a crucial member of many of our children's care team and we cannot thank him enough.

In a letter to families, it reads, "Dr. Schneider wants to thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in him and our entire staff by allowing him to care for you and/or your child. He feels honored to have had the opportunity to be your cardiologist and serve you, and he will miss his patients dearly."

We will miss you, Dr. Schneider!



THANK YOU—

Your generous gifts have TOUCHED OUR HEARTS!

Paula Sims

Claudio and Nancy Garcia and Family

Catherine Hatfield

Evelynne Neighbour

2008 TOUGH PICNIC

As so many families agree, the annual picnic offers an opportunity for children and families to gather as a group with a very common bond. Although the experiences may have varied, all families' lives have been touched by congenital heart defects and the wonderful doctors and staff at Children's Hospital of Illinois in Peoria. It was a time to renew old friendships, make new acquaintances, and catch up with the doctors and nurses in a completely different environment.

Special thanks to the many volunteers who made the picnic possible as well as to those who had information booths available for families. Most of all, thanks to Gail Eaton and the entire team at Children's Hospital who allow our families to gather for such a special event.



Images
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Summer Knobloch Photography

Just for KIDS!

This new feature will include activities, information and features designed especially for kids.

KIDS– send in your favorite recipes, games or special interests!

Best Big, Chewy Chocolate Chip Cookie

Prep Time: 10 m **Cook Time:** 15 m
Ready in: 40 m **Yield:** 1 1/2 Dozen

Ingredients

2 cups all-purpose flour	1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 teaspoon baking soda	1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon salt	1 egg
3/4 cup unsalted butter, melted	1 egg yolk
1 cup packed brown sugar	2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

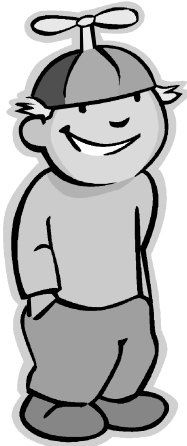
Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 325°. Grease cookie sheets or line with parchment paper.
2. Sift together the flour, baking soda and salt; set aside.
3. In a medium bowl, cream together the melted butter, brown sugar and white sugar until well blended. Beat in the vanilla, egg and egg yolk until light and creamy. Mix in the sifted ingredients until just blended. Stir in the chocolate chips by hand using a wooden spoon.
4. Drop cookie dough 1/4 cup at a time onto the prepared cookie sheets. Cookies should be about 3 inches apart.
5. Bake for 15 - 17 minutes in the preheated oven or until the edges are lightly toasted. Cool on baking sheets for a few minutes before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO AS YOU WAIT FOR THE DOCTOR

From Caroline...

10. Read a book.
9. Get a job from Pat and Liza.
8. Pretend to ice skate on the tile floor.
7. Go to the Spotted Cow for ice cream or a sprinkle cookie.
6. Play tic-tac-toe (or draw pictures) on the white paper on the exam table.
5. Look for your doctor's stethoscope.
4. Have a snack or juice box (ask a nurse).
3. Read silly top 10 list on bulletin board.
2. Have a thumb war.
1. Have FUN!



CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK TELETHON

Our **TOUCH** Families serving as **VIPs** this year were:

Donna, Sydney & Noah Abdnour	Amy, Craig & Matthew Orwig
Michelle & Zoe Bannan	Bradon Phillips
Nicole Bishop & Anthony Lynch	Marla & Austin Phillips
Andrea & Hannah Cantrall	Dan & Trecker Ralph
Heather and Brodie Colston	Steffanie & Garrett Rice
Gail Eaton	Kathy Roehm
Angie Graham	Dr. Steve Roehm
Mike, Jessica & Joshua Harrison	Julia, Tom & Jay Sanders
Patty Hession	Melissa, John & Berkeley Stigall
Becky Hoffman	Heidi & Ava Vanheuklon
Matt, Summer and Charlotte Knobloch	Shelly & Brady Weaver
Paula LaFond	Kent & Christian Witte
Kelly & Jonathon Lane	Shelly Bryant & Logan Worrick
Amie & Emily Love	Laurie, Hope & Hollie Yunker

A special **THANK YOU** and **CONGRATULATIONS** to Telethon Chairs– **Julia & Tom Sanders!**



THANK YOU– continued

Donald and Janet Morton	Karen Peterson
Paula Sims	Joy Feely
Linda Hanson	Julie Manning
Gina Keele	Linda Shapland
Laura Hobbs	Galina Bush
Lisa Henrich	Nikolay Stikhin

2008 TOUCH PICNIC

The 22nd Annual TOUCH Picnic was held this year on Sunday, September 28th at Wildlife Prairie State Park near Peoria, Illinois. This main event for TOUCH families grows each year showing how important it is for families to gather together as a group. More than 850 people attended this year's event.

The weather was wonderful allowing families to enjoy the many wonderful activities available. Kids of all ages enjoyed face painting, art & crafts, games and bouncy rides. Families took train rides through the park and climbed aboard a dump truck for a spin through the lot. Smiling faces were everywhere as families enjoyed the beautiful day.



See page 6 for more on the picnic and for photos by **Summer Knobloch Photography**



A MESSAGE

from the T.O.U.C.H. Chair

T.O.U.C.H. Database

In an attempt to communicate with T.O.U.C.H. families effectively in a more timely manner, we are developing a database of e-mail addresses for families who would like to keep informed of what's happening within T.O.U.C.H. Please send your current email address to Gina Hulett at the following address if you would like to have your name added to our database.

Get in T.O.U.C.H.

Step up and let us know how you would like to help! We are always looking for new board members or volunteers who would like to give their time and talents.

Committees Include:

Annual Picnic Megan's Lodge (T.O.U.C.H. Cabin)

Family Advocacy Public Awareness

Fundraising Web Communications

Calendar Print Communications

E-Prayer Team T.O.U.C.H. Products

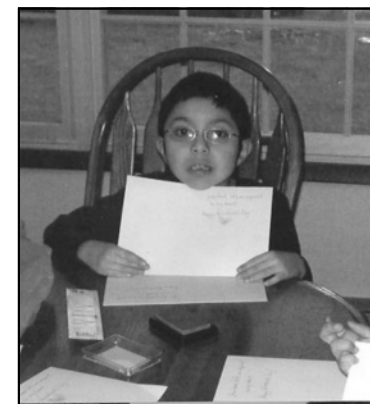
Contact Chair, Gina Hulett at jjismom@mtco.com

GIVING BACK– The Garcia's Story

Our journey in the T.O.U.C.H. program first started when our son, Noah, had to have heart surgery on March 8, 2001. He was diagnosed with subpulmonic ventricular septal defect. He is now seven years old and has not needed any other corrective surgery. In 2007 our eight year old daughter, Natache, was diagnosed with an aortic bicuspid valve and currently does not need surgery. Yes, both our kids have heart defects. But, we are not disheartened from it.

Last summer we spent a week at Megan's Cabin and we were inspired by the impact of Megan's dream and memorial. We wanted to do something to help the dream continue. Megan's cabin created a serene environment for our son and family. Childhood was definitely captured in the walls of the cabin, echoing with the stories of the many children and families who have visited there.

For the month of February, we made Valentine's Day cards and raised \$120. We also had a bake sale at our church, making more than 150 cookies and selling them all! Out total amount raised was \$360 and we plan to do this fundraiser again next year! The T.O.U.C.H. program has made an everlasting impression in our hearts and we will continue to live our journey of hope and dreams!



READERS...send us your ideas!

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 *Keeping in T.O.U.C.H.*

We look forward to hearing from you!

Julie Witte

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