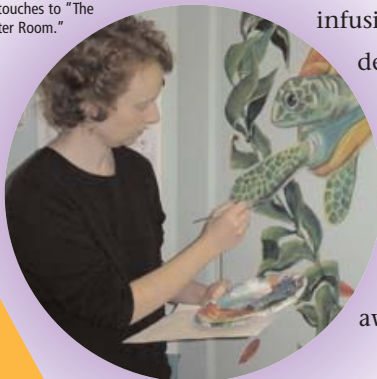




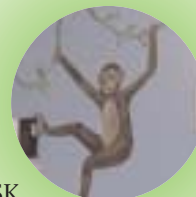
## ASK Completes Another Successful Renovation

The Bone Marrow Transplant Unit is looking a little brighter for children preparing for a transplant. ASK recently completed the renovation of five existing rooms on the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at VCU Medical Center to create a pediatric-friendly space. The space includes two in-patient rooms, an exam room, an

Local artist Colleen Hall applies the final touches to "The Underwater Room."



infusion room and a family lounge, all designed in a kid-friendly and home-like atmosphere similar to the renovated ASK



Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic. The Bone Marrow Transplant Unit currently has a consistent in-patient population of 1-2 children with an average stay of four weeks for transplant. Approximately eight children at any time are awaiting transplant.

The rooms feature bright wall colors and murals by local

artist Colleen Hall as well as colorful artwork and new furniture. In-patient rooms also have flat-screen televisions. Division Chair, Dr. John McCarty, has reported that children are actually requesting the "underwater" room and the "jungle" room. ASK is especially grateful to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Richmond VA, The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation and Lt. Col. and Mrs. Steven Walsh for generously supporting this project.



*This issue is in memory of the children who have lost their battle with cancer. We remember them and their families.*

# ASK

newsletter

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## Save The Date!

### Saturday, April 9th

**Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10K to Benefit ASK**  
 8:00am – First Market Kids Mile  
 8:30am – Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10K  
 Go to [www.sportsbackers.org](http://www.sportsbackers.org) for more race info. To volunteer, contact Tony Basch, at (804) 783-6919.

### Monday, April 25th

**SEC Golf Tournament to Benefit ASK**  
 No need to be an SEC grad, just a willing participant. Join the fun and golf in this tournament where 100% of the proceeds benefit ASK. This is the SEC's third year helping ASK Contact Donnie Harper at (804) 640-8563 to play, enter a team, sponsor a hole or volunteer.

### Saturday, April 30th

**ASK Childhood Cancer Survivorship Conference**  
 8:30am – 4:00pm  
 VCU Medical Sciences Building  
 Call Anne Mauck at (804) 828-9605 or email her at [acmauck@hsc.vcu.edu](mailto:acmauck@hsc.vcu.edu). for more information.

### June 2, 2005

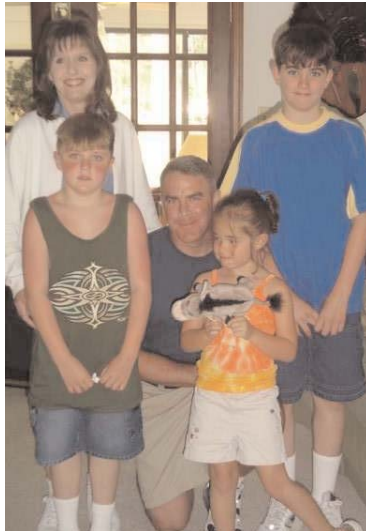
**ASK High School Graduation Ceremony**  
 VCU Medical Sciences Building  
 All seniors who have been treated through the clinic should contact Alma Morgan at (804) 828-0426 to participate.



## First Person

by Cindy Chandler, mother of Kaitlyn

It was October 5, 2001, the worst day of our lives. Kaitlyn, our 3-year old was diagnosed with leukemia. I remember so vividly, the doctor telling us the news and not knowing what leukemia was, just knowing it was something bad. She was admitted



Major Rick Kaiser, his wife Heather and sons Patrick and RJ with Kaitlyn.

that day, so we really didn't have time to think about what was going on. It took a couple of weeks for the doctors to determine exactly what kind of leukemia she had; as it turned out, she had an un-classifiable form of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML.)

(Apparently, there are several classifications of AML, and she fell across two classes.) Luckily the protocol was the same for both, so now the doctors had a plan. Everything moved quickly and we went through our first round of chemo and left the hospital at the end of October. It's amazing how quickly the kids just adjust to everything— the medications, the IV's, the routine of flushing out lines, the clinic visits, the hospital stays— Kaitlyn just amazed us everyday. She actually thought this was just a "normal" thing that all kids went through.

It was also at the end of October when the doctors told us that Kaitlyn was going to need a bone marrow transplant. After almost a month since our introduction to leukemia, we had become pretty literate about the disease and clearly understood what this meant. Our search for a viable donor began with the testing of my husband, Rich, and I and Kaitlyn's sister, Linda. None of us matched. No one held back about what this meant to us. We were told the search would be difficult because of my Asian background— bone marrow compatibility is based on antigens, and your antigens are dependent on your ancestry (of course, that's a layman's explanation, it's much more complex.) By the end of November, we were back for round two of chemo and by the beginning of January, we started round three. It's weird how routine this lifestyle becomes— because with every round, there were infections that put us back in the hospital, so it was in for a week, out for about two weeks, back in for infections for a few days and then it would start all over again.

Well, here is the great part of our adventure,— January 10th, 2002— that's the day we found out that we had a donor. Not just any donor, a near perfect match donor. February 11th, we were admitted to the bone marrow transplant unit at MCV. This was the first day I was truly terrified and I never have been able to figure

## News in Brief

- To honor the memory of their grandson, Yossi, Marvin & Ilene Paley are working to increase awareness about childhood cancer through the creation of a license plate. The design would feature the gold ribbon which represents childhood cancer. The state of Virginia requires 350 pre-paid orders to issue a new plate design. To find out more on how you can help, contact Marvin Paley at (804) 282-1110 or flybird1@mindspring.com. Applications are also available in the clinic.
- ASK will kick off it's 30th anniversary in June. To celebrate this milestone in our organization's history, we'd like to do something special. We will be featuring stories from the past thirty years in the next issue of the newsletter. If you have thoughts or memories to share — whether it be a sentence or long letter, we'd love to hear from you. Responses can be emailed to agodkin@yahoo.com or mailed to P.O. Box 17184, Richmond, VA 23226. Thanks for your help with this special project.
- If you have not yet made your annual contribution to ASK, there is still time. Gifts received before June 1st, will be considered towards this year's annual giving goal of \$60,000. ASK is currently 50% towards it goal and needs your help. Unrestricted gifts received through the Annual Giving Campaign can be applied to organization's area of greatest need. Thank you in advance for your generosity. We appreciate your continued support.

out why. I remember talking to Jim Bonomo, the pastor and telling him through tears “I don’t understand, this is the day we have been waiting for— all we wanted was to get to the BMT Unit and now look at me— I am so scared.” I don’t think he could figure it out either, he just hugged me and helped me get through the moment. I think that’s what everyone did at MCV — the nurses, the doctors, the staff. They just hugged us and helped us get through the “moments.”

Kaitlyn received her transplant on February 19th, we celebrate that day every year. Her BMT birthday! On her first BMT birthday, I got the most special call a parent could ever receive— her donor, Rick Kasier called. For the year following a transplant, the donor and recipient are only allowed to communicate through letters anonymously— no names, no personal information. All Rick knew about Kaitlyn was that she was a four year-old little girl, and all we knew about Rick was that he was a man. To finally hear his voice and know his name— well, I just can’t describe it! This man, a complete stranger, gave our little girl a second chance at life— unbelievable! He was stationed in Germany (Army) and was married to Heather and had two boys of his own, RJ and Patrick. They returned to the States this past summer and went to Fort Drum, NY by way of Chester!! We had the best get-together ever! They are so much a part of our family— Kaitlyn’s story is such a miracle. I tell people today, “outside of the diagnosis, every day of our journey was a blessing.” We have met such wonderful people — doctors, nurses, other parents going through the same turmoil we were faced with, and the children. The children who showed such strength and resilience. There were those who aren’t with us anymore whose memory will be with us always and there are those who are still fighting who we pray for and there are those who are survivors. We are blessed to be a part of the survivors.

*Note: Major Rick Kasier’s bone marrow donation to Kaitlyn was featured in the Army’s “Stars & Stripes” publication several times throughout 2002 and 2003. Their story prompted more than 2,500 military personnel and their families to register for the National Marrow Donor Program.*

## ESA Visits ASK

by Anne Mauck, CNP, ASK Board Member

For years Epsilon Sigma Alpha (ESA) has been a supporter of ASK. Many thanks to Theresa Seay and the three busloads of ladies from the local chapter of ESA who toured our clinic facilities during their Leadership Conference on October 2, 2004. Approximately 75 members from around the state visited the clinic to learn more about ASK and the Pediatric Hematology Oncology Program. ESA members Pam and Susan Cook, mother and grandmother to “our own” Dalton Hepler, were among the attendees and helped showcase our facility. The ESA ladies donated a huge red wagon overflowing with gifts and treats for our patients. ASK, the clinic staff and all of our patients are extremely grateful for the generosity and outpouring of love from our friends at ESA. Thank you.

## Tinkers Open House



Richmonders lined up on November 5th and 6th to start their Christmas shopping early and help ASK at the Tinker’s Open House Gala & Raffle. The event featured TLC’s star designer Mark Montano from “While You Were Out” and raised \$3,323 for ASK’s programs. ASK is especially grateful to Tinker’s owners, The Coleman Family, for their generous support.

Photo: Josh Coleman, Sharon Coleman, Mark Montano.

## Boo Bash for ASK

Good friends Patsy Gentry and Beth Waldrop turned their love of Halloween into a fundraiser for ASK this year. Inspired by the help their friend, Cindy Staples, and her family received during son Austin’s cancer treatments, Patsy and Beth organized a Halloween Party to benefit ASK. The event raised \$550. A special thanks to Lineman and the Tantrums, Darryl Crone/Crone Construction and Loveland Distributing. Since then, Austin has resumed treatments. Patsy and Beth ask for your good thoughts and prayers for Austin.

## Living Well Begins New Session

by Tonya King, Co-Founder, Living Well

On Tuesday, March 22nd, Living Well will begin a new support group session entitled It’s All in the Family. This seven-week, non-traditional support group is for families dealing with the grief of chronic illness. Each two and a half-hour session include a light dinner and a family art project that is intended to begin healing conversations. A chaplain/counselor works informally with each family to guide them through the project. The second hour is spent in age-appropriate support groups where all members of the family are cared for and are given a voice. The evening ends with a time of reflection and community. Please consider joining us as we journey to the other side of grief together. The program will run on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 – 8:30pm until May 3rd. For more information contact Tonya King at (804) 741-8448. Living Well is sponsored by Arts in the Hospital of VCU Medical Center and strives to provide support for your changing family.



## ASK Welcomes New Executive Director

On January 1st, ASK marked the new year by welcoming Anne Cuomo as its first Executive Director. While Anne is new to the position, she is no stranger to the organization or many of the families who have passed through the clinic doors.

Anne served as a member of the ASK Board of Directors and Chaired the Patient Care Committee for six years. During her tenure with ASK, she initiated and participated in the clinic renovation, which won a National Top Ten Most Innovative Facilities Award in 2002. Anne also developed the well-known Kourageous Kids campaign, a traveling portrait display of children who have been patients in the ASK Clinic as an exhibit each September during National Childhood Cancer Month. She directed the renovation of five rooms on the BMT unit into a more pediatric friendly space.

The process of hiring an Executive Director started last spring when a search subcommittee was formed by Board members Katie Hansen, Donnie Harper, Tara Matthews, Lisa Goodwin, and David Andrews. Robyn Dillon attended a number of meetings as well as clinic representative. This committee was the culmination of this idea that the Board established over a year ago. The committee established a formal job description and developed an employment agreement.

As the job description states, "The Executive Director is responsible for the day to day operation of ASK in order to carry out the policies, procedures, and initiatives as established by the Board of Directors." Anne will help to provide leadership to achieve the goals and objectives of ASK as identified in both short and long range planning. Her position helps support all committee chairs and committees. President David Andrews commented, "Anne brings a wealth of experience and energy to the Board in this position. She is the type of person the Board was looking for to compliment our organization. It worked out well that one of our own was as qualified and accepted the position. We look forward to her taking ASK to the next level from a non-profit growth standpoint which will lead to even better service to our kids and their families."

Anne's personal and professional background is extensive. She grew up in Utica, N.Y., attended S.U.N.Y. at Geneseo, and received a masters degree from West Virginia University. She is recently retired from the Hospital Education Program where she served as an educator for chronically and acutely ill children at Children's Hospital and VCU Health System. Anne has also been active in many community and church related activities including serving as the chairperson for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Chesterfield for the past two years. Anne and her husband John reside in Richmond and have three adult sons.

Anne can be reached by calling (804) 683-8177. We welcome Anne back to ASK in her new official capacity.

### Special Love

by David Smith, Executive Director, Special Love

Special Love, Inc. is a Mid-Atlantic charity that provides fun camp-based events for families of children with cancer. We met recently with representatives of ASK and the clinic to brainstorm on ways to get more Richmond area families in on the fun at the 4-H Center in Front Royal, VA (about 2 hours northwest of Richmond). Special Love provides not only fun and relaxation, but also an introduction to a network of support made up of other families whose children are undergoing, or have undergone, cancer treatment. Here are a few of our upcoming highlights:

#### Spring Family Weekend (April 22-24)

Spring Family Weekend is our introduction to new camp families and a great chance for our current camp-eligible families (whose child is still within three years of their last cancer-specific treatment), to catch up! Representatives of ASK's new "Family to Family" program are making plans to attend. Call us at 888-930-2707 to get on the mailing list for an invitation!

#### Under 7 Family Weekend (May 21-23)

If your child is 6 or younger and has been treated for cancer, your family is invited to join us for a relaxing, rejuvenating weekend at the 4-H Center in Front Royal, VA. Moms will get special pampering while Dads and kids will have their own fun! And everyone will enjoy the rockin' sounds of Dino Rock, a special parents social, kids movie, and more! It's a weekend of "fantastic" style fun, intended just for kids Under 7!

#### BRASS Camp (July 23-29) and Camp Fantastic (August 14-20)

Applications for our week-long camps for siblings (BRASS) and patients (Camp Fantastic) go in the mail on March 1st. If your child is ages 7-17 and within three years of treatment, or a 7-14 year old sibling, call us at 888-930-2707 to get on the mailing list for an application!

Check us out on the web at "<http://www.speciallove.org>" [www.speciallove.org](http://www.speciallove.org) or call Robyn Dillon in clinic at (804) 628-0422 for more information and watch for Special Love at upcoming ASK events!



## Message from the President

I commented in my first letter in the fall that our year has started strong. I am fortunate to report that has continued.

The ASK Board has been busy with various initiatives. The first for the new year was to take a tremendous step in our growth and hire an Executive Director. As you read in a related article in this newsletter, we are very proud to announce Anne Cuomo has joined us in that capacity. As many of you know, Anne has been a part of ASK for many years as a volunteer and Board member. ASK was fortunate to take advantage of Anne's retirement from The Hospital Education Program and put her back to work for ASK. This time however she joins us in a part-time paid position. Anne's experience with our organization and her organizational skills will help take ASK to the next level. In one short month on the job we are already seeing the differences she can make. Please thank her as you see her around town.

Another big initiative is improving the care provided to our kids and their families. Board members Lisa Goodwin and Shaaron Brown have done an excellent job coordinating various programs with clinic staff. Meal tickets and parking vouchers ASK provides to the clinic are only the tip of the iceberg. Special events for the kids include a "Girls Just Want To Have Fun" day at Gali's Salon in Carytown. Various spa services were provided to the girls. Another is the "Boys will be Boys" days where the boys were taken to Laser Quest and a VCU basketball game. The Christmas party was a big hit as usual. A new initiative in patient care is the Family-to-Family program where families with similar diagnosis or situations are teamed up to support and share experiences with each other. Also, the first issue of a "Parents Place" newsletter is available in clinic to share brief facts and stories of what is going on around clinic. This committee is busy with a number of other things as well. We all appreciate their hard work. I am sure the kids and families do especially.

I am happy to report another one of our initiatives has been completed. As you may remember, ASK and our contractors have been working since the summer to renovate four pediatric rooms and a family waiting room on the Bone Marrow Transplant floor. See the pictures in this newsletter issue. We are proud of the final product. Please take a moment if you are on campus to see the rooms first hand.

From an organization perspective, Tara Matthews, our treasurer, has been busy moving us to a new accounting software that provides more accurate records of our revenues and expenses. Additionally, the software allows our accounting team at Carl Woo and Associates to issue thank-you notes as donations arrive. A special thank-you to all of you who have given generously. Tara does a great job monitoring our budget and giving the Board monthly reports. We appreciate all of her hard work.

In addition to the above, our current focus is on the Ukrops Monument Avenue 10K scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2005. As the official race beneficiary, ASK helps the Richmond Sportsbackers with volunteers, speakers at various race meetings to explain our organization, and generally get the word out that the race is helping a great cause. A number of things have been done to make these things happen. Board member Tony Basch has done an excellent job spearheading all of the coordination. Such small things as getting thank-you letters to all race donors (over 2,000 already at this writing) and information to those who request it take time. Tony, Anne Cuomo, and Amy Godkin have helped make those things and more happen. We remain grateful to Richmond Sportsbackers for giving ASK this opportunity. This income is a significant portion of our budget and allows us to provide the services mentioned above.

Please be thinking about the Board as we plan a long-range planning retreat in March. We are always looking for ways to improve our organization and will be assembling a five year plan there. We want to be able to prioritize our near and long-term goals to make ASK a better organization. Please feel free to reach me at 804-673-1100 or "mail to: davidandrews@theshoppingcentergroup.com" davidandrews@theshoppingcentergroup.com to offer your thoughts. As I mentioned previously, the Board always looks forward to your thoughts and inspiration as we work to improve the lives of our children and their families throughout the year.

Sincerely,

David Andrews

## ASK Begins the Family-to-Family Program

by Lisa Spickler Goodwin, ASK Board Member

We are excited to announce our newest program, which we hope will in some way touch every family who is treated at the ASK Clinic. The Family-to-Family Program will have four different aspects, with more in the future, we hope. The first, and primary, part of the program will match up newly-diagnosed families with a parent of a child who has a similar diagnosis. The parent will be available to answer questions, provide emotional support, or just listen. Our parent mentors, called "Team Members" have already attended their first training session and are excited to start assisting new families. If you would like to be matched up with a mentor parent, please don't hesitate to contact me at (804) 321-8866 or sgoodwin01@comcast.net.

The second part of the program includes the creation of our first "mini newsletter" called "Parents Place." Each issue of Parents Place will provide one-page of helpful and practical tips for the family and child involved in cancer treatment, as well as, touching or interesting stories about our ASK children. The first issue was published in January by Superior Document Services, who is donating the cost of printing for all of the issues. Copies are available now to families in the ASK Clinic and at the ASK website in the near future. We are always looking for input in creating these issues, so please email your stories or suggestions to sgoodwin01@comcast.net.

The third prong to our Family-to-Family program will be the creation of regular parent "Happy Hours" as an opportunity for parents to get together in a casual atmosphere with other parents who share a common experience. Several local restaurants have agreed to donate food and beverages for these nights and we are hoping that others will join in as word spreads of the program.

The final aspect of our program is the creation of a password-protected parent message board on the ASK website. The message board will give parents a chance to exchange information and ask questions on their own timeframe. A member of the medical staff and the child life therapist will monitor the message board and offer guidance when necessary.

## Important Numbers

All numbers are area code (804) unless otherwise noted.

**Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic** –  
828-9300

**Drs. Russell, Massey and Dunn** – 828-9605  
After hours – 828-0951

**Peds Hem/Onc nurses**  
Rose Thune, pediatric research – 628-1889

**Clinic Nurses** – 828-9300  
Margaret Sharp, Cassandra Cooley  
Kathy Tofferi, Jennifer Egland

**Nurse Practitioners** – 828-9605  
Anne Mauck, Elizabeth Hall, Debbie Fisher

**Social Worker**  
Robyn Dillon – 628-0422

**Chaplain**  
Jim Bonomo – 628-1123

**Childlife Therapist**  
Stephanie White-Poyer – 828-2304

**Education Consultant**  
Alma Morgan – 828-0426

**Ronald McDonald House** – 355-6517

**Special Love** – (540) 667-3774

**Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation** – (800) 366-2223

**American Cancer Society** – (800) 966-3586

**Leukemia Society of America** (800) 866-4483

**The Association for the Support of Children with Cancer (ASK)** – 828-1531

## WebWatch

In an effort to highlight more of the many helpful websites on the Internet, we will now feature different websites in each issue of the newsletter. If you have found a website that is helpful, please let us know by sending an email to: [agodkin@yahoo.com](mailto:agodkin@yahoo.com). Please note that a listing here does not imply that ASK endorses the site.

**askweb.org** – The Association for the Support of Children with Cancer (ASK)

**speciallove.org** – Special Love

**cancer.org** – The American Cancer Society

**bmtnews.org** – The Blood and Marrow Transplant newsletter for caregivers and patients who are interested in bone marrow, stem cell and cord blood transplants.

**leukemia.org** – Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of America.

**nccf.org** – National Childhood Cancer Foundation

**childhoodbraintumor.org** – Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation

### Feature websites:

**rxlist.com** – information on prescription drugs, side effects and drug interactions.

**ulmanfund.org** – support and resources for young adults with cancer.

**clinicaltrials.gov** – federally-mandated registry of clinical trials put together by NIH.

**livestrong.org** – Full of information for cancer survivors.

## Metro Richmond Zoo's Outdoor Pageant

by Payson Jones

On December 20th more than a dozen ASK Board Members and Volunteers braved bitter temperatures in the teens with a wind chill near zero to represent ASK at the Metro Richmond Zoo's Christmas Pageant. They were on hand to sell hot cocoa and Krispy Kreme donuts to the shivering visitors at the outdoor event. Jim Andelin, the Zoo's Owner and Manager, has always been a very good friend to ASK, inviting all of the ASK children and their families to the Zoo for a free annual spring outing and special showing of the animals.

The performance itself was spectacular, with the use of about five different stages lit by spotlights that were used to depict the various scenes from the Christmas story at Bethlehem. All along the walkway to the area for the spectators, the trees were lit with miniature lights. And, of course, the Zoo's animals, including three camels arriving with the Wise Men and several sheep in the Manger, added a note of realism. It truly was an inspiring show to watch. And Mr. Andelin, true to his generous nature, charged no admission for all who came, as he wanted to share the wonders of the story with the community as his gift.

It must be noted that the volunteers managed to keep drinking the hot cocoa themselves to ward off the chill. Our nearly frozen volunteers stayed with it for the three hours needed and raised some extra money for ASK. Our new ASK wishing well and two large ASK banners were on hand to let the visitors know who we were, and all of us were eager to tell about our mission.

Board member Heidi Bassett, who chaired the event for ASK, did a good job to get so many volunteers in that kind of weather. A good time was had by all.



## Holiday Cheer

Over 250 people (including more than 125 children) filled the Sheraton Park South ballroom on Sunday, December 5th, 2004 at the ASK Holiday Party. Present were patients and their families, past and present ASK board members, volunteers and the ASK Clinic staff.

Event Chair, Anne Cuomo, remarked "This party is almost like a big reunion of patients past and present. It is so nice seeing them all. We are so grateful for the number of donors and volunteers who helped, and are always amazed at the community support that makes it possible for us to carry out our mission. So many volunteers were there to



John Davey and baby brother Patrick with parents Fran and Robert.

help out and make it a wonderful party for the children and their families."

The ever-faithful FBLA Valley VoTech students were there manning the craft tables. S.M.I.L.E. Buddies escorted children to Santa's Workshop where the children could select gifts for members of their family. Members of Girl Scout Troop #664 served as Christmas Elves, helping youngsters wrap their presents. (Moms and Dads were not allowed into the workshop while children picked out their gifts.) Clowns Bonkers (ASK Board Member), Recycle, Rosie and Skittles brought smiles, giggles, balloons animals

and face-painting services with them.

Hospital Music Therapist (and clinic regular) Melissa Owens provided the holiday music. As she played, "Here Comes Santa Claus" and the children sang, in came Santa with his red and white suit and white beard. He was accompanied by Tiffany Andrews who helped hand out presents from the stage. The line of children waiting to see Santa stretched all the way from one end of the ballroom to the other.

Toys were donated by many individuals and groups including: volunteers from St. Mary's Hospital, Episcopal Church of the Redeemer and the Blue Ridge Community College. Six year-old Alex LePeter, heard about ASK from his grandmother, wanted to help so he set-up a lemonade stand and raised enough money to buy four coloring books and twelve boxes of crayons.

After the party, one family wrote ASK to say "Thank you for the wonderful party. It was Christmas for our family this year." Many of the ASK volunteers and staff felt the same way — the spirit of the season was truly present that day.

## Girls Just Want to Have Fun

by Stephanie Poyer, Child Life Therapist

Sunday, November 7th was a special day in Carytown. Teen girls, their moms, sisters and best friends were treated to a "girls only" day of relaxation, socialization, pampering and fun! Gali's Wellness Salon graciously provided snacks, head massages, manicures, pedicures, facials and massages. The salon staff all donated their time to make sure each girl had a day of pampering that will not be forgotten!



The day was a huge success — meeting new friends, catching up with old ones, lots of girl talk and renewing our bodies, minds and spirits! Thanks to all the staff at Gali's for opening their hearts to our girls, and making the day a magical one for everyone involved!

## ASK to Host Survivorship Conference

On Saturday, April 30th, ASK will hold its first Childhood Cancer Survivorship Conference. This one-day conference will focus on late effects from childhood cancer and the importance of long-term follow-up care. Grace Monaco from the Childhood Cancer Ombudsman Program will be the event's keynote speaker. The event will feature experts from the VCU Health System medical community and will provide information on issues survivorship face including: cognitive & educational issues, cardiovascular, dental, fertility, endocrinology, life issues, etc. Attendees will also receive important information on health insurance rights and employability issues as well as a copy of the "Childhood Cancer Survivor's Handbook." The conference will be held on the VCU Medical Center campus at the Medical Sciences Building from 8:30am – 4:00pm. Registration is \$10 per person (financial aid is available.) For more information or to receive a registration brochure, please contact Anne Mauck at (804) 828-9605 or email her at [acmauck@hsc.vcu.edu](mailto:acmauck@hsc.vcu.edu).

## James River High School Benefit

On Friday, April 22nd, students from the James River High School will hold a dinner and auction to benefit ASK. Tickets are just \$15 per person and will include dinner, catered by Joe's Inn. For more information, contact Amanda Corbelli at [corbellicrew@comcast.net](mailto:corbellicrew@comcast.net).



## Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k by Tony Basch, ASK Board Member

The sixth annual Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k is scheduled for 8:30am on Saturday, April 9th, 2005. ASK is pleased once again to be the charity beneficiary of the race, which will unite 20,000 participants in the fight against childhood cancer. Featuring Richmond's scenic Monument Avenue, rockin' bands and fun-filled spectator party zones along the course, the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k offers a great time for runners, walkers and spectators.

ASK receives proceeds from everyone who participates in the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k. ASK also provides many volunteers to help make this event a success. We are currently looking for individuals and groups to help ASK with stuffing envelopes, serving water at the race's largest water stop, cheering for participants, and helping in a variety of other ways. If you'd like more information on volunteer opportunities with the race, you can call

Katie Hansen at (804) 356-0429 or Tony Basch at (804) 783-6919.

Be sure to stop by the ASK booth and see us at the post-race festival!

ASK volunteers at 2004 10k



### Association for the Support of Children with Cancer

ASK  
P.O. Box 17184  
Richmond, VA 23226

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Richmond, VA  
Permit No. 1850

*ASK, a private, non-profit organization, provides unique social, emotional, spiritual and financial support for children with cancer and their families. ASK also supports clinical and laboratory research at the VCU Medical Center to aid in finding the causes and cures of childhood cancer.*