



Step Out For Our Kids

Put on your walking shoes and come out for our kids! On Saturday, May 20th ASK will hold its first "ASK Walk — Step Out for Kids with Cancer" at the Short Pump Town Center.

Radio Disney and NewsChannel 8's Lisa Schaffner will be on hand to help kick-off this 3-mile walk at 9:00am. A family festival will be held in the Town Center's Main Plaza immediately following the walk until noon and will feature the sounds of The Jangling Reinharts, along with entertainment by Jonathan Austin, clowns, Darth Vader and the Storm Troopers, face-painting, professional yo-yo'ers, a moonbounce and much, much more.

The purpose of the walk is to commemorate and celebrate children with cancer and their families. A "Wall of Honor" will be on display at the event to highlight some of their courageous stories. Please bring photographs and stories about loved ones whose lives have been touched by childhood cancer so their stories can be posted on the wall.

So, lend your support by registering for the walk today. You can also increase the impact of your involvement by collecting pledges and forming a team. Funds raised through the walk will benefit ASK's programs and help children with cancer right here in our area.

To register go to www.askweb.org or call (804) 828-1531 to request a registration brochure.



ASK

newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Story of Friendship	2
Save the Date	2
Girls Just Want to Have Fun Day	2
Letter from the President and the Executive Director	3
Miss America Visits the Clinic	3
Upcoming Special Love Events	4

In the Spotlight

Congratulations to Jake Eck for his recent recognition as one of Style Weekly magazine's "16 Under 16." Jake is a childhood cancer survivor who was recognized for his outstanding volunteer service to ASK as well as his fundraising efforts for the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life." (And, of course, for being an all-around great kid!)



A Story of Friendship

by Virginia Gays, ASK Board Member

Brett Smith, a now 12-year old from Williamsburg, Virginia, wished to meet his fisherman idol, Woo Daves, a five-time Bass winner and the 2000 Bassmaster Classic champion. Mr. Daves, from Spring Grove, Virginia, was asked in July 2003 if he would meet Brett who was battling Hodgkin's lymphoma, and he gladly agreed. Brett and his family went to meet Mr. Daves at his home, spent time with him, and received a tour of his collection of fishing trophies and hunting souvenirs. He even offered to take Brett fishing sometime. Brett took him up on the idea, and he and his father spent a day flounder fishing with Mr. Daves.

Mr. Daves is a champion fisherman with a big heart. He is involved with charitable programs such as Handicapped Fishermen and Super Kids, which assists mentally challenged children and adults. Both programs are located in Virginia. He believes if you have a talent, it must be used to give back to others. Brett hopes to follow in Mr. Daves' footsteps by having a career in bass fishing and helping others. In February 2005, ESPN2 BassCenter featured a segment on the friendship between Brett and Mr. Daves.

In the summer of 2005, Mr. Daves, after a routine exam, was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Mr. Daves indicated it was because of knowing Brett, with his positive attitude and big smile, that helped him deal more positively with his cancer ordeal. This past December, ESPN2 BassCenter again featured a segment on this friendship, and how Mr. Daves was the one who was now facing cancer.

Brett and Mr. Daves are both now in remission and continue fishing together. This meeting, which came about because of shared passion for fishing, turned into a friendship with a seemingly more profound purpose.

Sources : ESPN2: Companionship, healing, turnabout, Dec. 22, 2005. ESPN2: Unlikely Pair hook more than bass, Feb. 18, 2005.



Save the Date for ASK!

April 22, Saturday, 4:00pm
Spring Fling at the Zoo
Family fun and refreshments at the Metro Zoo.

May 20, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon
The ASK Walk —Step Out for Kids with Cancer
A 3-mile walk around Short Pump Town Center followed by a family festival in the main plaza.

May 22, Monday
Believe in Miracles Golf Tournament
Mattaponi Springs Golf Course
Sponsors and participants welcome.

First Week of June
ASK Family Picnic and Annual Meeting
More details to come.

Go to www.askweb.org for more details or call (804) 828-1531.

Girls Just Want to Have Fun Day

ASK recently held a "spa day" for girls in treatment or finished with treatment and their mothers/friends. A special thank-you to ASK Board Member Alison Rios and her salon, Gali's, for generously hosting this second annual event.



Miss America Visits the Clinic

Miss America 2005, Deidre Downs, stopped by the ASK Clinic on Friday, March 24th for a visit while in Richmond. Her platform as Miss America was to cure childhood cancer. She has been active in raising awareness and funding for pediatric cancer, especially in her home state of Alabama. She plans to attend medical school in the fall and aspires to be a pediatrician.



Letter from the President and Executive Director

This spring, ASK is working toward several goals aimed at strengthening both its fundraising capacity and programs. These goals include: launching a new fundraising event to help support ASK in the years to come, hiring a new program staff member to provide child life support, and completing an important Board goal set at last year's retreat.

On May 20th, ASK will hold "The ASK WALK—Step out for Kids with Cancer" at Short Pump Town Center. With your help, this first-time event will provide ASK with a new major fundraising opportunity. Please think about how you can help support the walk. We need walkers, pledge drives and volunteers. If you can't make it on the 20th, please consider donating online at askweb.org. And, don't forget, we are constructing a childhood cancer Wall of Honor at the event. Help share the courageous stories of our young survivors and the children we have lost by bringing mementos and pictures of loved ones.

After an extensive search, ASK is excited to announce the appointment of Katie Barber as our new child life therapist. Katie is coming to us from Richmond's Children's Hospital and has 15 years of experience with pediatric patients. Her expected start date is May 1. We look forward to her arrival!

The third initiative for this spring is to hold an inaugural Leadership Reception to thank major donors, meet prospective board members, and to serve as a kick off-for the newly formed ASK Advisory Board. Roxane Gilmore has graciously agreed to help start this new board, aimed at spreading the word about ASK and helping with long-range planning and development. This was an organizational need identified at the last Board Retreat and is important to ASK's success moving forward. We will provide more details in the next issue.

We continue to enjoy the support of our community and were recently awarded a capacity-building grant of \$20,000 from the Community Foundation of Greater Richmond. These funds will go toward improving our database and implementing a marketing campaign designed by our Leadership Metro Richmond team. The Innsbrook Rotary held a very successful silent and live auction on March 25th at the Dominion Club to raise funds for educational activities and opportunities for our kids. ASK board member Willy Wise was instrumental in introducing us to the Rotary. Jackie Keith recently helped ASK secure a grant from the Tuckahoe Women's Club.

A "thank you" to all of our volunteers for their support. Our old motto "If you need help, just ASK" certainly applies to this dedicated group. Board member Mike Cox has been doing a great job of coordinating their involvement at events. Please email him at mcox@dgif.virginia.gov if you'd like to be added to his distribution list.

And finally, enjoy spring! The hope that this season brings is the same hope that you help bring to our families every day.



Anne Cuomo
Executive Director



David Andrews
President



Upcoming Special Love Events

by David Smith, Exec. Dir., Special Love

Under 7 Family Weekend – May 19-21

The 4-H Center in Front Royal will welcome "Dino Rock," a nationally-known puppet show (we're talking life-size puppets here), as well as games, campfires, a special parents social, kids' movie and more!

Reunion Family Weekend – June 16-18

Calling all campers! Join us for a reunion of Special Love participants past and present! Open to all families of campers 17 and under.

Young Adults Weekend – June 23-25

"YAC" Weekend is a laid-back, sun-filled affair at the 4-H Center in Front Royal, VA and is open to any 18-25 year-old current or former cancer patients. Will include games, pizza, movies and a trip to Half Moon Beach for swimming, volleyball and more! A great way to relax and make some great friends.

Fantastic Friends Weekend – July 7-9

Teens, ages 13-17, who have been treated for cancer at any time are invited to bring a best friend (who may or may not be a cancer patient) for midnight movies, pizza, swimming, sports, crafts and much more!

BRASS Camp – July 23-28

BRASS Camp is a week-long adventure for cancer siblings, held at Camp Maria in Leonardtown, MD. Applications are going out now to call Special Love to get on their mailings.

Camp Fantastic – August 13-19

Camp Fantastic is Special Love's hallmark program and is open to 7-17 year-old cancer patients who are within 3 years of their cancer-specific treatment. Call Special Love for an application.

For more information on these events call Robyn Dillon at (804) 628-0422 or Special Love at 1-888-930-2707 or go to www.speciallove.org.



HAPPY CAMPERS FROM RICHMOND.



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.