



Association for Research of  
Childhood Cancer

P.O. Box 251 | Buffalo, NY 14225-0251  
716.681.4433 | www.arocc.org

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 122

Fall/Winter 2007

"If I had my choice  
between a  
moonwalk and  
the life of a single  
child with cancer,

I would never  
glance upward."

James T. Grace  
MD

# Holiday Hero 2007

Each year, through our **HOLIDAY HERO** campaign, we ask that you send a tax deductible donation or make a pledge to the Association for Research of Childhood Cancer so we can help some special kids. We will list those who desire in a professionally prepared announcement published in **Business First on Friday December 21,**

**2007,** extending seasons greetings to friends, relatives and business colleagues. In this way your contribution could be in lieu of sending seasonal greeting cards or gifts.

We know that the competition for your charitable dollars is very intense and offer that our overhead is possibly the lowest of not-for-profit charitable organizations seeking your

support. **The charity is run by all volunteers.** We have no paid administrative staff. **Ninety four (94) cents out of every dollar** you contribute goes directly to support this worthiest of causes. We have no peers in this regard. We have a Medical Advisory Board that reviews all Grant requests to ensure that we only fund projects

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# President's Corner, our new look...

The Association for Research of Childhood Cancer, Inc. began as a grassroots parent organization in 1971 with a primary mission to raise funds to support the basic science research and clinical trials that have breakthrough potential for finding cures for childhood cancer. The association has no office or paid executive staff, almost

no administrative expenses and no razzle-dazzle annual communitywide fundraising campaigns culminating with splashy banquets in glittering ballrooms. The address is a Postal Service mail box and telephone calls are fielded by an answering service.

And yet, this charity run by a Board of Vol-

unteers, has raised over **2 million dollars** to fund pediatric cancer research in WNY and other Pediatric Oncological Centers in the country. Virtually all the money that is raised goes directly to research; up to 94 cents of every dollar raised.

Then why a **NEW LOOK**, if the charity has

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# Race to Cure Childhood Cancer



memory of Jeff Casterline, a well-known local athlete, humanitarian and Association supporter who succumbed to cancer in 1995.

sponsors: **First Niagara Bank, Thrivent Financial, Ricmar Electric Inc., David V. Jaworski Law Offices, Ted Cadwallader and the Olive Garden .**

After the race was done, the post party included a wonderful pasta lunch, beer, water, soft drinks and music by our DJ: A System of Sound. It was fun for the whole family!

**The Race to Cure Childhood Cancer 5K**, was held at our great new location in memory of Jeff Casterline. The race kicked off at 9:30 AM on **Saturday, August 25, 2007** in beautiful Amherst, NY. Race day turned out to be perfect. Despite a threat of rain that never arrived, racers had cool breezes and sunshine for the race. This race is held in

James and Donna Monaco, co-chairs of the event were helped by committee members Jennifer Loomis and Carole Medeiros (sister of Jeff Casterline). **The Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, 2402 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY 14226-0823** kindly provided the use of their banquet facilities. WNY Finish Line Services provided officiating. We would like to thank our generous

Overall Male and female winners were as follows:

1st Place—Male  
Walker Augustyniak  
Time 0:17:32

1st Place—Female  
Corinne Cleri



# 35th Lancaster H. S. Variety Show

On April 4, 2007, the National Honor Society of Lancaster High School held their 35th Annual Talent and Variety Show to benefit the Association for Research of Childhood Cancer in memory of former student ChrisMarie Halicki. Many talented students performed in 21 individual acts, including bands, singers and dancers, making an enter-

taining and enjoyable evening for all who attended.

Mrs. Shannon Skowron, the NHS faculty advisor, presented a check to the Association for Research of Childhood Cancer for **\$1,477.55**. We would like to thank all the members of the National Honor Society as well as the faculty and staff at Lancaster High School for their hard

work and continued support to fund pediatric cancer research via grants to Roswell Cancer Institute, Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo and other cancer treatment centers throughout the United States.

**Thank you  
for a job well done!**

# 1st Annual BA Memorial Golf Tournament

On July 6<sup>th</sup> 2007 the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual BA's Memorial Golf Tournament took place at Beaver Island Golf Course on Grand Island with proceeds benefiting the Association for Research of Childhood Cancer. The golf classic was held in honor of **Bill Aydelotte** (BA) who died in March after a battle with cancer.

The event was hosted by BA's Saloon on East River Road, Grand Island and organized by Dale Berger. Lunch was served on the course and dinner/drinks at BA's

hosted by Nancy Aydelotte and Ross Aydelotte.

The inaugural event was won by G. Sullivan, L. Cesarco, C. Avcadipane and S. Avcadipane. The event raised over \$1500 for the charity and a good time was had by all.

**Next year's tournament will be on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and held in conjunction with the Grand Island High School class of 1968's 40<sup>th</sup> reunion. The goal for 2008 is 144 players and to raise \$10,000.**

The charity would like to

thank Nancy and Ross for all their hard work and for making this event a success in such a short time frame. We most certainly appreciate support from such hardworking, and committed community members.

For information or donations or to sign up, please call 773-9737.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER,  
IN BA'S WORDS  
"SWING HARD IN CASE YOU HIT IT"**



## **DON'T FORGET HOLIDAY HERO 2007**

MAIL YOUR DONATION TO  
AROC P.O. BOX 251  
BUFFALO, N.Y. 14225-0251



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER, our new look...**



*(Continued from page 1)*

been successful? After 36 years using the spherical blue AROCC logo, the Board agreed a new logo which would be uplifting, inspirational, hopeful and give a stronger image for the charity and its mission was overdue. The new logo lends itself to many interpretations. The figures represent people, perhaps a family, reaching out hopefully towards a cure. The design implies positive

changes taking place in the field of pediatric cancer research and for the charity itself... a hopeful transformation.

Our charity is all about **children** and we hope the new changes will impress upon the community the strong support that we will continue to need if we are to accomplish our mission... *"That today's children will have a tomorrow and tomorrow's children will have a future"*

The Association for Research of Childhood Cancer, Inc. would like to thank **Edward Benoit, Graphic Designer, Business First**, for all his invaluable time and effort in developing the new logo. We are forever grateful to you.

Also we would like to acknowledge **Lisa Hawayek, Associate Advertising Director, Business First**, for her continued help and support.

# Medical Scientific News

The Association for Research of Childhood Cancer would like to thank **Yasmin Thanavala, PhD**, Department of Immunology, RCPI for her leadership as Chairperson of the Medical Scientific Board for 2007-2008. We welcome back :

Martin Brecher, MD	RCPI
Daniel Green, MD	RCPI
William Held, PhD	RCPI
Steven Pruitt, PhD,	RCPI
Youcef Rustum, PhD	RCPI

Peter Aplan, MD	NCI
David Goodrich, PhD	RCPI
Protul A. Shrikant PhD	RCPI

## GRANTS AWARDED

There were 8 grants submitted this year for “seed funding” . We would like to thank the Medical Scientific Board for their diligent review of these grants, and the recommendations they made, which are in keeping with our goals.

## 1 Year Grants 2007

\$30,000 to **Danuta Kozbor, PhD**, Department of Immunology, RCPI  
**”Rational Design for Immunogens for Treatment of Neuroblastoma”**

\$30,000 to **Michael Higgins, PhD** Dept. of Cancer Genetics, RCPI  
**“Frequent Epimutation and Upregulation of 6q21 Loci in Wilms Tumor”**

# Tri-Five Car Show

If you have never been to a Tri-Five auto show, you don’t know what you have been missing! On July 1st this past summer the **Tri-Five Car Club of WNY** held its **32nd Classic Car Show** at the Great Pumpkin Farm in Clarence New York. Association volunteers were once again in charge of the hot dog

stand and also the basket auction. It was a great afternoon, filled with fun family events.

You can listen to live music, eat good food and see some of the most beautiful classic cars in WNY!

Tri-Five has generously supported The Association for Research of Childhood Cancer for more than

25 years. It is help like this that has enabled us to raise more than 2 million dollars over the years.

We’ll be back volunteering for the 33rd classic event and we hope to see you there too!

**THANK YOU TRI-FIVE, FOR 30 YEARS OF CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

# Red Stocking Award

The Association for Research of Childhood Cancer was one of 15 local charities selected by the “Blue Crew” of BlueCross/BlueShield of WNY to receive \$2000 at their annual “Red Stocking” award presentation. Anne O’Donnell, charity volunteer and President attended the reception on December 15th, 2006 at the BlueCross/BlueShield corporate headquarters. Alphonso O’Neil,

President and CEO began the program by welcoming all the recipients and thanking the volunteers for all their hard work through the years.

Close to 1,000 company volunteers participate in the “Blue Crew” It is a group dedicated to fund raising for worthy causes. Events such as Food and Clothing Drives, Bake Sales, Basket Auctions and

Dress Down Fridays all help raise the money that is donated to many great charities in WNY.

We congratulates each and every volunteer who has worked so hard to contribute to the success of these efforts. Your dedication to public service is truly commendable. We thank you for selecting our charity as a recipient again this year.

# AROCC Hero- Margaret Penny

**Margaret Penny**, the first President of the Association for Research of Childhood Cancer, passed away on March 21, 2007. Margaret was instrumental, along with Dr. Lucius Sink, in the early organization of what would become

the Association for Research of Childhood Cancer.

Along with other parents who lost children to cancer, she helped conceive of and organize a group dedicated to funding pediatric cancer research at Roswell Cancer

Institute and Children's Hospital in Buffalo. Bake sales and yard sales led to the first \$900 donated to fund lab equipment used in the effort to find a cure. We gratefully acknowledge Margaret's legacy and extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

## Rock 'n Roll for a Great Cause!

Good friends, good food and good music were the theme of the evening at the **3rd Annual Rock 'n Roll Dance** for the Association for Research of Childhood Cancer. The event was once again held at the Father Justin's Knights of Columbus Hall in Cheektowaga. The dance drew approximately 150 guests. They danced to the great music of

**The BeBops.** They enjoyed participating in the raffle, 50/50 split and Chinese auction for 60 wonderful gift baskets.

We would like to thank Mary Ellen and Larry Lorenz and their hard working team of volunteers who

made this event the wonderful evening that it was.

Over 3,000 dollars were raised for our charity through their energy and efforts. Our thanks to all who helped make this event a success!

SAVE THE DATE!...

**4TH ANNUAL ROCK 'N ROLL DANCE  
APRIL 26, 2008**

## Memorials and Donations

### MEMORIALS

Marjorie Abrams  
Emma Basher  
Colleen M. Carroll  
Arthur Caruana  
Jeff Casterline  
Rodney Dick  
Frances Gaston  
William Geitlinger  
Vi Grady  
Lawrence Grasso  
ChrisMarie Halicki  
Richard Jeziorski  
Ryan Donald Kennedy  
Edward G. Kinkel  
Ralph F. Louis  
Lucy Mascari  
Marie M. May  
Patrick McCool  
Robert Miller  
David Murphy

DeAnn Terese Nicolaio  
Christopher Radi  
Elsie Ragan  
Tom Ray  
Michael Ring  
Mary Sangiacomo  
Hank & Helen Sicienski  
Lucy Siepka  
Marie Stachowski  
John Then  
Frank "Rusty" Tills  
Linda Tomaski  
John Turner  
Kenneth V. Vosburgh  
Stanley Warren  
Betty Jane Wolff  
John Zuchowski

### DONATIONS

AT&T Employee Fund  
Lancaster H.S. NHS

### SEFA

TRI-FIVE  
United Way  
Geraldine Brinkworth  
John Catino & Analytical Services Group  
Lisa Donato  
Hilda Guenther  
Susan M. Knoll  
Sandra Laub  
Gerald Sullivan  
Carol Tomczak  
Michael P. Willis

### IN HONOR OF

Bud & Joan Gortzig 50th Anniversary  
Maureen Kosmerl's Birthday  
Tess & Gordon Lund 60th Anniversary  
Melina Riniolo  
Dr. Paul Sebersky's Retirement  
Sam & Corina Tuttle  
Nancy Winkle



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
VISIT US AT  
WWW.AROCC.ORG

● *"That today's children will have  
a tomorrow and tomorrow's  
children will have a future"*

## Holiday Hero 2007

*(Continued from page 1)*

that are deemed worthwhile. Compare this against other charities and you'll see how we stack up.

Chairpersons **Bill Lacy, Marv Levy and Rich Newberg** join us in asking those of you who have not been Holiday Heroes in the past to open your hearts and then your wallets this year. For those of you who have contributed to the Holiday Hero in prior years, your campaign envelope will be mailed to you directly. Your continued support is critical.

The fight against childhood cancer is not an easy one to win. The reward for joining the battle comes when you see children with little

hope for survival being cured through new treatment and drug protocols. Please let others know of our efforts, hopefully they may wish to contribute also. Our campaign needs your commitment; more importantly our children need your support.

*Holiday Hero proceeds will be used for fellowships, seed projects and equipment at Women's and Children's Hospital, the Pediatric Department of Roswell Park Cancer Institute, and the SUNY at Buffalo Medical School.*

As we continue into our fourth decade as a not-for-profit charitable organization, we are encouraged by the progress made in finding a cure for the cancers that afflict our children. None of this

would be possible without support from concerned, generous people such as yourselves. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

**Sincerely,  
Holiday Hero Honorary Chairmen,**

*Bill Lacy (104.1 WHTT)*

*Marv Levy (Buffalo Bills)*

*Rich Newberg (WIVB-TV)*

**BE A  
HOLIDAY HERO**

**Support Pediatric Cancer  
Research and extend  
Holiday Greetings to  
friends and family**