




Oklahoma Children's Cancer Association


FALL 2008

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING!

NOVEMBER

- 
- 11 **Board Meeting**
5:30, JEC clinic –
Please join us

DECEMBER

- 
- 7 **CHRISTMAS PARTY**
2-4 pm
9 **Board Meeting**
5:30, JEC clinic –
Please join us

NEW 2008 Card Designs are Here!

From Us to You

Hello Everyone,

Have you started getting ready for this holiday season? We are still asking ourselves where this year has gone! It seems that we just had Zoo Day and were all wearing shorts and sweating! Now Fall has definitely arrived and its coat time and the leaves are changing color! We have lots of info to share in this newsletter so hope you enjoy it!

We have been trying to keep busy this year and many families have attended OCCA events since our last newsletter went out. Read more in this newsletter about all of the fun we had! Everyone try to come to something next year. It is a great time to get to know one another and take some family time. We have started taking family pictures at each event and plan to get them to each family. We have also started photo albums and are working on a slide show for the Christmas party. So far the response has been great. We will have all pictures at the Christmas party if you did not receive yours yet.

We are continuing to work on ways to get information out there quicker by mail, email & postings in the clinic. One thing that has changed is that we will be sending out postcards for events rather than an entire newsletter. We will then send out a longer newsletter in the Spring and Fall with more info about what has been happening. So if you see a neon green card in your mail make sure and open it so you know what to sign up for! The website is a work in progress and the eventual goal is to keep it updated in real time. We apologize for the delay but are working on it now to update for 2008 and add the Christmas cards, shirts, sign up sheet etc..

Many of you have also signed up to receive info about events by email. If you have not done that and would like to be added please email us at info@helpkidsfightcancer.us . These email addresses will be used only for OCCA events and your information and will not be given to anyone else.

The OCCA Board is getting ready for the OCCA Christmas Party on December 7th. This is going to be a grand affair with lots of fun for all. Make sure you have signed up. Jan Davis has headed up this event again and has done an outstanding job. Thanks Jan! Give her a big hug at the Christmas Party! We will be there come rain, shine or SNOW!!!

It is our wish that you have a Great Thanksgiving, full of blessings and enjoy your Holiday time with friends and loved ones! And we Hope to see you at the Christmas Party!

Christina & the OCCA Board of Directors



OCCA Christmas Cards & Note Cards Are Here!

The **2008 Brochure** is in the mail and coming your way so that you can start shopping for your cards now. Once again the children have come through with some fun and colorful designs for three **GREAT** new Christmas Cards.

We also have brought back our Note card and a set of 3 Assorted Christmas cards from last year.

**CONGRATS and a BIG Thank You!! to our special artists this year:
Reuben, Zoe, & Branagh**

OCCA's Cookbook is once again available for CHRISTMAS!!

It contains almost 500 delicious recipes submitted by patient families, JEC staff and friends.

We have actually found a box of the previous cookbooks so this gives you 2 to chose from:

"Homemade with Love" - \$10.00

"Recipes and Remembrances" - \$5.00 (limited supply)

Get one now! These make great gifts for family, friends, co-workers, and employees.

For more information please call Christina at (405) 271-4412 X42551.



CALLING FOR ALL PHOTOS

(We are trying this again this year)

This is a call to those of you out there that may have pictures for the following:

Any OCCA event , Art Room Activities. OCCA Zoo Day, Red Hawks Night, Trail of Dreams, Watonga Weekend, Art for the Heart., or any special clinic picture.

We would prefer pictures from this year if possible. We would like to use them for a slide show and to possibly post on our web page. No names will be posted with the pictures. Please state in your email if it is ok to post them on the web or use for the slide show or both.

If you have any questions or have some photo's that you would like to share please e-mail them to christina-gonzalez@ouhsc.edu by November 26th

Did You Know????

That there are other resources out there for families of children with cancer;

Ally's House is a sister non-profit organization. The mission of Ally's House is to provide support to Oklahoma's pediatric cancer patients and their families. Check out their website at www.allyshouse.net. Many of you know Belinda Anderson from her work with Camp Cavett..... Belinda is now working for Ally's House and would love to hear from you. If you have any questions about Ally's House, call Belinda or Alexis at 405-733-2559 9:00-5:00 M-F.

THANK YOU Ally's House!! For helping OCCA each year during our Christmas party by providing all of the pizza and gifts for the teens.

More Resources:

Cure Search

Make-A-Wish Foundation

Leukemia Lymphoma Society

Ronald McDonald House

Camp Cavett

Camp Barnabas

Look them up on the internet for more information.

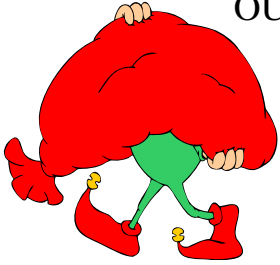
OCCA 2008 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 7th, 2008. 2-4 PM

OU Children's Physicians Bldg/Nicholson Tower, 5th Floor Multi-purpose Room

LOOK 4 THE SIGNS AS YOU COME INTO THE BUILDING

Come Join us for a Good Time!
Arts & Crafts, Karaoke, Clowns, Pizza/Drinks & LOTS of Cookies,
& of course SANTA & Presents



All Families should FIRST sign in on the 5th floor to get their goody bag & information.

TEENS - you will have your own special party planned just for you by other teens

YOU HAVE TO SIGN UP BY NOVEMBER 26TH!!!!!!

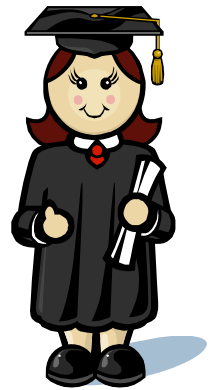
This helps us get those requests out to Santa and the Elves so that they are ready on the Big Day!!

2008 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED!!

The Michelle Erica Suttles Scholarship fund was started twenty years ago, in honor of a courageous young woman. Michelle completed high school and continued on with her dream to go to college in spite of her struggle with cancer and all the side effects. She was an inspiration to all who knew her. This scholarship fund is made possible through sales from the OCCA Greeting Card Project. Scholarships are awarded to young people who are currently undergoing treatment or have been treated for cancer through the JEC in the past.

There are 13 young people who graduated from high school this year and were recipients of a Michelle Erica Suttles Scholarship. They are:

- M. Carpenter Hodgkins Disease dx 5/03
- T. Duhon Brain tumor (PNET) dx 12/01
- J. Eades AML dx 10/97
- L. Huff ALL dx 6/04
- B. Guerriero Rhabdomyosarcoma dx 12/93
- C. Kuwitsky ALL dx 4/96
- A. Mendoza ALL dx 9/97
- H. Shropshire Rhabdomyosarcoma dx 12/91
- J. Smith Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis dx 2/06
- J. Smith Burkitts Lymphoma dx 4/89
- S. Swanner ALL dx 6/04
- K. Avery Hepatocellular carcinoma dx 6/03
- J. West Hodgkins lymphoma dx 12/96



There are also 5-6 other young people who graduated from high school this year. How exciting to have so many childhood cancer survivors. Congratulations to all the 2008 high school seniors- GOOD JOB!!

THANK YOU'S!!!!

Thank you to the TRI-DELTS for all of their efforts once again for OCCA. They have been busy all year long and have raised lots of money:

Art with a Heart was held in February and was a huge success. Many months of preparation went into getting ready for the big night. The artists were treated like royalty. They arrived to the event in limos, walked the red carpet and then had a personal assistant to help them as they sat with their art. People had plenty of time to browse and visit with each artist and enjoy the food. Bids were accepted and the lucky winners took their art home the same night. The atmosphere was festive and the proceeds exceeded the previous year!

The Pansy sale was just completed in October. Orders are taken and then the TRI-DELTS meet on a specific day, unload all the flowers from a truck and then wait for people to come pick up their orders. The flowers were gorgeous this year!! Don't miss out next year!

WAY TO GO!!!! OCCA thanks YOU! for all your efforts

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Thank You to all who have volunteered in the clinic art room this year! The children have made some great art projects and have been able to just be kids and play. One project this summer was making art with the letter E. They called it "E" Day and it was very interesting to see what they came up with.

During September the Deer Creek Student Council came and made necklaces and bracelets with the kids. And in October a few teens who are survivors themselves, came to throw a Halloween party for the children. There were costumes, pumpkins and cookies. The kids painted bags and even iced their own cookies.

These are just a few examples of the many wonderful things happening in the art room. Thanks Again to All who volunteer and do what you do!!!

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EVENTS

Movie Day:

A Big Thank you goes out to the Love Family who helped make the 2nd annual "Joe Love" Movie Day a success. The families really enjoyed "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" and lots of laughter was heard in the theatre. All the children got popcorn and a drink and we only had a few spills☺ Anyway, join us next year for the fun. We will keep you posted.

Watonga:

This was the 21st year of Camp Watonga. This camp is held every year in Watonga Oklahoma, and hosted by the Watonga firefighters as well as the wonderful community. This year started out wet but fortunately turned out to be beautiful. Saturday was filled with fun enjoyed by all! Campers enjoyed food and fun all weekend long. Some of the activities enjoyed by patients and their families included; rides on the fire trucks, bowling and arcade games, waterslide, and exciting motorcycle rides. There are so many people and businesses that donate so much to make this camp possible. There is no way to express our level of gratitude to everyone who volunteered and donated. A special thanks for the use of the bowling alley, to the Kingfisher Knight Riders, to Bob Jones from the U.S. Customs, the waterslide providers, each firefighter, and all other volunteers who took time out of their lives to contribute their time and resources.

Finally, we would like to give a very special thanks to Cyndi Huff. Cyndi's dedication and hard work is very much appreciated by the kids and families involved. She puts so much time and love into every year and it is very appreciated. We love you! See ya next year!

We also had 3 other successful events this year: **Zoo Day, Red Hawks & Bowling.** Thanks to all who attended and volunteered. Come to the Christmas party to see the photo albums and slide show.

Who are we? The OCCA is an independent, non-profit, fundraising organization affiliated with Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center. All funds remain in the state to help support local programs for children being treated for cancer at the Jimmy Everest Center for cancer and blood disorders. Some of the items we provide are: new patient bags, new patient handbooks, the Art program, the toy closet, scholarships, and several activities /parties during the year. Our organization is manned solely by volunteers and supported only by generous donations of people like **YOU**.

Parent Support Group

Hosted by Danny Cavett, this support group is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at noon in the Jimmy Everest Center.

Pizza and drinks provided by OCCA. For more information please call: 271-5758

Help us save on postage. Please contact us by mail or e-mail if you wish to be removed from our newsletter distribution list. Thanks!
Oklahoma Children's Cancer Association, PO Box 96292, OKC, OK 73143 or www.helpkidsfightcancer.org

****** NEXT EVENT ******



OCCA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, DECEMBER 7th
2-4 PM
(sign up by Nov. 26th)
SEE INSIDE



Oklahoma Children's Cancer Association
PO Box 96292
Oklahoma City, OK 73143

Helping Kids Fight Cancer
www.helpkidsfightcancer.org