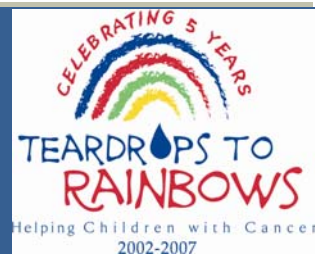


OVER THE RAINBOW

SUMMER 2008



A Day in the Life of a T2R Family

I hope this finds everyone happy, healthy and enjoying a relaxing (or at least fun!) summer. As we progress through our sixth year, I thought it made sense to share with you the experiences of one of our families as they face the hurdles of childhood cancer. Cole is a special case – as this is his second cancer in his seven years. Having fought the battle once and won – he learned earlier this year that he had a secondary cancer that would require even more effort than the first to overcome. We will make it a regular update in our newsletters and website content going forward so that you can track his progress through this fight.

*Warmest regards,
Lois Lyons, Founder & President*

Since the last update on June 3rd, a lot has been going on. We started my chemo treatments on June 2nd. I didn't like that very much because it meant that I had to be connected to an IV pole for at least one week. If I wanted to take a walk I had to drag that darn pole along with me. On June 9th they unconnected me and I was FREE. However, it was with conditions; I had to drink lots of fluids, take all my medications, eat my meals, and not get a fever. Since I was neutropenic (neutropenia is when my immune system becomes compromised due to the chemo and I'm at increased risk for infection). I had to wear a mask whenever I left my room.

My nana and papa came to visit on June 10th and papa took this picture of my friend Jennifer, who is 7 years old. Jennifer and I were taking a visiting hospital dog for a walk around the nurse's station. You can see that we had to wear masks to be out of our rooms.

On June 1st we were told that we would have to move to a room in another part of the hospital. It seems that they found bedbugs in one of the rooms and they were moving everyone in my section so that they could fumigate to get rid of the bugs. Mom was not too happy because we have a lot of stuff to move. When you have to spend 24 hours a day 7 days a week you accumulate lots of stuff; clothes, food, books, games, and even our personal refrigerator. But off we went to a room in the tower. Doesn't that sound like some prehistoric place – The Tower? One good thing was that there were two beds in the room so my mom or dad did not have to sleep in a chair.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Day in the Life of a T2R Family	1
"Sounds of Healing"	3
Save the Date: 6 th Annual Holiday Dinner & Silent Auction	2
Annual T2R Golf Tournament	5
Sponsorship Information	6

On June 6th we moved back to my old room and things got back to normal, if things ever get normal in a hospital. My dad came to stay for a couple of days. On June 13th mom came back to be with me. Our stay in our old room did not last long because they again found some more bedbugs. So we were told that we would have to move back to the tower again.

This time we were limited in what we could take and mom ended up with no clothes to wear. Also, the TV in this room could only be viewed by one person because of the way it was mounted. You can guess who got to view the TV. I will let you guess how mom was feeling at this point because for some reason she does not like to watch Sponge Bob and all the other kids programs that I watch. Also at the time of the move, I developed a fever and was put on antibiotics. I also received a transfusion of platelets so I was connected back up to my favorite IV pole and I was no longer free.

On June 13th my mom brought me lots of gifts and cards from my classmates at Tyler. It made me very happy to see how much my friends missed and cared for me. I want to thank everyone for sending in those gifts and cards. Lots of visitors have come to see me and have given me gifts and cards. I and my family can't tell all of you how much your visits mean to us and how generous you have been. Staying in the hospital day after day gets pretty boring and your visits not only brighten up my days but are also appreciated by my parents.



“Sounds of Healing”

By Jarrett Ferrier, Schwa Design Group

*Can you find a butterfly?
Do you see the sun shining brilliantly?
How about a fish jumping out of a clear, blue stream?
How many balloons are there?
I'm sure you can't miss the RAINBOW!
Did I hear a moooo?!*

When I was approached by TEARDROPS TO RAINBOWS to create something special for the kids and families who come to Children's Hospital I decided the theme should be optimism. My thoughts swelled with the variety of ways I could translate the word into images that could serve to encourage all who looked upon the work.

Without the combination of rain (tears) and sun (joy) we would never be able to see the rainbows that grace our skies. But, alas, we DO have both and in the end we DO have the rainbow and for this we are made even more grateful for the highs and lows that life offers.

Even while creating this work for you I experienced this rollercoaster and it provided me, even though only a miniscule version, a sense of your journey that includes Children's Hospital.



So look, find something you like and hang on to it. Maybe it's crisp red apples that decorate the tree... Maybe it's the music that can almost be heard if you listen close enough...

How about the child holding the rainbow with the support of the grown up?
See the rows of strong, young plants that flourish in the field?

You are not just welcomed into the dance, you are INVITED! The children's clothing form another rainbow so you too can be a part if you choose!

My sincerest wish is that you find hope, joy and optimism in the work I have created for you. If you do, or even if you just think it's pleasant to look at, then I know that my efforts were successful and maybe I have helped to make this day a bit better for you.

Save the Date: 6th Annual Holiday Dinner and Silent Auction

Join us for an evening of glitz and glam as we celebrate the T2R Sixth Annual Holiday Dinner and Silent Auction in Hollywood Style.

Date: November 6, 2008

Location: The Ritz Carlton, Tyson's Corner

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Table sponsorship Levels:

Premiere (\$10,000)
Producer (\$3,000)

Silver Screen (\$5,000)
Director (\$1,750)

Individual Tickets may be purchased for \$175 (Marquee) or \$400 (Red Carpet)

For more information about table sponsorship and individual ticket levels, visit www.teardropstorainbows.org or send an email to info@teardropstorainbows.org.

A Day in the Life cont'd.

We hesitate to try and list everyone who has visited for fear of missing someone. Because my mom and dad take turns staying with me, there isn't the continuity to keep track of everyone. However, the other day when my mom and dad were here we had a surprise visit by Jen and Derek Fernon and daughters Katie and Kelly. We met them in May at the Specialove Camp for children 7 and under. Their visit was really special because they drove all the way from Frederick, Maryland. Because their daughter had cancer they understood what we have been going through. Their daughter was treated at Children's Hospital in Washington so they were able to provide a lot of insight into what we can expect and what facilities will be available when we go there. This helped to reduce many of the concerns that my mom and dad had about going to a new hospital for additional treatment.

I thought that you might like to know what my days are like with all the medications that I have to take. Often times these medications make me very sick, sleepy, or have side effects that are not very nice. For example, one day the antibiotics I was getting made my head feel like there were ants crawling all over it and making me scratch and cry. The doctors ordered some medicine that stopped the itching but the medicine made me very sleepy. Another day I was getting a transfusion of platelets and I had an allergic reaction causing my face and eyes to swell up. The doctor's stopped the transfusion and gave me Benadryl to stop the swelling but the Benadryl made my legs hurt so bad that they had to put a heating pad on my legs. It isn't very nice being hooked up to an IV pole all day and getting one medicine after another. If you have to take pills and don't like it you can appreciate what I am going through. Here is what I have been taking since I finished my 6 days of chemo treatments:

- Antibiotics (Imipenem & Cefepime) - 3 times a day by IV. These treat bacterial infections and are a broad spectrum antibiotic.
- Antibiotic (Acyclovir) - 3 times a day by mouth. This helps prevent mouth sores caused by the chemo.
- Antibiotic (Diflucan) - once a day by mouth. This helps prevent yeast infections and mouth sores.
- Appetite Stimulant (Megace) – 3 times a day.
- Neutra-phos powder (2 packets mixed with ginger ale) – 3 times a day by mouth. This helps increase my phosphorus level in my blood.

Here is a picture of what my IV pole looks like on any day.



I have no idea how my nurses keep track of what bag I am getting fluid from and what ones I am not. Keep in mind that my nurses are running into my room lots of times during the day because my IV control unit is beeping. When that happens I call one of my wonderful nurses and tell them "Cole Is Beeping".

On Thursday June 19th, one of my oncology doctors, Dr. Lawlor, told my mom that he had the results from the test to see if my brother Carson was a match to be a bone marrow transplant donor for me. There was a 25% chance that he might be a match. We were all eagerly awaiting the results because a sibling's bone marrow transplant is the best possible transplant. **CARSON WAS A MATCH!** Everyone; grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, etc. were patiently awaiting the test results so mom got on the phone and started making calls.

On Friday June 20th, Dr. Lawlor explained some of the things associated with a bone marrow transplant. Some of the things we understood and some created questions. So Dr. Lawlor called Dr. Terry Fry, Division Chief of the Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Immunology Team at Children's Hospital in Washington, DC and asked if he could talk with my parents about the transplant. Doctor Fry called and we all listened as he explained what would be involved with a bone marrow transplant. This is what we learned.

There are several protocols that can be used before and after a transplant. Dr. Fry recommended that since this was a secondary cancer, that I receive another month of chemo treatment at INOVA Hospital before transplant.

A Day in the Life cont'd.

Then when my blood counts get back to normal, I will be transferred to Children' hospital and begin a 10-day chemo treatment immediately. That will be followed immediately with the transplant. On the day of transplantation, Carson will also come to Children's Hospital and his bone marrow will be harvested from his hip in the morning. This was a surprise to both my mom and dad because everyone had told them that Carson's stem cells would be harvested like they harvest platelets – taken from his blood. Unless there is a problem, Carson will be able to go home the same day. I will receive the transplant that afternoon. As Dr. Fry said, "It will be a long and stressful day."

After the transplant, I will be given a regimen of drugs to prevent rejection of Carson's bone marrow and whatever other drugs are necessary. My stay in Children's Hospital will be from 6 to 8 weeks. After discharge I will have to be checked at Children's Hospital once or twice a week for a number of weeks. At some point I will continue to be checked but that may take place at the Children's Outpatient Center of Northern Virginia on Arlington Blvd. That will make my parents happy because they don't like driving through all the traffic in Washington.

Dr. Fry concluded his phone call by saying that he would like all of us to come to see him during the week of July 4th. He not only wants to talk to my parents but he also wants to explain things to Carson and me. So if all goes well, I might get out of INOVA Hospital for a few days at the end of June before I have to return for my next round of chemo.

I think that is all for now. We will keep you posted and also keep in mind that things have a way of changing hourly and many things can happen that will cause plans to change and schedules to be reset.

Love, Cole

July 4 UPDATE

It has been a busy time since I got home from the hospital. We got to go out to eat and I got to see and play with my friends. Some of our neighbors even put on an early fireworks display for us because the plan was for me to be back in the hospital on the 3rd.

Over the weekend I had a very bad reaction from one of my medications. It started with my ears getting very red and pretty soon it spread over my entire body. I had red spots from my head to my feet. We went over to my Nana's for dinner on Sunday and I was not feeling too good but I started to feel better as the day went on. My mom called the doctor Sat/Sun and Mon and the doctor said as long as my rash was not getting any worse and/or staying the same we should keep our scheduled

appointment on Tuesday, which we did. Tuesday we went into the clinic and I had my blood count taken. My Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC) had to be 1000 before I could receive any more chemo treatments or have a bone marrow test. My count was 700. The doctor said that by Thursday when I was scheduled to go back into INOVA Fairfax hospital, it should be 1000 or more. The doctor did not know exactly what was causing the reaction but it was clearing up by the time 20I was seen.

On Wednesday, we went into Children's Hospital in Washington, DC for a conference with Doctor Fry. My mom and dad thought that all we were going to do was have Dr. Fry talk about the bone marrow transplantation procedure. However, that was not the entire reason he wanted to see us. First, we went over my entire medical history including all types of chemo and medications I had been given since I was 3 years old. This took about an hour. We then went into a conference room and to our surprise our old friend and oncology doctor, Dr. Greenberg, came in with Dr. Fry and a couple of other people. Dr. Fry said that he knew that he had discussed bone marrow transplantation during a previous telephone conversation with my parents but he wanted to again review what he had planned for us and answer any of our questions. We would then be given a tour of the transplant area of the hospital. Dr. Fry covered what he had planned, including talking to me and Carson so we both would know what to expect.

Here is what he and Dr. Greenberg recommended: I should have the planned bone marrow aspiration on Thursday. This would show the results from my previous chemo treatment. (During a bone marrow aspiration a small piece of bone marrow and some blood cells are taken from my hip or hips. Then, what they call a smear is done with the blood cells and what they call a flow is done with the biopsied piece of bone marrow to see if any cancer cells are present. If no cancer cells are found they consider that I am in remission.) No matter what the results showed, I am still to receive another round of chemo at INOVA just to make sure that all the cancer cells are killed. Dr. Greenberg said that he completely agreed with the second round of chemo. So I will be at INOVA for another month. Then another bone marrow aspiration will be done. These results will be given additional testing which will take about a week. So maybe I can get home for a week at the end of July. I will then be admitted to Children's Hospital for a 10-day intensive chemo treatment. This will be followed immediately with the bone transplantation. I am not too happy about that because I will have to stay in my hospital room for 6 to 8 weeks to prevent infection and also to receive any anti-rejection and other medicines. Maybe and Dr. Fry cautioned that I would have to do really well, I might get out in 5 weeks but we should not plan on that. I will be getting home in September if everything goes as planned.

A Day in the Life cont'd.

Dr. Fry and everyone else at the hospital were really nice and all our questions and concerns got answered. He wants to meet with Carson and me one more time and with my mom and dad one more time before I am admitted to Children's Hospital. He also said that I would not be going to school in September... My mom told him that school was not high on her priority list and that she had already discussed alternative schooling with the teachers at my school.

Early Thursday morning I was readmitted to INOVA and get hooked up to my favorite IV pole and blood was taken for testing. I was so thirsty because I couldn't have any food or liquid since midnight. At 10:30 we went for my scheduled bone marrow aspiration. The doctors were very nice and tried to make me feel at ease but I was still apprehensive. The anesthesiologist gave me some medicine and said it would relax me. Boy did it relax me. I was laughing and telling jokes to my mom. Then I got some more medicine and went to sleep. The next thing I knew I was awake and seeing double. My mom was not worried because the anesthesiologist had told her that seeing double was a normal reaction and would go away shortly. My mom told me that I kept telling her that she had two heads and I kept asking if the procedure was over. Once I stopped seeing double they took me back to my room but I was not feeling good and my stomach hurt a lot. I must have fallen asleep because when I woke up I was feeling better. My papa took this picture of me after I fell asleep:



In the afternoon my doctor came in and said that she had the results from the blood smear and the flow. Both tests showed no cancer cells. My mom and dad were so very happy.

I began my next round of chemo treatments at 2 PM and they will last for 6 days.

Love, Cole and his Papa

Annual T2R Golf Tournament Raises \$25K

On June 9, 2008, ManTech International and ManTech MBI (MMBI) sponsored the 6th Annual Teardrops to Rainbows Golf Tournament at International Country Club, in Fairfax, VA. LPGA professional, Angela Stanford hosted the tournament for the 3rd year in a row.

The tournament drew 22 teams, four of which were ManTech and MMBI associates, including ManTech President, Robert Coleman and MMBI President, Kenneth Bartee. The tournament raised almost \$25,000 for Teardrops to Rainbows. MMBI has been a proud sponsor of T2R since January 2005. Over the last 4 years MMBI has raised over \$220,000 for T2R.

Angela Stanford hosted a hole where she offered her swing up for a donation to T2R. She raised \$1,500 on the hole and then, as is her custom, she matched the donations, contributing a total of \$3,000 to the organization.

Dinner and a silent auction followed the tournament. Some of the donated items included rounds of golf and various clubs, a putter, an autographed LPGA towel from Angela Stanford, an iPod Touch, a Wii game system and many other items.

Tournament winners received trophies. First Place went to one of the MMBI teams with Adam Silver, Chip Block, Dan Silvia and Paul Keane. Second Place went to Mike Dow's Suntiva team with Eric Hensen, Mike Long and Kevin Dalzell. Third Place went to the ManTech MBI Team with Rafael Dominguez, Loren Burnett, Scott Frantz and Dale Powell.



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Sponsorship Information

T2R strives to offer various sponsorship opportunities (listed below) befitting a variety of sponsors. Please contact T2R if you or your company is interested.

- ✚ **Donate Silent Auction and/or Raffle Items** (donation varies) – For various T2R fundraiser events (e.g., golf tournament and holiday dinner).
- ✚ **Sponsor a Family** (donation of \$1,500) – For services (housekeeping, childcare, car repair, etc.) and financial assistance to one family for the year.
- ✚ **Sponsor Renovation of the Parent's Lounge at Georgetown Hospital** (approx. donation of \$15,000) – For furnishings, computer, decorations, etc. for the Parents' Lounge.
- ✚ **Sponsor Hospital Holiday Party** (donation varies, up to \$20,000) – For the annual hospital party for patients and their families. Various sponsorship opportunities are available (sponsor entire party, sponsor gifts, etc.).

About Our Organization

Teardrops to Rainbows, a 501(c)(3) organization, improves the quality of life of children with cancer and their families by providing support, services and financial assistance. Specifically, we help families stay connected and better manage their day-to-day household responsibilities while supporting a cancer-stricken child.

TEARDROPS TO RAINBOWS
P.O. BOX 1059
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