



Newsletter

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(For more details about the BMF articles below and activities past and future, check out www.brianmordenfoundation.org)

Computers Arrive at Children's



The Brian Morden Foundation (BMF) organized the donation of 20 laptop computers to the Oncology Unit of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) in memory of Brian Morden. Mamon Ride, a Michigan based Harley/Davidson biker group, obtained and delivered the computers donated by EDS and the General Motors Corporation. Mamon Ride, named after its founder Kaz Mamon, has provided over 700 computers to hospitalized children in Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio. This was Mamon Ride's first trip to Pennsylvania. The laptops will provide Internet/email connections for parents and patients to stay in touch with family and friends and access to information and games. Overhanging bed tables will be purchased to make laptop use easier. (More pictures at www.brianmordenfoundation.org)

Vaccine Being Developed

A Phase II Clinical Trial for the ES vaccine being developed by Dr. James Geiger at the University of Michigan will hopefully be submitted to the National Cancer Institute/NIH in late winter. The study will test the effectiveness of the vaccine on ES patients. The BMF is also looking at vaccines being developed at Duke University, the National Childhood Cancer Foundation/Children's Oncology Group, The American Cancer Society, and the Sarcoma Foundation of America. As we make contact with other groups with similar goals, we are considering the formation of a consortium of childhood cancer foundations to expedite both the funding and pace of ES research.

Brian Baskets Arrive at CHP

The Brian Morden Foundation is filling baskets to send to patients, families, and staff members who are on the Oncology unit at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh during a major holiday. While Brian spent a great deal of time during the last two years of his life at Children's Hospital, fortunately, we never had to spend Christmas, New Year's, or Thanksgiving there. However hard the staff members and others might try, spending a holiday in a hospital is no fun. The BMF hopes a little unexpected surprise on those special days might bring a smile to someone's face. The first baskets were sent at Thanksgiving with more to follow for Christmas, New Year's, Valentine's Day, Easter, and the Fourth of July. Baskets contain a variety of items including books, puzzles and games, phone cards, note cards and stamps, snacks, CDs, holiday socks, Brian Legacy gold ribbons, T-shirts, and more.

Halo Fundraiser at Bucknell U.

Bucknell University's TKE Fraternity held a Halo LAN party in November to benefit the BMF. Richie Karcher, from Hollidaysburg, Jake Palley, and their brothers from the TKE social fraternity invited game players from all over the campus to join them for a night of Halo and through their monetary donations join the fight against Ewing's Sarcoma. Go Greeks!

Lambda Sigma Sets Charity Ball for BMF

Jessica Genetti, President of the sophomore Lambda Sigma honors society at the University of Pittsburgh, announced that the BMF has been selected to receive the funds collected from their annual charity ball scheduled for February 7th. Brian's old friend, Brittany Ritchey, brought the mission of the BMF to the attention of the LS Charity Selection Committee. We are thrilled and grateful for this honor and will be delighted to attend this gala UP event. Lambda Sigma will be a great asset to the college presence of the BMF and our ongoing work at CHP. Welcome to the fight, Lambda Sigma.

Handbell Bus Trip Snowed Out

The first big winter storm of the season (10"-14" of snow in the Altoona area) forced the cancellation of the BMF fundraiser to Frederick, Maryland, a concert at the Weinberg Center by the 6th Dimension handbell ensemble sponsored by the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music. Kim Kiec, an old college friend and 6th Dimension member, said that the Weinberg Center and the handbell group were concerned about the safety of its patrons during the snow emergency. The concert, and hopefully the BMF fundraiser trip, will be rescheduled.

Wal-Mart Supports BMF

WAL-MART in Bedford has made a substantial contribution to the BMF. The grant was obtained through the assistance of Tom and Chriss Burchfield. Miss Chriss was one of Brian's teachers at Penn Mont about 15 years ago. Their contribution will make a big difference in the battle to end ES and open the doors of Wal-Mart for additional contributions. Thanks Burchfield's and Wal-Mart.

Hoping for Help From Microsoft

Microsoft contacts have been made and we are waiting to receive directions on our appeal for funding. This is the company where BUNGIE is based, the group of talent game creators that made Halo and who Brian visited as part of his Make a Wish trip.

Pittsburgh Symphony Trip Finalized for February 1st

Scott and Jennifer Pappal have spearheaded plans to take a busload of music lovers to a Pittsburgh Symphony Concert at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh. This trip will benefit the BMF. The PSO will feature great works for French horns and orchestra, which may explain why Scott (Jamin's horn teacher) and most of the bus will include horn players and parents from our area and from the Central PA Youth Orchestra. A tour of Heinz Hall and meeting with the horn section is also planned. If you're interested in joining us, let us know soon. Call 814-946-9369 or email fdj@brianmordenfoundation.org

AAHS Interact Club Joins the Fight

The Altoona Area High School Interact Club has named January as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. This effort is intended to raise awareness, share information, and to discuss new treatments for pediatric cancers. The BMF will provide information for display as well as a guest speaker for MLTV, the high school's television station. Club Advisor, Eric Zolnak also has a child who has been stricken with cancer. Jonah (1 year) has neuroblastoma, but is doing well after treatment. GO Jonah!

BAM Productions

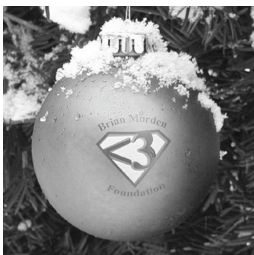
Jamin and his friends have created a video company for their schoolwork and for just plain fun. They have named it in honor of Brian. The Superissy figure is the logo for BAM (Brian Andrew Morden) Productions. More than 100 DVDs have already been sold with half of the proceeds going to the Brian Morden Foundation.



Sale of BMF Items Brisk

BMF T-shirts, polo shirts, computer bags, hats, Brian's Legacy gold ribbons and more are great gifts for the season. Not only will the purchase of something from the BMF help you remember Brian, it will also help us fight back against childhood cancer. Check out the cool BMF stuff at

www.brianmordenfoundation.org



BMF Christmas Ornament Now Available

You can order directly from the www.brianmordenfoundation.org website. A rich blue bulb with the BMF logo is a great gift and will bring a special meaning to your holiday.

Happy Holidays from the Brian Morden Foundation

For Christians, this is a joyful season that celebrates the birth of a child. But, Ewing's sarcoma often means the death of a child. It does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, or gender.

Ewing's sarcoma will kill almost half of its victims. Without a known cause or means of prevention, ES strikes mostly adolescent males at random and threatens the lives and families of the innocent. Your donation, participation in a fund raiser, purchase of a BMF product brings closer the day when the words "Ewing's Sarcoma" are only printed in medical history books and never again in the space marked "cause of death." We can do it, but we can't do it alone. Make this season special for all children by supporting the Brian Morden Foundation. On behalf of the brave youngsters and parents who face this monster or will face it in the future, Thank You.

