

Sean James Dolan Memorial Fund

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Greetings Everyone!

Belated Hanukkah, Christmas, Ramadan, Kwanzaa (& any other Holidays I'm missing) to Everyone! Best Wishes for Health, Wealth & Prosperity to All of You and Yours in 2003 & Beyond !!! Let's Hope for an end to world-wide terrorism & fear, just like that Christmas song, "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

Sorry we weren't able to send out a "December Edition" but as you'll see, we've been fairly busy.

A Big "Thank You" to all of you who sent us financial donations to Sean's Fund for the Holidays. Many have figured that if our son was alive, they'd have spent the money on Christmas presents for him anyway! Whatever the reason, We Sincerely Appreciate Everyone's Support !!!

Did you visit/dine at one or more of the 29,000 McDonalds restaurants on *World Children's Day*? For the rest of the week, instead of people greeting me by saying, "Hi", they'd say, "I ate at McDonalds!" A Big "Thank You" to all of you who did! I actually even had a "Breakfast" and "Lunch" at McD's!

We went up to Massachusetts to spend Thanksgiving with some of our cousins in "America's Hometown" - Plymouth, Mass. While we were up there, we got to see many of our friends & relatives and received a total of almost 10 lbs of tabs ! While I was emptying some of the baggies we had received, I came across one that had special magic marker writing on it, identifying that the tabs had come from Moscow (ya know, what was once called Russia!).

A few days later, I got a call from a lady who said that her Tab House was full, would I like to pick it up? When I asked her where she was calling from, she said, "The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office!" It turns out that the Tab House came from one of our dear friends named Cathy who had worked there, but now works for another State Agency. Although they're many States away, folks at the N.H.A.G.'s office have Always been Very Supportive of Sean and us. We received many cards from the American Red Cross acknowledging a number of their folks who took extra time and donated blood in Sean's name, after they learned that Sean needed blood when he was alive.

There have also been a number of other Tab contributors, including the folks who've dropped tabs off at our local Fleet Bank (where we got another "money bag" filled with tabs), cousins Jack & Lydia, our Friends at the Olive Branch Restaurant in New Brunswick, NJ, Gary & friends at Allen's Automotive, Ken from Krewson Oil and countless others. Thank You !

On December 8th, we attended the 2002 Worldwide Candlelight Ceremony at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in Recognition for *National Children's Memorial Day*. Afterwards, we took a drive past the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House (PRMH) to see their light display from their Annual "Light a Light, Share a Night" program. Although we've contributed 35 nights each year in the past, this was the first year that we had the opportunity to actually see the house. Although I wasn't able to snap a photo of it, I can assure you that it Radiated Light Everywhere from all of the donations! For those of you who contributed either to PRMH or your local Ronald McDonald House, THANK YOU !!!

Our parade float was a Big Success at this year's Yardley Annual Olde Fashioned Christmas Parade - although it was close to not getting finished! The week before, the float was far from built and we received more snow in one day (just over 8") than we did for all of last year ! After the storm, we had to brush the snow off the trailer and tried to do our initial assembly, which included putting the "Main beam" and generator on top of the trailer and then backing it under our temporary car canopy. That was

An Angel With A Small Body, Giant Spirit

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when we (quickly) learned that the canopy was about 2' too low for the trailer assembly to fit! After days of creative innovations & adjustments, Thanks to Mike & Pam, we were able to get everything (including the parachute) to work to have Jack's +40" diameter head raise over 4' out of his 6'w x 8'l x 4'h Box! His photo even ended up on the front page of the Newspaper!



"Jack In The Box" Parade Float

If you missed the Parade, don't fear. It looks like Jack will be returning on 8/Feb/3 for the Lambertville, NJ / New Hope, PA Winter Carnival Parade. Come on by !

The day after the Parade, we received a very special donation through Mr. Ron Toffel, the Grand Knight of the Yardley Knights of Columbus (<http://yardleyknights.org/#Tabs>) who presented us with a whole box of tabs from the (students, parents, former students and staff) Pre-K class at PS #1 in District 7, the Bronx New York City! The tabs were presented to us at this year's Christmas party, hosted by Joe & Magdalena Maxian at their world-renowned Sand Castle Winery (www.sandcastlewinery.com).



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Pre-K Class at PS #1 in Bronx, NY, district 7

We've also had some "creative opportunities" to help raise more funds for SJDMF. In early December, I sold an Alice-Chalmers sit-down lawn mower that the Zlocks had donated to us, and recently brought over 300 lbs of used aluminum siding (off our garage) to the recycler, which cumulatively fetched enough for 1/2 of a "Campership" to Ronald McDonald Camp in the future. We are now able to send at least one seriously-ill child each year beyond 2009 !

We may also have some extra aluminum to recycle shortly. Unfortunately the Christmas Day snowfall was too heavy for the Parade float's aluminum polled canopy and as result partially collapsed on top of the float. At least the float's still protected from the elements, even if it may take a Sawz-all to get it out!

I don't know how many pounds of tabs we have now (the place we store them all seems rather full), but have a feeling we're still fairly far from reaching 700 lbs. this year. If we were to reach that number for this year, that would bring our overall total to One Ton of tabs in 4 years! Not too bad of a donation, seeing that PRMH has collected about 70 tons since they started the tab program. It really is hard to believe that we've already collected so much. It seems like yesterday that Sean had died and I vowed to "fill a trashcan" each year for PRMH. With the help of So Many kind people, we've past our own expectations!

Thanks Again To All of You and Everyone Who Helps You, for thinking of and helping us to help the families of sick children from All Over the World at Ronald McDonald Houses All Over! You Are All Truly Appreciated !!! ☺ ☺ We hope you The Best Holiday & New Year Season! Please visit Sean's Web site at www.fysd.com/Sean and 'e-sign' his Guest book!

God Bless You All & Keep Those Tabs Coming ! ☺

Chuck Dolan
SJDMF Administrator

*"A Hundred Years from Now . . .
it will not matter what my bank account was,
the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove . . .
But the World Might Be Different Because I Was Important*

In the Life of a Child . . . "

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