

Sean James Dolan Memorial Fund

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Greetings Everyone!

We want to send our Best Wishes, Thoughts and Prayers to All of the Troops, Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS & Special Service people who are busy protecting against terrorism. I don't want to get into politics and not discuss being unsupportive to the Dixie Chicks, but am most concerned with the Coalition Forces and their Speedy & Safe Return to their loved ones. This is a war different from any others. As Dennis Miller recently said, "Whether you are for military action or against it, our young men and women overseas are fighting for us to defend our right to speak out. We all Need to Support Them Without Reservation." God Bless America, Its S/Heroes, Its Victims Its Future !!!

According to the calendar and the fact that the ice had melted off the outdoor thermometer, we're now experiencing the first stages of Spring. Sean's mini-daffodils & hyacinths at the cemetery have sprung out of the soil. Other bulbs are also starting to emerge. The huge snow banks are now almost completely gone. The river's runoff from all of the snow & rain crested a few weekends ago, with about a foot to spare from it going over the road out front. Still not high enough to worry about at the Camp.

Of course, as I write to you, it's hard for me to think that I was out in the boat yesterday and fortunately pulled it out of the water last night, since we got a few inches of snow today!

Bags, Buckets, Boxes & Barrels:

We'd first like to Thank all of the dedicated Nurses, Doctors, Attendants and other support staff at the University of Pennsylvania's (HUP) APU (patient recovery) unit. They've been collecting for us for over a year now and this time gave us almost 10 pounds of tabs that they've taken off of the sodas of patients who are recovering from their surgeries. Many of these friends are also bringing them from home too!

Now that spring has sprung we're having the opportunity to visit with more friends and family who continue to give us bundles of can tabs. We've also learned that more Fire Houses, Sportsmans' Clubs and other groups are starting to spread the word of our collection efforts.

Last month, I stopped by to see Jim & Gary who promptly presented me with a whole bucket of tabs, given to them from a neighbor who's in a Hamilton N.J. volunteer Fire Company.



Gary & Jim with another bucket of tabs

An Angel With A Small Body, Giant Spirit

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A few weeks ago, there was a 5-gallon bucket left on the front deck of our house that was filled with tabs in it. We were finally able to track them down to be from one of the neighbors who've been collecting for us.

We ventured up to Massachusetts for the first time in a while, armed with crock-pot & plans to see many old friends & family that we haven't seen in a while. On our first stop, the Brennan's gave us a shopping bag filled with tabs - from family, friends and members of the Cochrane Methodist Church. Sandy had put a request in their Church bulletin and parishioners have been saving their tabs for us! We're very happy that folks are able to put their tabs to us since the Boston RMH doesn't collect tabs. That Sunday we headed with the crock pot full of jambalaya to the annual South Boston St. Patty's Day Parade & Party at our cousin Pat's. Not only was I able to get a box that they had been collecting, we were pulling tabs from cans that we found along the parade route. I could have probably collected a whole trash bag of cans if the street sweepers didn't get them first!

Two weeks ago I brought another copy-paper box filled with over 26 pounds from our staff & friends at Telcordia Technologies! They have contributed quite a few boxes worth of tabs in over 3.5 years that they've been collecting! I even got an envelope from Jackie, who has since retired but still keeps in touch!

The week before last, we went up to visit family & friends in Central PA. On Saturday, we attended a "Sportsman's Dinner" hosted by two local fire companies. We had the opportunity to see Denise & Dave and meet Desiree and her son Sage. We met Denise & Dave a few months ago at another one of these Sportsman's Dinners and learned from them about how Sage was born with a rare condition that prevents his skull from growing as fast as his brain does. So far he's had two surgeries at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in Philly, with the last one happening in Mid-February. Sage is a happy, alert little boy who although had setbacks in the early part of his life, should be at about the same level as kids his age by the time he reaches three years old. While Sage was in CHOP, the family stayed across the street at Penn Towers, but knew and appreciated what the folks at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House (PRMH) were doing and how we're supporting them. Denise said how they've now got an increasing number of people who are collecting tabs for them and joked how (like me) people now greet her with, "Hi, I've got tabs for you!"

Sunday morning we stopped by cousin Tom's house and he gave us a bag Dave, Denise & Friends had left with about 6 pounds in it - An Awesome Accomplishment in such a short time! While we were there, Tom had heard of us collecting cans for recycle to go to the "Send a Kid to Camp" fund and gave us a few cases worth of his empties. His brother's going to be unhappy that he's going to start saving the cans for us! I hope he gets that pickup truck, so he'll be able to bring them down with him when he comes to visit in June.

This past weekend, we attended Mike & Lisa "Raz's" Wedding. Mike's parents have been saving tabs for us for a few years now. While at the reception, Mike's dad (also Mike) stopped by our table with a shopping bag of tabs. Most of them were Thanks to Lisa encouraging her relatives to collect tabs. We also had the opportunity of meeting one of her cousins whose family lived at a RMH in North Carolina, while their preemie newborn twins stayed at their local Children's Hospital. The twin's dad said that they don't have as much of an opportunity/ability to donate as much as they'd like to various charities, however when it comes to their Ronald McDonald House, he Never forgets them, what they did for him and his family and countless other families.

Although we didn't quite get a photo of Mike & Lisa with the bag of tabs, we thought it'd be nice for you at least to enjoy seeing them on their special day! We wish them the Best in their future together!



Thanks to Mike & Lisa's family for saving us their tabs !

We have additional items for SJDMF that folks are donating to us. If any of you are looking for a 'cap' for a small Toyota or Chevy S-10 pickup truck - Have I got a Deal for you! We also got a few more bicycles and a mini-trampoline!

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 have a prosperous Spring! 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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An Angel With A Small Body, Giant Spirit

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