

Sean James Dolan Memorial Fund

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<http://www.fysd.com/Sean>

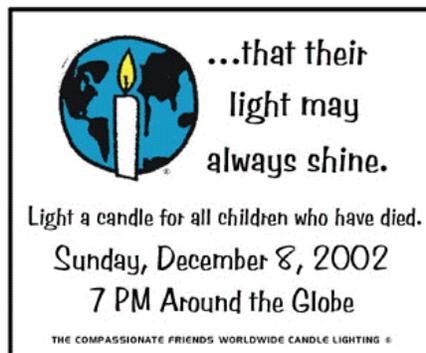
December 2003

Happy Fall / Winter Y'all !!!

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving has already passed (Hope you All had a Great Holiday!) and there are now only a few "Shoplifting Weeks" until Christmas! Please remember as you enjoy the upcoming Holidays to keep aware of what's going on around you and your loved ones.

It seems like only a few weeks ago when we were sweating to high temperatures outside. Now we've still got hours/days worth of log splitting that still has to be done, along with a host of other things! To top it off, this year's "Yardley Olde Fashioned Christmas Parade" is This Weekend & we still have to Finish building our Float! Hey If you're in the area, Stop by Main Street - It Starts at 3pm !

While your calendar is out, please also mark 7PM this Sunday (Annually it's the 2nd Sunday in December) as a Time of Remembrance. We, along with countless other bereaved Families and Friends Throughout the World, will be participating in a Worldwide Candlelight Ceremony in Recognition for *National Children's Memorial Day*.



At 7pm in each time zone, people will light candles outside, to remember their (and countless other) Children, who for Whatever Reason Left this Life too Too Soon. It's a 24-hour, virtual Global Wave of Light Up to the Heavens! Go to www.compassionatefriends.org for more info on the event. Although all of you can't necessarily be with us, since this e-mail distribution reaches spans throughout the world, we hope that you will light a candle at 7pm at your home (or wherever you are) with your Family & Friends, in memory of our, your (or someone else's) child(ren). Unfortunately although few people realize it, Children die every day. Even though I grew up in a small town, by the time I graduated from high school, there had already been about a half dozen kids that had died in my and surrounding grades. Many Parents have told me they have started to do this as an Annual Event at home with their families &/or as part of schools & some religious groups coordinated program - To Remember a class or teammate, a neighbor, a relative, a sibling, a friend.

Thanks, to our friends and the help of others, we've already been able to raise almost enough money for 1/2 of a scholarship to send one seriously-ill child to Ronald McDonald Camp for next year! Much of this was thru the help of our buddy "Eldon." Many months ago, his boss was getting rid of a pickup truck cap. While our neighbor was having work done on their house, one of their contractors approached me asking if it was for sale. I told him we were asking \$75 for it, with the money going to "send sick kids to

An Angel With A Small Body, Giant Spirit

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Ronald McDonald Camp." He said that was OK and would pay me that Friday. On Monday, he showed up at the door and handed me \$100 instead! We also got another donation for hauling/disposing concrete chunks, from a former sidewalk.

A few Sundays ago, while on our way to go shopping, we happened to notice a guy with a white shirt & tie, trying to push his minivan up an exit ramp from Rte 1. We stopped to help and found that he and his family ran out of gasoline on their way to a Church function. We drove him to Home Depot to pickup a gas can, then to a gas station and finally returned him to his van - just in time for the local police to arrive. He wanted to give me money for our help, but I told him I couldn't take it, however I would accept a donation to our Son's Memorial Fund to send kids to Ronald McDonald Camp. Ultimately, we appreciated his donation! ;-)

Big Thanks to Cub Scout Pack # 230 from St. Ignatius Church in Yardley, who recently stopped by the house and dropped off 100-pounds of Tabs !!!

I recently brought the truck into Bill Marsh Ford (www.billmarshford.com) in Newtown (Buck's County), Pa. for it 25-K tune-up and Annual Inspection. As soon as my salesperson Don Minnick saw me, he reached under his desk and pulled out 2 large coffee cans filled with tabs!

It's hard to believe that the Winter Holidays are quickly right around the corner ! We just received an invitation for this year's PRMH Annual "*Light a Light, Share A Night*" program. The "Share A Night" program began in 1991 as a grass roots effort throughout the Philadelphia region. Each year, the community is invited to share in the mission of the Ronald McDonald House by contributing \$15.00 or more in support of the families with seriously ill children. The \$15.00 donation represents the cost of a family for a one-night stay at the House. (Actual costs exceed \$54.00 per night.) For every \$15.00 donation received, a light is lit on the House, illuminating the building with hope, love and support. Over the years, many contributors have chosen to make their donations as a tribute to a loved one's honor or memory.

No family is Ever turned away from the Ronald McDonald House due to the inability to pay. The funds raised through Share A Night help them subsidize those families who are unable to afford even the \$15.00 nightly fee. PRMH is the World's First, and serves as a home-away-from-home for families whose children are being treated at local medical facilities. Your support of their mission is greatly needed and truly appreciated.

For our fifth consecutive year, we will be contributing to this worthy cause, with this year sponsoring a total of one month's stay for one or more families at PRMH, in Sean's memory. This comes directly from us and is completely separate from Sean's Memorial Fund. If you would also like to participate in this year's Light A Light campaign, you can send a check directly to PRMH at:

Light A Light, Share A Night
Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House
3921-3925 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104

If you'd like, (although not necessary) you can put "in memory of Sean James Dolan" on your letter. Thanks - it's not only appreciated by us, but more importantly by those folks who stay at the Ronald McDonald House and don't even know how they're going to pay for their kid's medical bills, never mind "room & board."

As I've said many times, we really appreciate receiving e-mails and correspondances from folks to let

us know things that they're doing to help others. We recently received the following wonderful e-mail from Bob who has been sending us tabs for years:

Chuck,

There are two large envelopes of can tabs coming at you. These tabs are just another example of how religious and ethnic lines fall away when someone needs help. My daughter works for a Jewish doctor. She collects can tabs in the office and everyone gives her their tabs. Unknown to her, one of the doctors was collecting on her own, she approached the people that cash in the cans at the redemption machines and asked that they give her the tabs before the can is inserted in the machine. One Oriental couple worked with her to remove all the tabs from their cans. This woman also pauses her jogging to pick up a stray can and remove the tab.

Your dedication to Sean's memory brings out the good in people that you will probably never meet in this world.

God Bless,

We also got feedback from some of our collecting friends that are in Colleges - While they're at various "social functions" at school, they'll walk up to people and ask them for their can tabs. Interestingly one of these guys said that it's not only gotten him a good number of tabs for SJDMF, he's used the tab collections as a "creative introduction" to meet women that he didn't know by asking for their tab(s)! Not only has he gotten tabs and dates, some the women's floor & women's dormitories are collecting tabs for him & us! I guess that's another one of those "Win-Win-Win" situations! ;-)

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 Safe Thanksgiving and Holiday Season! Please visit Sean's Web site at www.fysd.com/Sean and 'e-sign' his Guest book! **Thank you for helping to Make a Difference in the Lives of others!** ☺

All of Us here would like to extend to you and your families a Happy, Healthy & Safe Holiday & New Year ! 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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