

Sean James Dolan Memorial Fund

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Greeting Everyone!

It's hard to believe that Memorial Day has already come and gone. Hopefully that means that many people will be enjoying even more refreshments and saving their can tabs for us to give to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House (PRMH).

Something that's also hard to believe is that this Sunday will mark what would have been our son, Sean's Third Birthday. On a positive note, within the next few weeks, we will be bringing this year's collection of tabs and other "gifts" to PRMH, for our annual donation in Sean's memory. We really won't know how many (hundreds of) pounds of tabs it is until we go to PRMH. We're very happy and appreciative that Thanks to so many people, we've been able to collect a few hundred pounds of tabs this year! We'll also be giving them 56 videotapes and a number of brand-new children's toys, that kind folks have donated.

As far as our SJDMF Campership Fund, we're able to send 2 seriously-ill children to Ronald McDonald Camp this year, bringing our total to 8 kids in 4 years! This is an awesome accomplishment, something that wouldn't have happened if it weren't for people donating from everywhere and a 'little creativity.' I know I had wanted to send 3 kids this year like we did last, but we fell a few hundred dollars short on our target date. As it is, we still feel extremely good averaging sending 2 kids per year. The good news also is that we have enough to send at least one PRMH kid each year almost through 2009!

I apologize that I haven't been able to keep up with collecting and Thanking everyone for their tab donations as much as I should. If you have tabs and want to get them to us before we go to PRMH this year, please either call the telephone number above or send e-mail to Self-Defense@Bigfoot.com so we can arrange for a pickup. If we can't get your tabs before we go this year, please don't worry, we can apply them to next year's collection.

It's interesting how many people have told me that they now have to stop to 'pop a top' when they see an aluminum can wherever they are! I know for me, if I have the opportunity, I usually even take the whole can to add to our annual recycled aluminum trip. I had to put a 5-gallon pail in the back of the truck, specifically for cans I find in parking lots, etc. Our most recent trip to the recycler yielded \$70 dollars, which went towards Sean's Fund. When I put my hand in my pocket to get change, I usually have at least a few tabs there too! Fortunately I usually take the tabs out before the clothes end up in the washer! ;-)

We are also extremely happy that Sean's spirit continues to grow as people are also sending tabs to their RMH's in Florida, Michigan, Virginia, Indiana, Texas & California. We recently received word from one of our good friends in California, who said that they've collected over 20 lbs. of tabs in just a short time for us (they drink lots of soda). They were originally going to mail them to us, but we suggested instead that they contact their local RMH and donate them to their tab program in Sean's name. If you live far from us and would like to do the same, you can go to the new "Ronald McDonald House Charities" Website at <http://www.rmhc.com/home/index.html> to find the closest RMH to you.

An Angel With A Small Body, Giant Spirit

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Some say that having children is a learning process - both for you and them. The learning experience for us has just been different than for most people. Some of the things we've learned is how caring people can be to help others they don't even know. Although we had to learn first-hand about what it's like to lose a child, we've also learned how much of a help we can be to other bereaved parents in coping with their losses. Some of that experience also helped some of our friends who experienced tragic family loss on September 11th. And we've learned how incredible the influence of a tiny baby's short life has been for others and how we can continue to help other families who have sick kids.

Thanks To All of You and Everyone who helps you, for thinking of and helping us to help the families of sick kids at Ronald McDonald Houses All Over. You Are All Truly Appreciated !!! ☺ ☺
Please visit Sean's Web site at <http://www.fysd.com/Sean> and 'e-sign' his Guestbook!

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 . . . "