

Sean James Dolan Memorial Fund

P. O. Box 406

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

July 2002

Greeting Everyone!

We Hope that all of you have been Enjoying your Summer and Remembering to Take an Extra Minute to Smell the Flowers whenever you can. Living on that credo that "Moss don't grow on a rollin' stone" we've been busy as expected, although we did something that we haven't done in a long while. We actually vacationed away at a resort for a week. The key is that although I brought my PC, it stayed in its case for most of the week! Of course when I got back I only had 600 e-mails!

I apologize to all who've thought that I've forgotten about you collecting tabs for us. Please remember that if you have lots of tabs, you can always contact me so we can arrange for us to get them. Please either call the telephone number above or send e-mail to Self-Defense@Bigfoot.com so we can arrange for a pickup.

Last Sunday was the 3rd Anniversary since our son Sean was called to Live with God. After we returned from our vacation, I went to the Cemetery on Saturday to cut our little guy's grass and tend to the other baby graves. Last year while we were on vacation, the grass had grown exceptionally long. The lawn service had used a weed-wacker on his site and both tore the grass and broke a few of his keepsakes. It took a while for me to straighten things out. I was hoping this year wasn't going to be a repeat.

When I got to the Old Church of Saint Andrew, I first noticed a beautiful fresh bouquet with white roses and other really nice flowers in it. I originally thought that my wife had stopped to visit him after going to the florist. The grass even seemed like it had been cut or hadn't grown much. When I got home later, the flowers she bought were in the kitchen. We were really touched that someone was kind enough to leave the flowers for him on his Anniversary - Just like how someone left a little "Clown" stick-balloon for him in remembrance of his Birthday last month! Thanks to all of you who've visited our son and left gifts for him - We Really Appreciate It ! ☺

Sunday morning, the 9 am. Mass at our Church was offered in Sean's memory. We brought the flowers over to him before Mass. After Mass, we had another Wonderful surprise. As we were walking out, we saw "Dr. Janet" (Sean's Doctor while he was at CHOP) and her family! It was like seeing a close relative for the first time in 3 years! One of the things we'll always remember is how wonderfully caring and genuinely concerned the entire staff at CHOP were! They couldn't help but make you feel like they were treating their own child! After that fateful day that Sean died, we also felt that in addition to our own son, we had lost part of our extended family of people we met because of Sean. They are people who don't get Thanked enough! Before we parted from Dr. Janet and her family, I gave them some of our tab houses, which she said she'd put at some of the CHOP nursing stations.

On June 28, 2002, we made our annual trip to PRMH. It was our first opportunity to meet their new Executive Director, Debra Roberts. Thanks to Everyone's contributions, we presented them with over 500 pounds of tabs, 56 video tapes, some brand-new children's toys and a check to send two more special kids to Ronald McDonald Camp next month! That brings our overall total to collecting over 1,300 pounds of tabs in 3 years, providing 8 "Camperships" in 4 years and a host of other special gifts to help brighten the lives of many special children!

An Angel With A Small Body, Giant Spirit

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While speaking with Debra, we shared an idea that we have been trying to get implemented for a while in the local hospitals. For over 2 years, we have been collecting the clear plastic "bear" containers normally containing animal crackers, etc. We have already received a number of "creative tab containers" (hand-painted plastic tab containers) from our friends. We suggested that they take the containers and let the PRMH kids decorate them, so they could be put near the can recycle bins. The clear containers would enable people to gauge how filled they were, and would be an excellent way to increase local tab collections. Plus it'd be something fun the kids could do!



Chuck Dolan with PRMH Director Debra Roberts and over 500 pounds of Aluminum tabs and gifts

As far as we can tally, last year's tabs came from California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York (especially Long Island), North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia - even as far as Israel!

Our success is notable, however it would have never happened if it weren't for people like you to help. Thank You Very Much !!! ☺

There are other ways the spirit to help others (especially at RMH's) continues to grow. Some time ago some people gave me a few large boxes filled with near-new infant toys in perfect condition. I had been eager to bring them to PRMH, but when I called the House, I found that they can only accept new wrapped toys for the children, especially since many who are undergoing things like Cancer treatment have sensitive immune systems. I really didn't want to let all of those toys that could mean so much to someone without, simply sit in our garage.

I contacted one of my friends who is the head of "His Work In Progress" an International non-profit organization that sends 40-foot containers filled with books, clothes, medical supplies, etc. to people in war-torn areas of the world. They happily collected the toys, which will end up in orphanages in places

like Bosnia. We feel very good that we've further found a way to help others - Especially Kids! If you'd like more information on their organization, you can contact them at www.hwip.org.

In addition, I was speaking with one of our friends in Texas a while ago. He belongs to the Shriner's organization (amongst many others). He said that every year they decide which organizations to help for that year. Through the inspiration of what we've been doing with SJDMF, they have decided that they will be supporting their local Dallas-area RMH!

There are many ways to support local RMHs besides collecting tabs. It all depends on how much you and yours want/can put into it. From donating time and supplies to getting a group together to help provide a dinner to the families at a local Ronald McDonald House. I'm sure they'll appreciate whatever you can give. It'll make your heart feel good and may even be a tax deduction for you! 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. Then all you need to do is give them a phone call.

Thanks Again To All of You and Everyone who helps you, for thinking of and helping us to help the families of sick kids from all over the World at Ronald McDonald Houses All Over! You Are All Truly Appreciated !!! ☺ ☺ We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer! Please visit Sean's Web site at <http://www.fysd.com/Sean> and 'e-sign' his Guestbook! I've included copies of recent letters from PRMH. Just like was said at the end of the last letter, it's people like you who **Really Do Make A Difference!**

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 . . . "



3921-3925 Chestnut Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104 • (215) 387-8406 • FAX: (215) 386-4977 • www.philarmh.org

July 5, 2002

Mr. Chuck Dolan
Yardley, PA 19067

Dear Mr. Dolan:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House to thank you for your donation of 50 videos, movies, and various children's toys and games. The families certainly appreciate the fun you have provided for the kids. It is very reassuring to know there are people like you who are so generous and caring.

Thank you for your generosity, thoughtfulness and support of the families at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House.

Sincerely,


Dotti Escuti
Volunteer



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July 11, 2002

Dear Mr. Dolan:

How fortunate that we have such good friends who know how much the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House needs their help. **500 pounds of tabs - WOW! You are really awesome!** Thank you for thinking of us each time you pop a tab! Your continued support for our aluminum tab project is greatly appreciated, **especially** by the families from all over the world who stay here. What a great way for you to help others. **You really are TERRIFIC!**

Our collection of aluminum tabs continues to grow, due to the fabulous participation of friends like you - well over **60 tons!!** As I keep saying, **every little bit helps!**

Nancy, a first-time mother, has been calling our House "home" for five months. Her pre-mature daughter weighed less than two pounds. A fighter, she now tips the scale at more than eight pounds. Nancy says that she is beginning to "see the light at the end of the tunnel", with hopes of going home to North Carolina in another month. Because of your help, we were able to offer this special home-away-from-home to her and 1000 other families every year.

Again, thank you for your tremendous continued support of this important, long-term fund raising project. We truly appreciate your friendship and caring for others at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. **You really do make a difference!**

Sincerely,


Caroline Coleman
Tab Coordinator