

Sean James Dolan Memorial Fund

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November, 2001

Greetings Everyone!

As I bring you this edition of "SJDMF Updates" I want to share with you that our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all of you - especially those who have loved ones that lost their lives (or are still missing) during the attacks on 9/11. On that day, I was in New York, but not in the City and was OK. I, like many of you was safe as I saw the live broadcast of the second jet collide into the World Trade Center as the media reported on the first collision. Hopefully you and your family didn't lose any loved ones and more importantly, you are all safe in the future, as we continue to endure through this world-wide war on terrorism.

We are extremely appreciative of everyone continuing to contribute to SJDMF. One of our biggest newsworthy items is that Thanks to financial contributions (and from selling items like a lawn mower and church pew that were donated to us), we have already collected enough money since June, to send another critically-ill child to Ronald McDonald Camp (RMC)! That means that we will currently be able to send a boy and a girl to RMC next summer in Sean's Memory!

Speaking of RMC, two weeks before this year's Camp started, I was asked by the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House (PRMH) folks if I knew where they could get one or more golf carts for them to use at Camp. I was told that they need them for the "One-on-One" campers, who must have a counselor 24-hours a day. They use the golf carts to get these special campers around the Camp and to the various activities. Unfortunately I wasn't able to line anything up in time - especially since I had our annual Women's Self Defense Seminars to attend in N.H. Ultimately, I'm now on a quest to find at least one golf cart-type vehicle that the RMC staff will be able to use for the kids at Camp in the Poconos next year. If you could help out, please let me know - THANKS! ☺

It's hard to believe that the Winter Holidays are right around the corner. (For that matter, it's hard to believe that Sean was born 29-months ago) We have received some brand new (still in package) toys from some of our kind SJDMF friends that we will be bringing to the PRMH in the near future. We just received our donor card for this year's 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 \$10.00 or more in support of the families with seriously ill children. The \$10.00 donation represents the cost of a family for a one-night stay at the House. (Actual costs exceed \$54.00 per night.) For every \$10.00 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 \$10.00 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 third consecutive year, we will be donating \$10 for each of the 35 days that Sean was alive, to help sponsor 35 nights for one or more families at PRMH, in his memory. This comes directly from us and is completely separate from Sean's Memorial Fund.

An Angel With A Small Body, Giant Spirit

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If you would 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, you can put "in memory of Sean James Dolan" on your letter. Thanks - it's not only appreciated by us, but more importantly by the folks at the Ronald McDonald House.

On the night I sent out the last SJDMF Edition in August, I had the opportunity to call my old Teammate Loren, whom I hadn't spoken with in months. He mentioned that a few weeks before, he gave a previous SJDMF Update to his Church Minister. During the Church Service on the following weekend, shortly into the Minister's Sermon, he said that he and his wife started to get emotional as the Minister began talking about "an e-mail she received from one of her paritioners." It was a story he was familiar with, about a family in Pennsylvania who lost their premature son and Tried to Turn Something Bad into Something As Beautiful As Possible for Others (or something like that!) He said that by the end of the her Sermon, that Church swelled with emotion, (allegedly there weren't many dry eyes in the place!) and at the End, the Congregation Gave Her A Standing Ovation ! ☺ ;-) ☺ I asked Loren to Thank the Minister for sharing the story and suggested that if they were that inspired, we'd be Happy to arrange some time before next June, for us to visit them in Mass. to pick up a "tab donation" from them!!! I also explained that since the Boston RMH doesn't accept tabs for recycling as other RMHs do, (partially because of the Commonwealth's \$.05 bottle/can deposit law) we're still putting Mass tabs to Good Use! We can always use it as a Great Excuse to visit friends and family, since there are many groups throughout New England that save their tabs for us. I also spoke with his wife this morning to find out if they could get a tape copy of this sermon.

We've been busy with our Tab collection campaign. We continue to receive tabs from all over. Last month, I purchased our sixth case of (250) RMH Tab Houses. We appreciate everyone who helps! Although many groups that used to support us now won't be able to help us as quickly (due to their internal budget cuts), but I always enjoy receiving inter-office mailings, packages and "gift bags" left at our house! Thanks to Everyone ! ! !

This year, Sunday December 9th will have more meaning than normal - besides it being the day that Sean would have been 2 1/2 years (30 months) old. This year, it is the day designated as National Children's Memorial Day. This national day of remembrance was established to honor all children who have died. Families and friends grieving the loss of a child are encouraged to light a candle at 7:00 p.m. The light from those candles makes its way around the earth, finishing 24 hours after the first candle was lit. This event, initiated by the Compassionate Friends (<http://www.compassionatefriends.org>) is enacted each year by Congress as a recognized day of remembrance. Although all of you can't necessarily be with us, since this e-mail distribution reaches parts throughout the world, we hope that you will light a candle at home with your family, in memory of your (or someone elses) child(ren).

It is comforting that Thanks to You and your support, not only are we Making a Difference in the lives of sick kids familys', so far 6 kids lives' have become a little brighter because of the loss of our son. We also currently have enough to continue sending 1 child to RMC in Sean's memory through 2006! With the help of continued financial donations, this number will only increase.

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Once again, on behalf of PRMH and SJDMF, Thanks To All of You and Everyone who helps you, for thinking of and helping us help the families of sick kids at Ronald McDonald Houses All Over. Thanks for Helping To Make A Difference!!! You Are All Truly Appreciated !!! ☺ ☺ We invite you to visit Sean's Web site at <http://www.fysd.com/Sean> and 'e-sign' his Guestbook!

We Hope that you and your families are safe and the upcoming Holidays are wonderfully prosperous for you all !!! ☺

God Bless You All & Keep Those Tabs and Other Donations 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 . . . "