

Sean James Dolan Memorial Fund

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

December 2002

Greetings Everyone!

Belated Hanukkah, Christmas, Ramadan, Quanzaa (& any other Holidays I'm missing) Wishes to Everyone! Best Wishes of Health, Wealth & Prosperity to all of You and Yours for the New Year !!!

Our parade float debuted at the Yardley Annual Olde Fashioned Christmas Parade - although it was close! The week before, we received more snow in one day (just over 8") than we did for all of last year ! After the storm, we tried to do our initial assembly, which included putting the "Main beam" and generator on top of the trailer and then backing it under our temporary car canopy. That was when we (quickly) learned that the canopy was about 2' too low for the trailer assembly to fit! After some innovations & adjustments, we were able to get everything to work and have Jack's +40" head raise over 4' out of his 6'w x 8'l x 4'h Box, despite the average 20-degree (F) temperatures! His color photo even ended up on the front page of the Yardley News, right below Santa Claus!



"Jack In The Box" Parade Float

We went back up to Massachusetts for Thanksgiving. While we were up there, we got to see many of our friends & relatives and received a total of almost 10 lbs of tabs while we were there ! While I was emptying some of the bags we had received, I came across one that had special magic marker writing on it, identifying that the tabs had come from Moscow (ya know, what was once called Russia!).

A few days later, I got a call from a lady who said that her Tab House was full, would I like to pick it up? When I asked her where she was calling from, she said, "The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office!" It turns out that the Tab House came from one of our dear friends named Cathy who had worked

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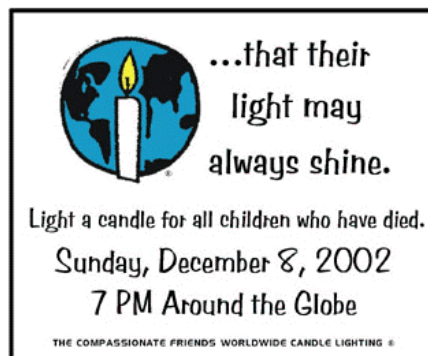
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there, but now works for another State Agency. Although they're many States away, folks at the N.H.A.G's office have Always been supportive of Sean and us. We received many cards from the American Red Cross acknowledging a number of their folks who took extra time and donated blood in Sean's name, after they learned that Sean needed blood when he was alive.

There have also been a number of other Tab contributors, including the folks who've dropped tabs off at our local Fleet Bank, cousins Jack & Lydia, or Friends at the Olive Branch Restaurant in New Brunswick, NJ, Gary & friends at Allen's Automotive and others. This also included a very special donation through the Yardley Knights of Columbus Chapter (<http://yardleyknights.org/#Tabs>) who presented us with a whole box of tabs from the Pre-K class at PS #1 in the Bronx New York City! The tabs were presented to us at this year's Christmas party, hosted by Joe & Magdalena Maxian at their world-renowned Sand Castle Winery (www.sandcastlewinery.com).

Did you visit/dine at one or more of the 29,000 McDonalds restaurants on *World Children's Day*? I happened to see a number of people the next day. Instead of greeting me with some type of "Hello" they said, "I ate at McDonalds yesterday!" A Big "Thank You" to all of you who did! I actually even had a "Breakfast" and "Lunch" at McD's!

While your calendar is out, you may want to mark the 2nd Sunday in December as a Time of Remembrance. On Sunday December 8th we, along with 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) loved ones who left this life too early. It's like 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 home (or wherever you are) with your family & friends, in memory of your (or someone elses) child(ren). ;-)

It's hard to believe that the Winter Holidays are quickly right around the corner - Don't forget there are fewer shopping days after Thanksgiving! 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 \$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,

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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 fourth 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. 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, 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.

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!

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 . . . "

LIGHT A LIGHT SHARE A NIGHT

November 7, 2002

Dear Friends:

For years, I have been telling you about the special families at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House ... and for years, you've been generously helping us to help them. The Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House has served thousands of families from around this country, indeed the world, as they seek medical care here in Philadelphia. As we make greater strides in medicine, more and more children are able to survive. However, their treatment is ongoing and their need to have their families close by is as strong as ever.

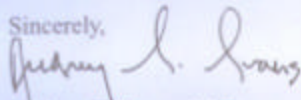
Recently, the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House provided a home away from home for the Marizcurrena family from Uruguay. Their two-year old son, Ignacio, was being treated at an area hospital and had been separated from his brother and sister for months. Your support enabled the House to provide a room, showers, hot meals, transportation, activities for their children, and a place to call home for this family, especially when they were reunited this summer. Allowing this family to be together at our House made all the difference in their child's recovery.

While we keep our costs to \$54 per night for each room, we ask that each family pay just \$15 a night. And if a family has experienced financial hardship, they can stay at the House for free...thanks to your support.

Beginning on December 4, we will show the families how much the community cares by lighting up the exterior of the House. For every \$15 donation received, another light will be added. Please consider a gift of \$15 to Share A Night this holiday season... or share more if you can. If you designate a Share A Night donation to honor loved ones, we will forward a Share A Night gift acknowledgement to each person that you include. Please forward your tax deductible donation as quickly as possible to ensure that your lights are included on December 4.

Together we can keep these special families close and make the difference in the life of a child. Please join us in helping to light the way for families in need.

Sincerely,



Audrey E. Evans, M.D.
Founder, Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House

Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House 3925 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 (215) 387-8406

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