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3 Ways to Join BearNet!

Register On line at:
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under the Legislative Advocacy section

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BearNet

WINTER 2008

NEWS

ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN'S NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

BearNet Members Raise Funds for Children's Research Institute

In 2007, several Children's National Medical Center (Children's) families held successful fundraising events to support Children's Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) research and treatment programs. These dedicated families, who also are members of BearNet, all have family members who are treated for DMD at Children's.

In May, Dan and Tina Carson of Havre de Grace, Maryland, hosted their annual SonRise event, a day of family fun including live entertainment and a silent auction. In November, the Carsons followed up on their earlier success with a new event, a Bull and Oyster Roast. Combined, the two events raised \$100,000 for the Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne (FED), a muscular dystrophy foundation that contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to Children's

Research Institute. In October, Carolyn and Scott Morrison of Alexandria, Virginia, organized friends, family members, and colleagues to run in the Marine Corps Marathon, raising \$80,000 for Children's. Monica and Dave Heil of Arlington, Virginia, hosted their third annual Fore Duchenne Golf Tournament in July and once again succeeded in raising more than \$200,000. Finally, Dana and Joel Wood of Alexandria, Virginia, had their best fundraising year ever by raising more than \$620,000 for Children's at their signature event, Dining Away Duchenne. In total, these four families raised nearly \$1 million in 2007 to support the cutting edge DMD research and treatment programs underway at Children's Research Institute. The BearNet Team extends a warm thanks to these committed advocates! 🐾

Children's Opens New East Inpatient Tower

On November 15, 2007, Children's dedicated its new state-of-the-art East Inpatient Tower with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by faculty, families, friends in the community and several elected officials. Congressman James Moran (D-VA), Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr (D-Ward 5), each shared their unique Children's experiences and reiterated their commitment to supporting the hospital and the children we serve. 🐾



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SCHIP Extended Through March 2009

After failing to enact a \$35 billion expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) — enduring two presidential vetoes along the way — Congress passed and the President signed a bill to extend the program through March 2009. The bill, S. 2499, does not succeed in expanding coverage to approximately 4 million additional children as was attempted in previous legislation, but it does maintain coverage for approximately 6 million children. It provides \$1.4 billion to allow states to maintain current enrollment without experiencing budget shortfalls. Congress is not expected to address SCHIP again until after the November 2008 elections. Thank you to all BearNet advocates who sent more than 200 messages to Members of Congress urging support for SCHIP throughout the year! 🐾

VIRGINIA ELECTIONS

Virginia Report: Democrats Claim Senate Majority

For the first time in a decade, Democrats won control of the Virginia State Senate. In elections held November 6, Democrats took four seats to claim a narrow 21-19 Senate majority. Key races in Northern Virginia tipped the balance in the Democrats' favor, including George Barker's and J.C. "Chap" Petersen's victories over incumbent Republican Senators J.K. "Jay" O'Brien and Jeannemarie Devolites Davis, respectively, both in Fairfax County. With their new majority status, Senate Democrats from Northern Virginia are expected to fill key leadership positions, including six to seven committee chairmanships.

While Democrats also gained at least four seats in the House of Delegates, Republicans retained the majority. Key races in Northern Virginia once again provided pickups for the Democrats, including wins by Margaret G. Vanderhye in Fairfax and Paul Nichols in Prince William County. 🐾



Laura Bush Visits Children's

On December 12, 2007, First Lady Laura Bush returned to Children's for her seventh annual holiday visit. The First Lady read *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* to patients after touring Children's world-class Surgical Care Unit in the new East Inpatient Tower and visiting with children on the units. 🐾

Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) Gets 1.5% Increase

On December 26, 2007, the President signed into law an omnibus appropriations bill that included \$301.65 million for the CHGME program. This is \$4.65 million or 1.56 percent more than the FY 2007 funding level of \$297 million. More importantly, it's dramatically greater than the administration's request of \$110 million and the Senate's proposal of \$200 million. A \$4.65 million increase for CHGME in such a tight and contentious budget environment is an important victory for children's hospitals.

The CHGME program provides critical funding for 61 independent children's teaching hospitals across the country — including more than \$12 million for Children's annually — to train the next generation of pediatricians, pediatric specialists, and researchers. Adult teaching hospitals receive funding to pay for the costs associated with graduate medical education through Medicare. Because we treat children and not the elderly, Children's and other children's hospitals are left out of the Medicare GME funding stream and therefore rely on the CHGME program to help sustain our teaching missions.

Thanks to all the BearNet advocates who participated in CHGME grassroots legislative advocacy campaigns this year. Your voices made a significant difference! 🐾

BearNet Advocate Appreciation Week – May 5 – 9

The second annual BearNet Advocate Appreciation Week will take place May 5-9. Children's relies on BearNet advocates to weigh in with elected officials on important legislation and issues impacting the hospital and the children we serve. To say "thank you" to our advocates, the BearNet team will host a week of activities including trivia contests, raffles, and brown bag lunches on public policy issues important to Children's.

This year's theme is "Election 2008." Look for the BearNet table in the cafeteria during lunch and pick up voter registration information, fact sheets on important child health issues, and more! For more information, please contact Bill Quirk at (202) 476-5617 or bquirk@cnmcresearch.org. 🐾

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