



THURSDAY'S CHILD Newsletter

Founded in 1984

Volume XXXII

December 2019

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Peterson, DeForest Wisconsin
December 10, 1942 - June 27, 2019

Some fundraisers become a part of our organization's fabric, in a way, because not only is the process familiar to us, but also the people who make it happen become our friends. We get to know their families, their business associates, and their friends.

That's how it was for us when we got to know Jim Peterson and his wife, Mary. Jim was an enthusiastic bass fisherman with friends far and wide who shared that enthusiasm. When he came to us in 1996 with his idea for a Bass Tournament, we soon came to know that Jim with an "idea" was unstoppable.



The Bayview Bassmaster Tournaments, held at Lake Wisconsin every August for the next thirteen years, raised over \$185,000 for Thursday's Child.

We were deeply saddened to learn of Jim's death. His life serves as an example of what one person can do to touch the lives of others. He was a man with a big heart, whose legacy of generous service is unmatched.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, his son, Gary (Tammy Westphal), grandson Andrew Peterson and brothers Jeff (Dianne) Peterson and Ronald (Betty) Peterson.

He was preceded in death by his son Jerry in 1979.

He was an original member of the Madison Fishing Expo and Four Lakes Bass Club.

Jim will forever remain in our hearts and in our memories.

The Thursday's Child Board of Directors

OUR MISSION

Thursday's Child makes wishes come true for seriously ill children and young adults living within and/or treated within Southwest and South Central Wisconsin.

Contributions are tax deductible and can be sent to:

THURSDAY'S CHILD, INC

PO Box 95, Mt. Hope, WI 53816

608.988.4423 www.thursdayschildwisconsin.org

REMEMBERING ZACH

19-year-old Zachary Olson, Janesville, had several heroes: Former Badger and Packer quarterback Scott Tolzien who stayed in touch with Zachary throughout his life; motorcyclists, who organized a thundering 600-strong parade passing by his



house in April, shortly before his death, and the rock group SHINEDOWN.

It was Monday, March 4, when we received a request from his social worker, at American Family Children's Hospital in Madison, asking if we could arrange for Zach and his family to attend a SHINEDOWN concert at Bucks Arena in Milwaukee on March 8.



That we did, with a lot of help from some very good people: **Let There Be Rock: The Story of AC/DC** author Susan Masino, Tag Evers from Frank Productions in Madison, Jada Peterson at the Bucks Arena who dedicated her entire week to making sure everything was in place for Zach and his family, and Katy Lane

from In De Goot Entertainment who made all of the arrangements for Zach to meet with members of the band and she met the family, as well.

It was a full house that night. After a warm meeting with the members of the band and their crew which included an extensive backstage tour, they settled into the private loft that Jada had reserved for them. But SHINEDOWN members insisted that Zach be close by during the concert, and there are pictures of him actually leaning on the stage with a smile on his face, taking it all in. The entire crew as well as the members of the band "made us feel welcomed and loved, we honestly felt like part of the family, part of them," his mother, Miranda, wrote in her Facebook post.



Zach with Members of SHINEDOWN

But the story doesn't end there. When SHINEDOWN member Brent asked Zach what he enjoyed doing, he said he liked to play XBOX. Next thing you know, a package shows up for Zach and his younger brother Gavin: One of a kind personalized XBOX ONE, two personalized controllers and a subscription with over 100 games on it.

Zach died on April 30, 2019 after living with cancer most of his young life. In his obituary, his family wrote: "he never once allowed his health to bring him down. Even in his darkest days, Zachary would still smile. He truly had a heart of gold."

Thursday's Child Remembered

Thursday's Child recently received a generous \$10,000 bequest from the estate of Dennis Bender, who died June 5, 2019. Mr. Bender was the owner of Bender Builders, Inc., of Beaver Dam. As such, he was a highly respected specialist in the restoration, renovation and repair of buildings that make up our rural Wisconsin architectural heritage. His generosity will enable some child and family to enjoy a bright spot at a time when their lives are dominated by illness. We are grateful to Mr. Bender and our thoughts go out to his family.

DEAR THURSDAY'S CHILD,

We are thrilled to be able to make a donation once again to Thursday's Child. We still talk about the weekend trip you sent Jacob and our family on to Green Bay for a Packers game. It was a great time and we couldn't be more thankful for the smiles we saw on Jacob's face that weekend.

Sincerely,

The Walsh Family

Brian, Tammie, Jacob and Kassie
McFarland, Wisconsin



HOSPITAL MEALS

For the 17th year, Thursday's Child is funding one meal every month for

families of seriously ill children who are patients at American Family Children's Hospital in Madison. Each evening meal serves 50-60 people. Thursday's Child donates \$3,000 each year to provide these meals. The hospital itself, through money donated by NFL Alumni, funds one meal per week. Other meals come from organizations like ours.

DEAR THURSDAY'S CHILD,

I want to thank you for helping my whole family go on the amazing trip to Disney World. Buzz Lightyear means a lot to me and I want to thank you for helping me meet my hero. The experience gave me so much joy. I also got to try some of Disney's new attractions such as Star Wars Land, the Avatar Ride and meeting Baymax.



The ride I was most eager to ride was Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin.



Thank you for making my wish come true.

Sincerely,
Dominic Nusse
Hillsboro, Wisconsin



We are always especially touched when area young people select Thursday's Child as the recipient of their generosity. This year we received donations from the Cassville Country Buddies 4-H Club and the Mount Hope Cardinals 4-H Club. In a world where there is need all around us, we are honored that they chose to benefit Thursday's Child.



TRAIL RIDE

The Kelly Meier Memorial Trail Ride, also affectionately known as Sandy's Trail Ride, celebrated its 26th anniversary on September 15th, 2019. It was a rain-free day, however, due to the extreme and unpredictable summer weather that we had, attendance was down from previous years. Still, it was a good day.

The trail ride takes place in a beautiful little corner of southwest Wisconsin where Sandy works her magic year after year.

Sandy and Doug have raised thousands of dollars for Thursday's Child and for 4-H Horse Camp over the years, all in memory of their beautiful daughter. Their generosity, along with that of their sons Travis and Billy and their daughter-in-law Mariah, has brightened the lives of hundreds of kids who need a wish or kids who want to ride a horse.

"We wish to thank you for your support for the Chaffie



Hollow Country Club 26th Annual Trail Ride in Memory of Kelly Meier. We are blessed by wonderful people who allow us to ride through some of the most beautiful country. Thank you for everyone who attends, donates and all our helpers that we can help others in Memory of Kelly."

Happy Trails!

Doug & Sandy Meier Family

Join us next year on September 13, 2020!

SANTA PROJECT



Our Santa Project is 35 years old this year, and the need is great. As of this writing, there are 84 children on our list, which is 12 more than last year, and there could be more. There is no Christmas deadline for social workers to add a newly diagnosed child to our list. We continue to

offer \$50 JC Penney gift cards to each child in the family, with a maximum of 4 cards per family.



Thank you so much for the blessing of this gift during the Christmas season. I was blown away by your generosity. It has allowed me to get Christmas presents for my family.



Thank you so much for thinking of our family. The kids are very lucky, as are we, that organizations such as yours exist. To have such generous help at this time is very comforting to us and we just want you to know how appreciative we are.



I want to thank you for this generous gift. I am so thankful. With a sad heart, I wanted to inform you our beautiful little boy (20 months old) has relapsed and will undergo more treatment. I want to wish you all a happy holiday season and a very Merry Christmas, with lots of love from our family.



Gifts In Their Memory from their loving friends and family

Dorothy Cultra

Rockford, Illinois

Dorothy Ferguson

Mt. Hope, Wisconsin

Kelly Meier

Potosi, Wisconsin

Morgan Turnquist

Madison, Wisconsin



Fun in the Sun!

Laine Meske and her parents, Hailey and Mark, Jefferson, Wisconsin, enjoyed a week in Siesta Key, Florida, with enough sand, sun and ocean to delight the entire family. Laine celebrated her third birthday on December 14.

"We just wanted to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for the amazing trip we got to spend with Laine. She loved every minute of the week (except when we had to leave). Words and pictures can not do justice for how much fun we had and how thankful we were for this opportunity. Attached are a few of our memories we will be able to cherish forever because of all of you. Thank you again so very much."

-The Meske's



Laine next to "THANK YOU THURSDAY'S CHILD" spelled in the sand

The Santa Cause 5K is an event that we put together to enjoy family and friends who want to give back to an organization that will help put smiles on the faces of young kids who are battling serious illness.



This year's event also directly donated to #PalmerStrong, a 6 year old little girl who is battling cancer in our area. Enclose is our check to Thursday's Child for \$450.

Thank you for the work that you do.

Melissa & Jen Martinez

Platteville, Wisconsin

The Madison College Annual Turkey Trot

was held at Warner Park on November 3, 2019. Since 2003, Thursday's Child has been a very appreciative beneficiary of this much-anticipated fund raiser. Good weather and enthusiastic participants made



for a successful day. We thank the organizers and volunteers who make this popular event happen year after year.

Upcoming Wishes

Yes, they are young, and yes, they cannot articulate their wishes, but we know what they would like to do once they have completed their treatment. They want to be with their family, they want to have some fun surrounded by the people they love. So we are sending little Jeffrey Eral, Madison, and his family to Disney World February 1.

Mila Joy Cadena Russell, Madison, is ready to go somewhere, too, we just have to figure out where! She recently had her port removed so now she can splash in the water and build sand castles on the beach. We will make some plans for Mila and her family very soon.



The Culver's logo is written in a blue, cursive script font. It is enclosed within a decorative border of blue dots.

Thank you to Culver's of Grafton (Here's the Scoop) and Culver's of Dodgeville for continuing to support Thursday's Child. Both restaurants have donation boxes on their counters, and proceeds are sent to us several times a year.

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printed by:



The logo for Supreme Graphics features the letters 'SG' in a large, stylized, black font. Below the 'SG' are the words 'SUPREME GRAPHICS' in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font.

Supreme Graphics, Prairie du Chien

www.supremegraphics.com

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