

THURSDAY'S CHILD Newsletter

Founded in 1984

Volume XXXI

December 2018

TRAIL RIDE

The Kelly Meier Memorial Trail Ride, also affectionately known as Sandy's Trail Ride, celebrated its 25th anniversary on September 16th, 2018.

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 and 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 25th 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."



God Bless you all!

Happy Trails!

Doug & Sandy Meier Family

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 5816

608.988.4423

www.thursdayschildwisconsin.org

"Such a beautiful day for such a beautiful cause." Love, Don, Heidi, Del, Phoebe, Asbury, IA

"Beautiful Day. Wonderful Ride. Awesome Friends. Love you, Doug and Sandy." - Cindy and Ken Aird, Cuba City, WI

"Dear Sandy, Warmest thanks, dear friend, for the great trail ride and delicious meal in memory of your precious daughter, Kelly. It is truly wonderful you and your loving family have been doing this in Kelly's memory for 25 years. The money you have raised for Thursday's Child has brought so many smiles and laughter to so many children who needed them most. Your trail ride brings so much joy to all of us who love to ride horses with our good friends in such beautiful country. The world needs more people like you, Sandy." - Love, Mary Doering, Platteville



BUCKLE UP!

Over the years, Jackie Ley has been a good friend, donating handmade treat bags for the children

participating in the trail ride and many Montana belt buckles for trail ride raffle prizes. All of the belt buckles have been beautiful and unique, but none can top this year's specially designed belt buckle that commemorated the 25th anniversary of the trail ride.

Anyone age 12 or over is eligible to win. Everyone who rides the trail gets to enter this free drawing.



Pictured: Hailey with Sandy and Doug

This year, the belt buckle was won by Richard Dal Porto, Roselle, Illinois, who promptly and generously turned it over to 16-year-old Hailey Schwab. Her family has always helped Sandy with the trail ride. Hailey loves horses and rodeo and her mother said she has been wanting a belt buckle. Thanks to Jackie Ley and Richard Dal Porto, she now has a very special one.

Jingle Bell Fun Run



This year's participants of the annual Jingle Bell Fun Run 5k in Platteville, Wisconsin, put Thursday's Child on their "nice" list of area non-profits.

We were delighted to receive a portion of each entry fee and this note from organizer Melissa Martinez:

"Thank you for the hard work, dreams and wishes you give the children who face serious illness." A special thank you to Melissa and all of the 'elves' in running shoes for choosing Thursday's Child as a beneficiary of your generosity.

TURKEY TROT

The Madison College Annual Turkey Trot was held at Warner Park on Sunday, Nov. 4, a miserably cold and rainy day that did not seem to bother the runners very much. The kids' race was first up at 9 a.m., followed by the 5k at 10:00 and the 5 mile at 11:00. Proceeds benefited the Madison College Foundation and Thursday's Child.



We thank the organizers and volunteers who make this popular event happen year after year.

HOSPITAL MEALS

For the 16th 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, Inc.

Thank you for very much for your gift to our Patient and Family Fund to support Family Meals. Your support helps us here at American Family Children's Hospital to provide over 13,000 meals in one year. These meals are a time for patients and families to have a meal together and to feel a little 'normal' while staying in the hospital.

Thank you for your support!"

Lori Schultz, UW American Family Children's Hospital

Dancing to Good Health!



You might remember reading about little Grace Peterson in last year's newsletter. She wished to be shrunk to fairy size and meet Tinker Bell and her sister. And she did, back in January 2017, when Grace and her parents traveled to Disneyland.

This year Grace has endured several complicated surgeries and a difficult recovery, but by the time you read this newsletter, she will be home again in Mt. Horeb, "getting back into ballet, school (she is in 4K) and swimming lessons," her mother says.

During her hospitalization in Milwaukee, Grace has been able to participate in an excellent school program through the



Wauwatosa School District.

Her mother writes "It's amazing what the doctors and lots of love from family and friends can do. It is amazing what can be accomplished medically to help kids like Grace. We are so thankful for the excellent care she has received

from Dr. Dvorak and her whole team of specialists and nurses."

We think Grace is pretty amazing, too. Her mom sent us these photos to share with you!



Upcoming Wish

Little Laine Meske, whose celebrates her second birthday on December 14, has spent about half of her short life in the hospital.

Treated for Acute Monoblastic Leukemia, she has now completed her chemotherapy. Her parents, Hailey and Mark, both registered nurses, took turns staying with her. She was never alone. In May, they are going to Siesta Key in Florida for a week of sand and sun and water and time for the three of them, just to be together.

We would like to thank Lori Velte at Memories Travel in Platteville for personally making the arrangements for this special wish.

Catching Up With...

It was 33 years ago, but when we recently saw his name under a picture on the front page of the Wisconsin State Journal, we remembered an 11-year-old boy who was one of our first wish recipients, back in 1985. On the front page of the August 19, 2018 Wisconsin State Journal, 44-year-old Bill Yerges is pictured playing catch with his sons.

We knew him as Billy. Kenny Rogers was appearing at the Coliseum in Madison. Billy was a fan. We arranged for Billy and his family to go to the concert and meet Kenny after the show.

There are 15,000 bone marrow transplants performed in this country every year, but back in 1985, they were not common. Billy was 11 years old when he received a successful bone marrow transplant at UW Hospitals.

David Wahlberg's article in the Wisconsin State Journal traced the history of the bone marrow transplant program at the UW Hospitals and spotlighted one very special success story. Bill Yerges is now a nurse at the very hospital where he was treated 33 years ago. He lives in McFarland with his wife, April, and sons Gavin and Grayson.

DEAR THURSDAY'S CHILD,



Thank you so much for the cruise! My parents and I had a wonderful time! The staff and food were fabulous! The ports were great!

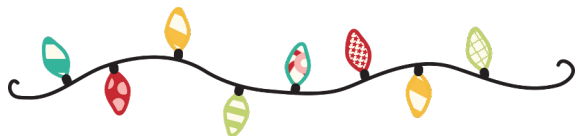
I have a couple photos attached to this email!

Thanks again for this amazing trip!!!! Have a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Anna Fowler
Janesville, WI
January 3, 2018



Pictured: Anna with her parents, Catherine & Randy



Thank you so much for the Christmas gifts for the girls. They (we) really appreciated the support.

My children thought long and hard on how to use their gift cards! They even had extra to spend on whatever else they needed or wanted.

Thank you so much from the Adams and Mergener Family



*Standing: Maure'ona Adams, 12
Left: Ra'nyjah Adams, 11
Right: Maure'ajah Adams, 12
Front: D'Najah Adams, 9
Mom, Raven, in the middle*



MANY THANKS!



For eight years, Tammy Hanson, who designed our first Thursday's Child website in 2010, has volunteered to maintain and update the site.

Tammy lives in Avoca, WI, and is a graphic designer with Vortex Optics in Barneveld, designing for both web and print. In addition to being a creative graphic artist and web designer, she is also a gifted photographer. You can take a look at some of her work at

www.tammyhansoncreativdesign.com.

We were very fortunate to find Tammy, and appreciate the talents she has so willingly shared with our organization. We thank her for the many hours she has spent helping Thursday's Child.

REMEMBERING MORGAN

Sometimes we receive memorials honoring the memory of one of our Thursday's Child recipients. This year, you will notice Morgan Turnquist's name in our Memorial section. Morgan died on July 7, 2013. She was 17 years old. In our 2014 newsletter we printed a letter that came from someone in her church family. It was a lovely tribute to this young woman. Four years later we want to share the same words with you:

"Morgan Turnquist was truly the personification of God's grace, an embodiment of courage, determination and faith - a really remarkable young woman. I have a vivid memory of Morgan after church in the Fireside Room fiercely encouraging one of her peers. I couldn't hear her words, but I did see their effect, and I was in awe of her courage."

The Turnquist family has been very good to Thursday's Child in the years since, and we remember them, and we remember Morgan.



SANTA PROJECT



Our Santa Project is 34 years old this Christmas. It has gone through many changes over the years. In our early years, families received forms to fill out listing their child or children's first, second and third Santa wish. Then we went shopping. I remember Saturday shopping trips with a

friend or a Board member, each of us having a folder of wishes in our hands and loading presents into our carts. In the earliest years, we would take the presents to my room at school and my students and colleagues would stay after school to pack every box for mailing to each family.

Susan Hefty remembers one Christmas, loading up one shopping cart at Toys R Us and setting it aside with a manager so she could go back and fill another shopping cart. When she was ready to check out, the first cart was gone. An employee had put everything back on the shelves.

Ultimately we had to find an easier way. So we gave each family a Penney's Christmas catalog (remember those?) and again sent us their first, second and third choices. Then my mother, Dorothy, and Susan went to work ordering by phone and having the gifts sent directly to the families. That worked out well, but my mother and Susan were spending all of their waking hours and some of their sleeping ones, too, on the phone.

I believe it was my mother who decided to save Christmas for herself and for Susan and got the idea that we could simply send out Penney's gift cards to our families.

There are 72 families are on our list this year.

72 stories, 72 seriously ill children (and in some families, more than one), and 72 reasons for us to help Santa out on his appointed rounds.

Each child, and their siblings under age 18 receive a \$50 JC Penney gift card. They are sent out a week or two before Thanksgiving, allowing families to plan their holiday shopping strategy. One mom wrote "Thank you so much for this blessing! What a huge help. I took advantage of some sales and coupons so the money may not be equally distributed among my children but I will make sure it's all equal in the end."

Susan was our Santa for 21 years. I don't know how she did it, with her full-time career and caring for her family, but she always did. Now it's my turn. With her guidance, her organized instructions, her encouragement and even updating and personalizing the forms just for me, she has provided a Santa blueprint for success and I'm following it in detail.

Thank you, Susan, for your Santa years. With my name, I'm hoping to get right in to Santa's inner circle and learn to be as helpful to him as you always were.

-Noël Ferguson



NEW WEBSITE

Check out our new website, design by WebWise Design and Marketing, Fennimore, WI.

Many thanks to our own Angele Walsh representing the Board and working with John Wells and his team.



Gifts In Their Memory
from their loving friends and family

Leslie Ann Barfield
Washington, D.C.

Dorothy Ferguson
Mt. Hope, WI

Margaret Gotto
Bloomington, WI

Kelly Meier
Potosi, WI

Morgan Turnquist
Madison, WI



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.

Executive Director:

Noël Ferguson, Mt. Hope
noel@chorus.net

President:

Diane Puccetti, M.D.
American Family Children's Hospital
1111 Highland Ave. Madison, WI 53705
puccetti@pediatrics.wisc.edu

Presidents Emeritus:

Paul Dvorak, M.D.
SSM Health
1313 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Madison, WI 53713

Ronald Thorstad,
Madison, WI
Co-Founder of
Thursday's Child &
President from
1984-1995

Director Emeritus:

Ivan Hoffland,
Prairie du Chien

Website Design:
WebWise Design &
Marketing, Fennimore,
WI

Newsletter Coordinator:

Valerie Martin, Platteville, WI

Vice President:

Susan Hefty, Mt. Horeb

Secretary:

Andrea Urbon, Madison

Treasurer:

Steven Maerz, Madison

Directors:

Paul Dvorak, M.D. Madison
John Kussmaul, Lancaster
Sandra Meier, Potosi
Lisa Roh, Platteville
Angele Walsh, Potosi

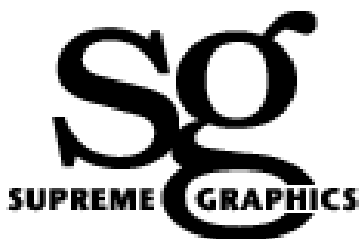
Acknowledgements:

Kay Schmitz, Mt Hope



**Layout and design of Thursday's Child
Newsletter by Cassville High School
Business Instructor, Valerie Martin.**

Thursday's Child Newsletter printed by:



Supreme Graphics, Prairie du Chien
www.supremegraphics.com