

July 2007



# The Anchor

A Project Hope Quarterly Newsletter

Project Hope is an organization dedicated to inspiring HOPE during the traumatic event of a child's unexpected or long-term hospitalization.

We provide support and encouragement for families during this stressful time.

We believe parents and guardians must take care of themselves physically, emotionally and spiritually in order to meet the overwhelming needs of their hospitalized children.

Dear Friends of Project Hope,

Once a month I have the joy and privilege to make a trip to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in my van filled to the brim with donations. I deliver 60 totes that have been prepared and filled with care by loving hands.

Each month there are many people with ready hands and willing hearts who make this delivery possible. Hours upon hours are spent planning, organizing donations, shopping and assembling totes to get ready for the trip and ultimately ready for families. It is a blessing to work alongside friends, old and new, who are willing to pitch in and lend a hand in whatever way they are able.

This newsletter shares the observations of a Children's Hospital staff member. It also includes a wonderful thank you letter from a family that has been touched, and names of many who have answered a call to help spread love through Project Hope.

It is my wish that you feel some of the same joy that I feel after you read this newsletter. Joy that comes from experiencing God's loving touch through human hands.

With God's blessings,  
Kim Sebring

CHILDREN ARE THE ANCHORS THAT HOLD A MOTHER TO LIFE. - SOPHOCLES

## Contact Information

Please visit us at :

www.projecthope-zelienople-pa.com

To make a donation:

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## Talents Shared

### Senior Project Benefits Project Hope

**Stacy Kline**, a senior at Seneca Valley High School, raised money for Project Hope as part of her senior project.



She organized and performed a benefit concert which took place on April, 6th 2007 at *Beechers Gelato & Gourmet Coffee* in Zelienople. The benefit, titled "Songs for Hope", raised \$505.00. Stacy, Black Forest, Matt Buechele and all those who assisted Stacy, thank you for all the time, energy and talent you dedicated to helping families through Project Hope!

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*Whatever your talent, use it in every way possible...Spend it lavishly like a millionaire intent on going broke. - Brendon Francis*

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### Stones, A Concert for Hope and Habitat

**A** debut of the musical selections from the original musical *Stones* was performed in "concert style" with narration on March 24th at *Calvin Presbyterian Church* in Zelienople. Proceeds from the concert were donated to Project Hope and the Southwest Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Project Hope received \$475.00. Many thanks to **Jeffery Jones**, **Bruce Smith** and the **Drama Department** of *Calvin Presbvtarian Church*.



*"All of the families that have benefited from your generosity have been very appreciative and thankful. Project Hope is truly a blessing for those in need of assistance while spending time in the ICU." .....*

Frank G. Ricci, RN, MSN, CCRN; Supervisor of Patient Services – PICU; Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

## **A Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh nurse shares his first-hand experience with Project Hope**

**Project Hope – Compassion and Caring Exemplified**

*By Frank G. Ricci*

Imagine spending countless hours away from home without all of the comforts to which one is accustomed. Imagine having to spend those hours with an ill loved one in an uncomfortable setting such as an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Imagine having to pass day after day in a crowded, public area, sharing accommodations with the family members and friends of other patients.

While Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC strives to make this type of experience as pleasant as possible given the circumstances, a new project has just made things better by leaps and bounds. Thanks to the generosity of Kim Sebring, the mother of a former Children's patient, families and friends of ICU patients are now assured access to daily necessities that make the ICU experience just a bit more tolerable.

Mrs. Sebring with the help of a ton of dedicated faithful volunteers initiated a campaign known as "Project Hope" – a program which helps provide ICU families at Children's with items such as toiletries, snacks, games, and other things essential to making an extended stay in an uncomfortable environment much more bearable. While all ICU families benefit greatly from the program, those who travel from many miles away and are unable to return home each day have been especially impacted.

With Children's boasting one of the busiest pediatric ICUs in the region, many of the patients for which they care live a significant distance from the Oakland campus. The reactions from parents and loved ones in response to the program have been tremendously positive. Receiving the useful items in the Project Hope packages has brought many family members to tears, and the number of "thank-yous" offered is countless. Although Project Hope has not yet found a way to cure all of Children's Hospital's patients of what ails them, it has certainly found a great way to lend some support those who love them.

