With each passing year comes the knowledge of just how important the battle against childhood cancer remains. This year in particular we are aware of the struggles ahead, including the bad news that revolves around the economy. Having said that, we are confident that 2009 will be one of our best years yet, and we are so glad to have you “walking” with us on this journey (see below for how you can take strides against childhood cancer).

It was nearly 5 years ago that we lost our daughter, Alexandra “Alex” Scott. Using her spirit and determination as a guide, and thinking back to her unwavering dedication in reaching her $1 million goal in 2004, we have set the bar high this year. Among the events we are looking forward to: our first ever Walk-a-thon Project, Childhood Cancer Educational Symposium and the return of the Great Chefs Event and Lemonade Days. There is one very special addition this year as well! A world class wheelchair athlete will go from San Francisco to New York to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer, and did we mention he will be cycling the entire way?

2009 promises to be a journey in more than one sense of the word, so please stay tuned as we continue Alex's legacy and take steps toward eradicating childhood cancer.

Liz & Jay Scott
Alex’s parents

As the summer months quickly approach, the stand coaches at Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation are busily preparing for the 6th Annual National Lemonade Days on June 12, 13 and 14, 2009. Volunteers across the country will host lemonade stands, in an effort to raise $1 million during this three day period. We hope that many of you will once again join us by hosting lemonade stands, and that some of you will join us for the very first time. As an added bonus, with our new website, you can search for lemonade stands in your area, so if you don’t hold your stand during Lemonade Days, make sure to visit one!

In celebration of National Physical Education and Sport Month, Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation will kick off the month of May with a National Walk-a-thon Project. In order to provide new and fun ways to support ALSF, you and your organization, community, or family, can host a walk-a-thon in May, or anytime of the year!

We hope to have a walk-a-thon in every state by the end of 2009, and we’ll need help to get there – sign up today and represent your state in this national initiative!

For more information, to plan a walk-a-thon, or to find a walk-a-thon in your area, visit: www.AlexsLemonade.org/walk
TRAVELING TOWARD CURES

Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation, in partnership with TD Bank, introduced a brand new Travel Fund in 2008. The Alex’s Lemonade Travel Fund was established to assist families who face the need to travel for their child’s cancer treatment, and we have already seen just how imperative this travel can be.

Two examples of how this is working:

An 11-year-old diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma in October of 2008, lives in Redmond, Oregon, and receives treatment at Doernbecher’s Children’s Hospital in Portland. His family, primarily Spanish-speaking, requires the help of a translator during hospital visits. The patient is currently enrolled in a clinical trial for 6 weeks, during which time his mother and younger sister are accompanying him. While he receives treatment, his sibling attends school on the hospital’s premises. The Travel Fund is paying for their grocery and meal vouchers as well as their expenses at the Ronald McDonald House for their entire stay.

An 8-year-old, originally diagnosed with stage IV neuroblastoma in 2005, relapsed twice in 2007. Living in Arkansas, he needed to travel to Philadelphia to receive MIBG therapy. The Travel Fund provided gas cards, lodging and airfare for the family’s back and forth trips. Through the assistance the family received, they were able to make several trips, and the MIBG therapy helped return the patient to no evidence of disease!

CELEBRATING OUR HEROES – as we continue the fight against childhood cancer in 2009, it is important to remember the children and their families touched by the disease.

Ardan Quinn Bucher was a vibrant, intelligent, endearing little girl. To all who knew her well, she was a healthy, happy, energetic preschooler with a quick wit and an active imagination. One Tuesday night in October of 2007, she woke up suddenly screaming in pain, covered in sweat, with a temperature of 93. She was rushed to the nearest ER. It was one month before her 3rd birthday.

After an abdominal X-Ray and lots of waiting, Arden’s family was told to go home and follow up with the pediatrician in the morning. The next day, Arden was more herself, and the pediatrician said that she should start on medication to rule out constipation. The doctor also provided a list of “things to watch for.” Sure enough, by Thursday morning, Arden was very still, didn’t want to be moved, had no appetite, and a low-grade fever. Her parents took her to A.I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, DE, and after a series of tests, doctors found a tumor measuring approximately 10 x 6 cm in her abdomen. Further testing confirmed that Arden had stage IV, high risk neuroblastoma.

Throughout her 8 months of aggressive treatment at A.I. duPont and The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia per the “gold standard” protocol, Arden’s family knew that their little girl had a fighting spirit. By July of 2008, after her second stem cell rescue, she was fighting for her life on an oscillator and ventilator in the PICU at CHOP for five weeks, having gone into respiratory failure after contracting Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) (which presents as a bad cold to most of us with normal immune systems). Although she developed Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) and Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS), no one, not her parents, family, friends, supporters, or world-class doctors ever gave up hope for her recovery. Finally, on August 30, 2008, despite all efforts to the very end to save her, Arden’s journey ended peacefully and painlessly, with her Mommy and Daddy by her side, finally able to hold her and rock her as they said goodbye. She remains with them every day in their hearts and their minds as they transfer their hopes for her survival to all of the other children who are still fighting.

The MOMS Club of Landenberg, a special group with whom Arden and her mom shared many playdates, activities, and wonderful memories, will be holding one of Alex’s Lemonade Stands in Arden’s honor and memory. It will take place on Sunday, May 17th, 2009 at the New Garden Township Park in Avondale, PA from 12 - 4 pm as part of “New Garden Day,” which will feature other fun family activities.
I received a grant from Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation in 2006, when I had promising data that immune cells could be used against pediatric bone cancers. Thanks to the ALSF funding, we were able to continue to work on this project and the results have been very gratifying.

By redirecting immune cells toward an antigen expressed on pediatric bone cancer cells, but not on normal body tissues, immune cells can effectively kill bone cancer cells in the lab. We were able to show that they could even kill cancer “stem cells” that cause tumor recurrence and that by giving them to animals that had metastasis in the lungs, two thirds were cured.

The results were used to justify further funding and are now being reviewed as part of a project to the National Institutes of Health (NIH): “Cellular Immunotherapy for Pediatric Solid Tumors.” This project will target neuroblastoma, osteosarcoma, Ewing’s sarcoma and rhabdomyosarcoma; constituting the majority of pediatric solid tumors with the worst outcomes. Lastly, we recently were approved by the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC) of the NIH for a clinical trial that will enroll children with advanced osteosarcoma.

“The support from Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation was key to helping us translate our promising preclinical findings from the bench to bedside.”

**THE GREAT LEMON RIDE**

Exciting news - in an effort to raise awareness for childhood cancer from coast to coast, world class wheelchair athlete Kenny Herriot will cycle across America in partnership with Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation, Monday, April 27 – Sunday, June 7, 2009. Pushing himself to his physical limit, Herriot, who is paralyzed from the waist down, will begin his journey in San Francisco and finish in New York City, to garner attention for childhood cancer.

Visit Kenny’s fundraising page on our website for more information, cities he will visit, and how you can catch him as he passes through your town. If you have time, set up a lemonade stand along his route!

For more information, visit www.AlexsLemonade.org and go to our Special Events Section.

**FEATURED STAND: OHIO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

In an effort to promote volunteerism, the elementary students, along with four high school students, at The Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD) hosted an Alex’s Lemonade Stand outside of their local Panera Bread every day for a week in April. OSD had implemented a new course for juniors and seniors last year called volunteer experience encouraging students to complete community service.

When the high schoolers learned of Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation, they decided to hold a stand and involve the elementary students as well. With an initial goal of raising $250, the students changed the goal to $1,000 after experiencing immense success within the first two days!

Get your school involved! Visit the School Programs section of www.AlexsLemonade.org!
As the world around us continues to change and evolve, Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation is continuing to be a part of the conversation. New in 2009, ALSF has started to utilize social media like twitter, facebook, myspace and blogs to interact with our supporters. This media allows ALSF to tell our followers what is going on within the Foundation, when we have exciting news, when events are happening and so much more, instantaneously.

If you haven’t already, join the conversation: www.AlexsLemonade.org/social-media

Alsf Hero, Brett Staino and his father

Volvo Cars of North America is raffling off a brand new Volvo XC60 to benefit ALSF! The foundation is selling 2,400 raffle tickets for $50 each, and will draw the winning ticket at Alex’s Original Lemonade Stand on Saturday, June 13. The XC60 can be picked up at any dealer in the United States! To purchase tickets, call the Foundation offices, (866) 333-1213.

Visit your participating Applebee’s between May 25 and June 24 and donate $5 to benefit Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer, receive great savings off future Applebee’s purchases and enter for a chance to win great prizes!

Rita’s Italian Ice will hold its 4th Annual ALSF Fundraiser throughout the month of June, when more than 550 locations will sell paper lemons to help the foundation on its national crusade. Guests can purchase paper lemons for $1 each, personalize them and then display them on the store’s “Wall of Hope.”

4th Annual Great Chefs Event

This event is worth traveling across the country for! In an effort to cook for childhood cancer cures, over twenty world-class chefs, including famous faces Bobby Flay, Tom Colicchio and Michael Symon, will come together in the city of Philadelphia on Wednesday, June 17, 2009 for the Fourth Annual Great Chefs Event to benefit ALSF.

The event will once again be hosted at Osteria restaurant, allowing those in attendance to walk around and mingle, while tasting all the fantastic fare the chefs have to offer.

For more information on the event, visit the Special Events section of www.AlexsLemonade.org

Donate Today, Hold a Stand, or Visit Our Gift Shop!

Donate online or use the enclosed envelope!
Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation, 333 E. Lancaster Ave., #414, Wynnewood, PA 19096
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www.AlexsLemonade.org