



President's Letter by Mike Kwinn

First a warning: Hold on!

The Friends4Michael Foundation is expanding fast. It is not enough to watch the ride, you need to be part of the journey—and many of you are. We want you to know how we have grown Michael's initial efforts.

We continue to grow the capabilities and reach of the Foundation at an exponential rate. This is due to an ever-growing network of hospital social workers and families we have helped, fundraisers across the country and finally, a very generous donor

National Network: Please read below and the next page about the Foundation's greatly expanding national presence through the Family Assistance Committee. We are helping more families

than ever and we have just hit the tip of the iceberg. There is so much more we can do but as the word spreads of our responsiveness and willingness to help, we are going to touch hundreds and thousands of lives.

Fundraisers: Also in this newsletter, you will read about some of our important fundraisers but I want you to especially read about Nancy Gomez' efforts on page 3. She was not around NY so she couldn't do the golf and didn't want to run the Marine Corps Marathon, so she found another way to raise funds—the Chicago Triathlon! She is part of a growing group of supporters raising money through local efforts—and it is something you can do, too!

Generous donor: Most of the checks we have received, and continue to receive, are under \$100 and they really add up.

That said, our most generous donor has allowed us to take the risks needed to expand our reach. **ArcLight Capital Partners, LLC**, has provided nearly \$100,000 of funding in the past few years which has given the Foundation the financial stability to reach out directly to families—something very few other organizations can do. Though we certainly encourage other corporate donors to help us, we are very grateful to the employees and management of our clearly largest donor.

Please read this newsletter and keep it. Understand that there are families and children that need your help and that we are providing that help with your assistance. Though we are still a lean organization that is agile enough to help people quickly, we are growing fast—maybe someday we will match the size of Michael's heart.



Inside this issue:

Family Assistance Committee	1
Memorial Sloan Kettering Donation	3
Nancy's Way to Help	3
Marine Corps Marathon	4
Michael's Run in DC	4

F4M Family Assistance Committee (FAC) by Ed Gomez

In last year's newsletter, we told you about our new program which provided direct assistance to families whose children were afflicted with brain tumors and said that it was becoming a great success – boy was that ever an understatement! We had no idea how fast the word would spread that we could help these often desperate families. We were quickly overwhelmed because our process was cumbersome and slow. The Board realized that changes were necessary to meet its mission goals of helping children stricken with brain tumors. The result of these changes was the formulation of the "Family Assistance Committee" or FAC.

The purpose of the FAC is to implement the part of the Foundation's mission to help families in need. The first challenge for the FAC was to establish criteria for applicants and a streamlined process for verification, approval and funding. The FAC worked to develop a comprehensive program that is fair, fast, and verifiable. The new FAC hit the ground running on 1 April 2007.

In only 8 months in 2007, the FAC approved 23 applications for a total funding of \$11,500 (\$500 each). We have the ability to turn these applications very quickly – processing time is about 3-5 days.

The applications came from all regions of the country including multiple entries from Michigan, Oregon, Arizona, Ohio, and

(Continued on page 2)

F4M Family Assistance Committee (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

North Carolina. The word is spreading fast about how the Friend4Michael Foundation helps families quickly. The Social Workers at Doernbecher's Children's Hospital, Phoenix Children's, and Kalamazoo (MI) Center in particular have helped the FAC reach those families in need of our



help. We are very grateful for their continued support.

While it is indeed gratifying to know that the FAC is helping families, it can also be quite painful in processing the applications. Each family has a different story filled with emotion, fright, caring, and uncertainty. These are tough times for families as they endure their limits both financially and emotionally. The brief examples below reveal some of the situations your FAC has evaluated:

- A 15 yr old boy undergoing a 52 week course of Chemo. The Child is doing okay, but the family is looking for help to ease the cost of the 170 mile weekly trip to the hospital
- A 2 yr old boy died while the FAC was processing the application for assistance. The approved funding will help the family

with burial expenses.

- A mother caring for her stricken child had to take a leave of absence from work. With little to no money coming in, even the basic needs are difficult.

- A single mother with a child undergoing Chemo has requested assistance since losing her job. The family is in an extreme financial situation.

- A 2 yr old boy with a rare form of brain tumor is on his 5th course of Chemo. The prognosis is not good.

The father who works in the housing sector has seen business slow down tremendously while the bills keep mounting.

There are of course many more stories. The families assisted have all been devastated by this terrible disease and by the financial burdens that ultimately follow each and everyone. The funding provided by the F4M Foundation does not remove all the financial heartaches, but it is very appreciated by the families.

Dear Friends of The Friends 4 Michael Foundation INC,

We just received your generous gift of 500.00 today in the mail. Our hearts have truly been touched by the thoughtfulness of your gift. We except this gift with gratitude and pray God's riches blessings upon the foundation. Our son Allen is now in the second half of the treatment plan and of course is very sick. We hope the days will get better for him soon. This journey has taken it's toll on our family and if it were not for wonderful people like you along the way I'm just not sure how we would make it. God has truly provided the right people to cross our paths. I am so sorry for your own loss as I know how hard it is to loose a child. We had a two year old son whom died from a drowning accident in 1996. It has changed our lives forever.

We will be happy to send pictures, ect of the sort any time you want or need them. Just let us know. We will also let you know how things are going from time to time with Allen. Please contine to pray for all of us as we endeavor to journey on. Thanks again from the very bottom of our hearts for your support during this time.

Love, The Davis Family, Ron Maresa, Aaron, Allen, MaKalah,

MaKenna & Skyler

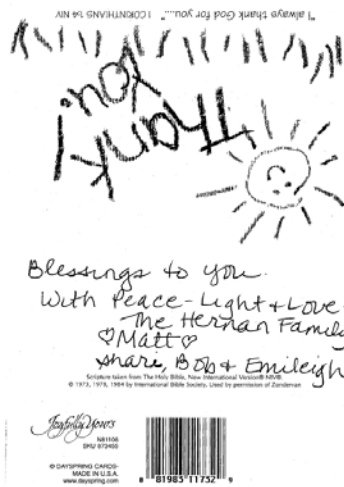
The FAC has come a long way since its start in April 2007. In 2008, the FAC expects to



Dear Mr. Kwinn -

Thank you so very much for your generosity. The 500⁰⁰ check came at the perfect time. Unfortunately my husband was laid off from a company he worked for 2 years and is aware of matt's medical condition. We appreciate this gift more than words can express.

When I read about Michael on the website - he reminded me so much of my son matt. Someday we hope to be able to say matt's tumor is gone and we can be in a position to help others the way you have thru mienne. You are Amazing! ~>



receive 70 to 100 applications for assistance. This is a very big increase as word has spread through hospitals and the network of social workers. As head of the FAC, I encourage others to reach out to hospitals and families fighting this disease. The Foundation's mission is to help children and families and we relish this opportunity to provide assistance. We could not do this without the support of the social workers and the many people who support the F4M Foundation in fundraising and other activity support. With your contributions, we are able to reach out and make a difference. Your FAC is humbled by the many people who have been so generous in our efforts to "fight for a cure".

How can you help? Be like Nancy!

Friends4Michael Board Member Nancy Gomez doesn't golf. In spite of fellow Board Member Mick Schaller's constant "encouragement", she could not see herself running the 26.2 miles of the Marine Corps Marathon (see next page). She wanted to do something to help the foundation but was not sure what to do - and that is what sisters (in-law) are for!

Nancy's sister in-law, Sylvia Duncanson had run the Chicago triathlon before and was trying to motivate Nancy to do it with her this past August. When Nancy realized that this could be a great fundraiser for the Foundation, it was all the motivation she needed!

Teaming with her friend and fellow novice tri-athlete Kim Haaff (pictured between Nancy on the left and Sylvia on the right) and



Maureen Orsini (not pictured), Nancy did what more and more people around the country are doing—find an event and raise money for the Friends4Michael Foundation!

While they trained throughout the summer, they also sent notes to family and friends announcing their intention to compete and support the Foundation. As race day neared and nervousness (dread?)

set in, the checks started to flood their mailboxes.

The Foundation provided custom uniforms for the team in the Friends4Michael signature orange with the F4M logo on the back. On race day, the team was faced with unseasonably cold weather including a reported water temperature of only 64 degrees!

Motivated by their teammates and race day supporters (husbands!) and undoubtedly accompanied by Michael the entire way, they not only conquered the 1.5K swim, 40K bike, and 10K run of the Chicago Triathlon but also raised nearly \$6,000 for the Foundation. Nancy raised over \$4,000 herself!

This great team of supporters/athletes is an example of other similar efforts by friends of the Foundation. Jay Schofield ran the NYC Marathon. Ken Harris is competing in bike races in the Northeast with a F4M race uniform. Cadets from the US Military Academy Prep School are running a half and a full marathon this spring (check our next newsletter for more!) and Todd Morrow is holding a golf tournament in El Paso this fall.

What can you do? Do what Nancy did. Tell your friends you are competing for Michael and other children and you need their support. We will send you a uniform or a shirt if you want. I can assure you that Michael will be there with you the whole way.

The Annual Michael J. Kwinn, III Memorial Golf Tournament!!

Two years ago Michael's sister Cheryl correctly pointed out that technically we could not call it an "annual" tournament the first year we held the event. Michael's father, who has rarely been technically correct about anything, called it the 1st Annual Michael J. Kwinn, III Memorial Golf Tournament. At least now, he is more correct!

This past July 20th, we held the 2nd Annual Michael J. Kwinn, III Memorial Golf tournament under beautiful clear skies and with

about 50 friends.

We raised nearly \$10,000 and we all had an amazing time playing golf, sharing great times with friends and remembering Michael.

We will make it a tradition this year on



July 25th when we hold the 3rd Annual Michael J. Kwinn, III Memorial Golf tournament again at Mansion Ridge near Michael's home in Monroe, NY. Check the Friends4Michael website for more information, but please be there or be a sponsor. After all, it is a tradition now!

The Foundation continues to support organizations that helped Michael. Two of these are the Make-a-Wish Foundation of the Hudson Valley and the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Pediatric Cancer Center.

This past October, near what would have been Michael's 19th birthday, F4M President Mike Kwinn and Board Member John Edelen presented a check for \$10,000 to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Pediatric Cancer Center. The donation will be used to supply the Teen Center with DVDs, computer and video equipment, books and games. The picture shows Mike and John giving the check to

Michael's doctor, Dr. Yasmin Khakoo. On the left is Jill Ackerman, the Administrator for the Pediatric Cancer Center and on the right is Jennifer Anenberg, the Teen Center director.



Make-a-Wish and

In the back ground of the photo you can see part of what the center offers because of our assistance. When Michael was being treated there, this Teen Center did not exist and Michael always said that he would have liked to have more stuff for teenagers. We continue to make this wish happen.

And speaking of wishes, we again provided donations to support a couple of wishes for children with brain tumors in our area through the Hudson Valley chapter of the Make-a-Wish Foundation. With your help, we can continue to work with these great organizations to help children undergoing treatment for brain tumors.

Michael's Race!!

In 2002, Michael wanted to collect donations and make a presentation because he "always wanted to hand out one of those big checks!" His dad found a race in Washington, DC that fit into his treatment schedule. That race was the Cassidy & Pinkard 5k run/walk in support of the Brain Tumor Society. Michael brought his dad to join his "team" and handed out a check for \$15,000 to the surprised race organizers. The next year, Michael had over 100 team members and handed out another "big check" for over \$50,000 which blew the organizers away. That year, they honored Michael as the honorary chairperson for the race. Since that time, we have called this Michael's race. No one tells us not to because they know the impact he has had on the race. We have had over 100 team members and donated at least \$15,000 each year since—a total of nearly \$150,000 overall. Please help us by donating at <http://www.braintumorsociety.org/goto/friends4michael> or by joining the Friends4Michael team. Be part of this great effort that is the genesis of our foundation.



Our Biggest Fundraiser—the Marine Corps Marathon!

Mick Schaller, a foundation Board Member along with his wife Kira, does not have time for the Marine Corps Marathon or most anything else for that matter. He is one of the busiest people you could ever meet. That said, everyone that knows him would agree that he would forego eating and sleeping just to make enough time to run the Marine Corps Marathon for the Friends4Michael Foundation.

Not that Mick runs it fast. Though he could finish up and get to another home project, work on his dissertation, take care of his kids, etc, he is always at the back of the pack. Don't for a second think that Mick cannot run a marathon fast though. He has run some pretty good times at the MCM in the past, but he does not see that as his job. His job is to get everyone on the Friends4Michael team to

finish. Mick is very good at his job.

In 2005, the first year the Friends4Michael Foundation was a charitable partner with the MCM and fielded a team, Mick pushed, coaxed



and prodded Foundation President Mike Kwinn to his only marathon finish line. The next year, it was Jen and this past year it was the "St.

Louis ladies". Whether it is through training support, marathon preparation advice, or just plain motivation on the course, Mick does not let anyone down. In the three years Mick has been our organizer for the F4M team, only one of the nearly 150 runners supporting the F4M team has not received a finishers' medal.

Have you ever wanted to run a marathon? For many, this is a once-in-a-lifetime thing. Part of your lifetime "things to do" list. Mick can get you through this. You can do it. Brigitte, Michael's mother, has done three of them supporting her son's foundation. Run with her. Run with Mick. Just run.

Do you know someone who runs marathons? Let them know about the Friends4Michael Running team. Mick will make sure they achieve the goal of a lifetime!

The Friends4Michael Foundation

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www.Friends4Michael.org

The mission of the Friends4Michael Foundation is to support children like Michael and their families, to keep alive the memory of Michael and his spirit, to increase awareness of the devastating effects of brain tumors on afflicted children and their families, and to continue to "Fight for a Cure" for this horrible disease.