Sam's Friends For

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 20, 2008 Sam's 6th Birthday

CureSearch.org

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Childhood Cancer Facts

- Cancer is the #1 cause of death by disease in children in the United States
- 1 out of 5 children diagnosed with cancer dies
- Every school day, 46 children, or two classrooms of students, are diagnose with cancer
- Research cures cancer

WHERE YOU AND SAM HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST YEAR

When the idea of using our delivery truck to help support CureSearch came to mind, we could not believe the response we received from our network of friends and family. But we should have known better, because we know your hearts. The support from you has been amazing to say the least. Representatives from CureSearch continue to stand in awe', as needs arise there you are stepping up to the plate.

We don't travel hundreds of thousands of miles per year, (more like 20,000 per year), but be assured that as travelers pass by, they look and take note of the cause and your support to the cause. Some look and smile, some passengers have even ridden beside long enough to write down information displayed on the truck.

In the past year you and Sam have traveled from Greenwood, SC in the South to Roa-



I-485 Ramp Off I-77 South Charlotte, North Carolina

noke, VA in the North, and Marion, NC in the West to Elizabeth City, NC in the East. You have hauled items unable to be shipped overseas from Samaritans Purse to a local ministry that reaches out to the homeless and people with special needs. You have fed & clothed the homeless in downtown Charlotte on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve. You participated, along with over 40,000 spectators in the St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Charlotte, NC.

We are on course to conquer childhood cancer and your continued support will help to guarantee that we reach that day.



The CureSearch Walk for Childhood Cancer

IF YOU CAN WALK, YOU CAN HELP CURE CHILDHOOD CANCER.

The first ever CureSearch walk for childhood cancer will be held at Freedom Park in Charlotte, NC on Saturday November 15, 2008. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend this event.

Registration is at 9:00am and the day will include activities for the whole family. For more information visit www.curesearch.org/events to register a team or join the "Sam the Man" team. If you are unable to attend, you can participate as a virtual walker and help fund the cure.

Also for more information contact Sharon Sullivan at B9sllv@aol.com or Kim Green at KimGreene2@yahoo.com.

SECOND ANNUAL SAM KEZIAH MEMORIAL SHOOT FOR CURESEARCH

Where even to begin with the success of this event?

Organized by Curtis Meggs, a long time friend of our family, it would be hard to top last year's shoot that raised \$33,000.25 for Cure-Search. But when you show up for a good cause with great friends and big hearts mixed with just a little testosterone as Curtis would say "it's gonna be a good day even if we only raise five dollars". This years total is \$44,044.25 and still counting. Unbelievable!



Curtis Giving Instructions On The Day s Events

Friends drove from Florida, Virginia, Alabama, Ohio, South Carolina, Maryland, and probably from other states we aren't even aware of. Phone in bids on auction items were made from as far as South Dakota to support this event. If you were in the Charlotte metro area it would be hard not to know something was going on. Thanks to the generosity of Adams Outdoor Advertising of

Charlotte, news of the shoot was displayed on billboards all over the highways and interstates in North and South Carolina. Still today there are over 55 CureSearch billboards in NC, SC, and MA. We can't thank Adams enough for their comittment.



Mobile Billboard By Adams Outdoor Advertising of Charlotte



The gun to the left was raffled off by selling half of a playing card. Cards were torn in half and the purchaser kept half and the other half was put into a hat for a 1 in 52 chance to win the gun. The drawing was held and the gentleman that won the gun donated in back to the auctioneer and said "sell it". It was sold at auction for \$1,100.00. The person who bought it donated it back and said, "sell it again". The gun was raffled once and auctioned three times to raise a grand total of **\$3,770.00** for one gun.

Our daughter, Ashlyn, and her horse riding instructor, Brittany Hodge, wanted to do something to help raise money for CureSearch. They came up with the idea to make a gift certificate for a horse ride on Ashlyn's horse, Dolly. Remember us talking about Friends with big hearts? That one hour horse ride brought in **\$1,100.00** at the auction! To try to describe the atmosphere while the auction is happening is impossible.





Tee-shirts commemorating the event sold out quickly.



Karen Pierce from CureSearch on the left and Mary Payne on the right explain the importance of research to reach the day of a 100% cure rate of childhood cancer.



Old Glory flew steady all day.

REACH THE DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

In Washington, DC, and at sites across the country, thousands of people within the vibrant and growing childhood cancer community participated in the CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation advocacy event, "Reach the Day: Conquer Childhood Cancer."

From June 22 – 24th, 350 parents, survivors, nurses, clinicians, physicians and other activists descended on Capitol Hill and met with hundreds of political leaders. to urge final passage of the "Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer **Childhood Cancer** Act" in the Senate. on the heels of the House of Representatives' resounding 416-0 vote in favor on June 12th.



Charlotte asked Sam for a sign that he was with us while we were in Washington. He answered with a double rainbow... and it wasn't raining

*Text from Cure-Search Website

TEAM WILL RIDE TO REACH THE DAY

Team Will is a group of cyclists from Sacramento, CA that rides bicycles to raise public awareness and educate the public on childhood cancer. You may say, " cool riding in the state of California to raise awareness", but what about cross country? Sixteen riders rode from Sacramento, CA to Annapolis, MD. They rode over 3200 miles in 8 hour shifts in less than ten days. They visited children's hospitals, did newspaper and television interviews, and talked to strangers along the route to urge all they came in contact with to get involved. As they visited with the children, all were able to sign their jerseys to carry that child with them in spirit all the way to Washington to let their voices be heard even though they could not be there. For a complete time line and video visit www.team-will.org to see this journey across the USA.



TEAM WILL RIDER KEN SCARBERRY

I was riding down the road one day and got a call. The voice on the other end said " hi Sammy, I'm Ken Scarberry with Team Will and I'm riding for Sam". I hit it the brakes... roadside shoulder now... I don't want to drop this call. Ken had been told about Sam and his battle with cancer. Each team member had a person that they rode for to remind them of the mission and it's importance. Ken was in Utah at the time headed East telling Sam's story with all he came in contact with. Arriving in Washington and meeting someone from the West Coast with a picture of Sam clipped to his jersey, and knowing the journey that he had made to be there was on of the most humbling experiences ever.

*Note the picture of Sam on Ken's tag in the photo to the right.



PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS BILL

July 17, 2008 (Bethesda, MD) – CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation salutes the United States Senate for its passage of the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which promises to significantly increase federal investment into childhood cancer research.

The bill authorizes \$30 million annually over five years, providing funding for collaborative pediatric cancer clinical trials research, to create a population-based national childhood cancer database, and to further improve public awareness and communication regarding available treatment and research for children with cancer and their families.

* Text from CureSearch website



On July 29, 2008 President George W. Bush signs HR bill 1553 into law. Just be reminded; that is not a 150 million dollar check he is signing. The funds have just been allocated. It is up to us, to you, to fight to be sure that the children receive this money.

*Note Remember Mary Payne from the shoot? Far right in the yellow blazer.



Christmas Eve 2007 Charlotte, NC





Mark Bartlett prepares to lift off with another load of passengers at the Sam Keziah Memorial Shoot.



Adams Outdoor Advertising Is Committed To CureSearch And The Mission To Cure Childhood Cancer



St. Patrick's Day Parade 2008 Charlotte, NC