Families Have Not Forgotten

Jordan and Amy Towrownick were able to help the organization by donating $300 to help fund the 14th annual Family Fun Day, which was held in June! Jordan says that she wanted to support the organization because she had a family member treated at the making headway office so that we can help more young adults feel connected to a support system that can help them through critical issues such as getting through college, finding a job, maintaining a medication schedule, maintaining a social life, and avoiding strange foods. They are proud to see the organization grow and increase in awareness.

Families Fun Day

Mary and Ed Morley hosted their 14th annual Family Fun Day on June 19th. Each year, while their children suffer, they struggle and thrive from one fate to another. They need to be able to celebrate and laugh because everyone will always be the best support system that they have. This year, they were able to throw a fantastic event with their friends and family. It was a beautiful day to see so many families come together and have fun.

Two Lovely Young Women Support Group

By Dr. Jeffrey Allen

Tulip gives birth to a party attended almost exclusively by women who have been diagnosed with cancer. The event is a celebration of the strength and courage that women have shown in their fight against cancer. It is a way to come together and support each other through the challenges of the disease.

Our TwentySomething Support Group

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of collaborating with a person having trusting and insightful views—i.e., a neuro-oncologist who has knowledge of the medical aspects of neuro-oncol-
ogy. We combined our views, at a distance and eventually as patri-
tory and remained close friends, as we shared many mutual patients when I was an attending at Memorial Sloan Kettering Can-
cer Center and Fred was at NYU. Then later when I joined him at NYU in 1996. Our Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Program evolved rapidly during a period of dramatic technical and scientific development to comprise a large multi-disciplinary effort which included diverse medical subspecialties such as neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, neuroanatomy, neuropathology, intensive care, specialized nursing, rehabilitation, child life, neurophysiology, endocrin-
ology, and social services. For a period of over 10 years at NYU, we managed approximately 10% of all children’s neurosurgical cases. We shared care of pediatric tumor patients in the US. Fred was invited regularly on Nightline and 20/20 and highlighted in Barbara Walters’ year-end shows.

Fred soon realized that traditional hospital-based medical programs often failed to provide essential humanity and support to the families that enabled the child to emotionally and physically re integrate with his or her family, school and peer groups. With the raising of over $50 million from individual and corporate funders and with strong endorsements from the political leadership at the federal level, we were able to circumvent many handicaps with his intelligence and exceptional interpersonal skills and sensitivities. He channeled his boundless energies at work. Ketyl, his devoted wife, tells us that because of his ADHSD, he was able to circumvent difficult problems and he tenaciously held to his vision and goals. I think he also learned much about competition and achievement through his love of sports. He was astute in recruiting medical professionals who supplemented his strengths of knowl-
dedge and with whom he could work effectively and productively. In 1994, he, the success of the program both in the OR and on the hospital floors was profoundly enhanced. He loved fast cars, boats and bikes and even after his devastating bike accident and phenomenal rehabilitation, he secretly ordered an adult tricycle which he used in his driveway. What is Fred’s legacy? Let the thousands of patients he treated tell you. He imparted incredible compassion and optimism which he now manifests in his own personal illness. If you ever mention his name in any public place in New York City, nearly every encounter will acknowledge some debt of gratitude or positive association as he personally or indirectly touched so many lives. Let the staff tell you what a pleasure and honor it was to work for him. Let his students tell you what a unique education and preparation they would never have had if it were not for Fred’s vision of the INN.

Continued from page 4

Fred was just such a person. He had a unique, down to earth, welcoming personality and frequently took advantage of media opportunities to promote the program. Patients and their families loved and respected him and treated him with respect as they were treated like they were kept up by letter and phone. A little known fact is that he frequently helped numerous patients without neuro-oncology ties. If he was asked to reserve an MRI of a patient with no insurance who did not personally require his services, he would make every effort to find a physician with an appropriate expertise. Fred had him some limitations, but like many persons who have enjoyed out-
standing achievements, he was able to use many of those in a positive way. Although he had ADHD, accomplished by significant learning difficulties, he was able to circumvent many handicaps with his intelligence and exceptional interpersonal skills and sensitivities. He channeled his boundless energies at work. Ketyl, his devoted wife, tells us that because of his ADHD, he was able to circumvent difficulties and he tenaciously held to his vision and goals. I think he also learned much about competition and achievement through his love of sports. He was astute in recruiting medical professionals who supplemented his strengths of knowledge and with whom he could work effectively and productively. In 1994, he, the success of the program both in the OR and on the hospital floors was profoundly enhanced. He loved fast cars, boats and bikes and even after his devastating bike accident and phenomenal rehabilitation, he secretly ordered an adult tricycle which he used in his driveway. What is Fred’s legacy? Let the thousands of patients he treated tell you. He imparted incredible compassion and optimism which he now manifests in his own personal illness. If you ever mention his name in any public place in New York City, nearly every encounter will acknowledge some debt of gratitude or positive association as he personally or indirectly touched so many lives. Let the staff tell you what a pleasure and honor it was to work for him. Let his students tell you what a unique education and preparation they would never have had if it were not for Fred’s vision of the INN.