


Michelle  Neill
 FOUNDATION
 www.monfoundation.org



Volleyball XIV

SATURDAY, 9/11/10*

9 AM TO SUNSET

GRAND AVENUE BEACH, LONG BEACH

*RAIN DATE 9/12/10



Schedule of Events

9AM Check in Begins

10AM Tournament Begins

12:30PM Food Service Begins

Throughout the Day

Raffles & 50/50 Sales

Prize Announcements

DJ, Kids Tent, Smiley-Wear

Best Team Name Winner

Sunset

Awards Presentation to

1st Place Competitive Teams

A Letter from Carol O'Neill, President



The Michelle O'Neill Foundation's volleyball fundraiser appears to have a special magical formula — start with a beautiful beach, add a couple of thousand generous and caring people, and the results are a successful and memorable charity event. People love the tournament for many reasons -- it's the last shot at summer -- a reunion of friends and family -- it's a feel good day! Some groups set up their own tents; others wear eye-catching whimsical team shirts. However, one thing remains constant: everyone gathers to help the children who need help and to let them know we care!

Volleyball XIII held on September 13, 2009 allowed us, with your help, to assist the families of Sue, Danny, Nathaniel, Elijah, Philip, Annie, James, Ryan, Antonella and Courtney over the past year. Distributions were also made to oncology organizations such as Make-A-Wish Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, Big Sky Kids Camp, St. Jude's Research Hospital, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, American Cancer Society, Voices Against Brain Cancer, among many others. Some of the other non-profits aimed at helping children that received our help were the Frances Pope Foundation, Making Headway, Young Life, Jeanine Waterman Foundation, SNACK, LB Christmas Angels, Moustaches for Kids and the Honeysuckle Foundation.

Despite having to utilize our rain date and being swarmed by flying ants late in the afternoon, Volleyball XIII was still our "best event ever," generating donations of well over \$100,000. A total of 276 teams took part, with an estimated 1,700 players at 50 nets spanning the beach from New York Avenue to Lindell Boulevard, making it the largest single-event volleyball tournament on the East Coast. The addition of a six-person competitive division this year helped the playoff rounds move faster and more efficiently.

The four-person competitive winner was Team Irie, and Jadam Kerroner took second place. The six-person competitive team winner was Blumpy, and the runner-up was Where's Duff. Although the decision for best team name was difficult with so many to choose from, Guns & Hoses took the prize.

The Long Beach Kiwanis Club introduced the idea of having an information table on the boardwalk to inform passers-by about the event. Deacon Tom Evrard, a Long Beach resident and a member of St. Ignatius Martyr Parish in Long Beach, opened the competition

with a blessing, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "God Bless America." The spectacular sight of 150 American flags waving along the boardwalk was the result of Long Beach's Jimmy Tolfree's efforts, and Jimmy Lorenzo and EJ Weston of DJ Productions again provided music throughout the day. Scott McGurdy and his cheerful staff from the Outback Steakhouse grilled hamburgers and chicken sandwiches for our participants, while our Hot Dog stand was manned by an enthusiastic group of volunteers who sold the "dogs" for the benefit of Philip and James. A visit from Lucas, Alyssa and Victoria, three of the children whom the foundation has been able to help over the years, was the highlight of my day.

As the teams competed, a raffle of impressive prizes, including stays in Puerto Rico, Disney and several Manhattan hotels, was held. Children were entertained with face painting and tattoos under the Kids' Tent, while other children collected and sorted recyclables for the Cans for Cancer project under the supervision of PJ DeRosa, Nancy Moran and Maureen Llewellyn, the results of which brought in a donation \$150 (that's 3,000 cans!!!). Teenagers from Young Life not only worked to keep the beaches clean, but also demonstrated what Young Life represents-caring about children's joys, triumphs, heartaches and setbacks.

As always, our gratitude goes out to the young men and women who embody our "Committee," Michelle's dear friends and family, for working very hard for months before the event day in their individual roles and as teams and still managed to wear big beautiful smiles which have become our signature logo at the Foundation. The smiles that represent Michelle and the hope, courage and strength that our special "kids" exhibit, and that we can look to emulate when life seems too difficult or overwhelming.

I invite you to join us on Saturday, September 11th at our 14th annual volleyball charity event when we will continue to celebrate life, raise donations for our special children and help **remember** Michelle, as well as those lost on 9/11/01.



Team Irie



Blumpy



**Matt Campo &
Rick O'Neill**

The House that Love Built . . .

On February 23, 2009, Carol O'Neill and her son, Rick were invited to visit the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island to view a plaque dedicated to Michelle and the Foundation. Matthew Campo, Director of Development & Communications, was a most gracious tour guide and a perfect representative of what the Ronald McDonald House stands for – love, comfort, and encouragement! The House is a home-away-from-home for families of seriously ill children undergoing critical medical treatment in area hospitals. A two-minute walk from Schneider Children's Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House of LI provides a comfortable and supportive environment, helping families through their most difficult time. The Ronald McDonald House holds a very special place in the hearts of the O'Neills' as it was their home away from home on many occasions during Michelle's treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan.

Miracles

A Thanksgiving Liturgy was held on November 24th at St. Ignatius Church and Carol O'Neill and Caryl Ann Niven were invited by the third graders of Long Beach Catholic Regional School to represent the Michelle O'Neill Foundation as one of the many local organizations that were honored at the liturgy for helping those in need. The third graders, under the supervision of Miss Carey and Mrs. Canner, escorted representatives from various organizations, and the procession included family members from some of the school families as well as representatives from organizations throughout the community.



Artist: Elizabeth Rooney, 3rd Grade
LBCRS



Santa Claus - For He's a Jolly Good Fellow

Two Hundred Thirty red-robed Santa's assisted by their fur-trimmed elves made an early visit to the West End of Long Beach

on Saturday, December 12th for the 7th Annual Drew Eidel Santa Claus Pub Crawl. A total of \$6,140 was raised, making a grand total of over \$20,000 donated to The Michelle O'Neill Foundation since the inception of the "crawl." Bill Holtmeyer coordinates the event with Frank Schiele, Kenny Leahy and Janice Phillips, with Ed Phillips and Cindy Duso offering their help as well. The owners of the Inn and Saloon—Eamon Donahoe, Pete Jacataut, JP Kavanaugh & Kenny Jacataut -- have made generous contributions over the past few years and continue to help the Foundation carry out its mission to help children with cancer and special needs.

This charity event is held in the memory of Drew Eidel who passed away from brain cancer in December 2003 at the age of 40. Drew, a long term resident of Long Beach, served his country in the Marines and was a registered nurse at North Shore Hospital.



We at the Foundation continue to honor the memories of Drew and Michelle and are grateful to all those donors who join us in wanting to carry on their memories by helping children who need help!

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The Long Beach Herald named Carol O'Neill "Person of the Year '09" for the work she has done enriching the lives of children with cancer and her dedication to other volunteer work, such as with the Waterfront Warriors.

Kids Korner



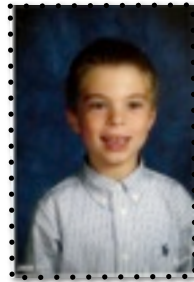
Lucas Goldbaum

Lucas is a “14 year old outgoing, fun-loving boy from Sleepy Hollow that has been valiantly fighting for his life since diagnosed last year with a brain tumor,” said W. B. King, journalist, in a March 2010 article. When Lucas first learned of his condition in 2008 after initial symptoms of double vision, Lucas wrote: “My story is pretty simple; one day I didn’t have a brain tumor, and the next day I discovered I did. It seemed to have come from nowhere. Now I’ve got to battle this thing in my head and am very lucky to have an unbelievable family and extended family of friends fighting at my side.”

I met Lucas, and his Mom, Kathleen O’Connell, a 20 year veteran of CBS News and Senior Story Editor of “48 Hours” last year at our volleyball tournament when they came to say thank you and to cheer cousin Erik O’Connell who had organized Team Lucas. “Lucas is the happiest, most positive warrior there is,” said Erik. “We are going to fight and fight,” said his Mom, and we at the Michelle O’Neill Foundation join Lucas and his family in prayer to win his battle.



Team Lucas



Philip Califano

Philip, age 7, was diagnosed with an inoperable brain stem glioma. His symptoms were headaches, dizziness and “stumbling.” After consulting with an ophthalmologist, and subsequently with a neurosurgeon, the diagnosis of an inoperable brain stem tumor was reached. He is currently being treated at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

A cry to help Philip went out to our community in July 2009, and the Michelle O’Neill Foundation answered. With your help, the Foundation assisted Philip’s family by making distributions in July and September 2009 to help relieve some of the financial burdens associated with caring for a child with cancer.

Philip’s aunt, Anna D’Amaro reported recently that Philip is doing great, even though his knees hurt a little and that he had to have surgery for removal of his appendix. He loves hunting, fishing, and playing Wii with his best friend and cousin, Pia. We are grateful to be in a position to help Philip and let him know that there are many people who care and wish him well on his journey to recovery.



Jackie Letcher

Our Big Sky Camper 2009

Every year since its inception in 1997, the Michelle O’Neill Foundation has sponsored a child and parent/guardian to attend an adventure camp for children with cancer in Bozeman, MT, and in July 2009, 15 year old Jackie Letcher (14 at camp time), and her Mom, Terri, Pennsylvania residents, attended Big Sky Kids Camp in Southwestern Montana.

Jackie is being treated at Lehigh University for osteosarcoma, a malignant bone tumor. Like most teenagers, she loves shopping, laughing, and hanging out with her friends. I suspect Jackie made many new friends at Big Sky Kids camp and will cherish her camping experience memories out West.

Big Sky Kids camp provides therapeutic recreation to young cancer patients against the backdrop of the magnificent Rocky Mountains. Amazing experiences such as white water rafting, horseback riding, drinking cowboy coffee, sleeping under the stars and visiting Yellowstone National Park are provided in a positive environment where wellness is the focus instead of illness; strengths rather than limitations. Both the campers and parents receive emotional support, a sense of normalcy and a network of friends with similar experiences. For more information about Big Sky and other Eagle Mount services, please visit www.eaglemount.org.

