

# Pediatric Quality of Life Program Newsletter

Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center

Summer 2011

## *Duke Children's Pediatric Service of Remembrance*

The Duke Children's Pediatric Service of Remembrance was held on June 4, 2011 in the Goodson Chapel of the Duke University Divinity School. This interfaith memorial service celebrates the lives of individuals who have been touched by cancer and is filled with prayers, candle lighting, and the message of hope.

The Pediatric Service of Remembrance was coordinated by the Duke Pediatric Palliative Care Program and the End of Life and Bereavement Committee, which is co-chaired by Ruth Fitzgerald, RN and Marion Kalbacker, LCSW. Over 90 individuals including family members, chaplains, physicians, nurses, social workers, and child life specialists, attended the ceremony.

Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief of the Duke Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Program, served as the physician speaker and delivered an uplifting message to the bereaved families. Greg and Tracie Zukowski (see photo below) shared words of encouragement for grieving families in honor of their son, Matthew, who was diagnosed with adenylosuccinate lyase deficiency--a rare metabolic disorder. Matthew lived for 11 months, and his family has started a Foundation "The Miracle of Matthew" to help find a cure for this and other metabolic disorders and to provide support for other grieving families.

*Please visit [dukechildrens.org](http://dukechildrens.org) for further information about the Duke Children's Pediatric Quality of Life Program.*

## *Spotlight*



**Courtney Allison, RN**

"I thought I wanted to go into the fashion industry and travel the world. But one day, in the middle of my marketing class in high school, the light went on. . .from out of nowhere!"

I realized then that I wanted to be a nurse--a pediatric oncology nurse. From that day forward, I traded my dreams of fancy clothes and Manolo Blahniks for scrubs and Danskos! I have worked on Unit 5100 for nine years now as a pediatric oncology/hematology nurse. I cannot imagine my world without my bald kiddos. We, as nurses on 5100, give support and exceptional care. We have happy times and sad times, but we always put our families first. If we can make any part of our kids and their families' journeys through the hardest time of their lives less difficult, then we have done our job. It's the quality of the time spent that matters most!"



## PQoL Poetry from "A Nurse's Heart"

*Every day is a gift given from above,  
But not everyone knows of a parent's love.*

*Children are amazing--we watch and learn,  
They are wiser than we,  
Bright their spirits burn.*

*But what do we do when their light is threatened to be  
snuffed out?  
Do we give up, cry, and have hearts full of doubt?*

*We must trust in a higher power,  
For we never know the day or the hour.  
Believe in your doctors and nurses,  
Let go of your anger, despair, fear, and curses.*

*We consider your children as ours,  
For we love them too.  
And we gently try to guide you in what you hope to do.*

*We are here for your comfort, a hug and a smile,  
Sometimes for a short time,  
Sometimes for awhile.*

*Some things end in ways we don't understand,  
But lean on your nurse who has kind helping hands.  
Life is a full circle of birth and death,  
Amazed by the first and saddened by the last breath.*

*This is a journey we take as parents and nurses in this field,  
But use sweet memories and love as your shield.*

*Remember your blessings,  
Count them every day.  
And always keep the spirit alive of the children who  
couldn't stay.*

*-By Courtney Allison, RN, Peds 5100*



### Save the Dates!

The Pediatric Pain and Palliative Care Curriculum: A Comprehensive Approach to Childhood Suffering

**When:** Every second and fourth Wednesday beginning August 10, 2011 through June 13, 2012 (some changes apply to holiday weeks)

**Where:** Duke North Lecture Hall, Room 2001

**Time:** 4:00pm to 5:00pm

*Duke CME and CEU credits will be provided. This program is FREE! For more information, please call: 919.970.HELP (4357)*

### PQoL Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Meetings

- **PBMT QoL Meeting:** Tuesdays, 12:30pm to 1:30pm
- **Peds 5100 QoL Meeting:** Every second and fourth Wednesday, 1:00pm to 2:00pm, Nursing Workroom
- **Peds 5300 QoL Meeting:** Every first and third Wednesday, 1:00pm to 2:00pm, Nursing Workroom