# THE MYA LIN TERRY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



Summer 2014 Vol. 1 Issue 3

# **Great things are happening!**

# Mya's Warrior Jam held on April 12th

The vision of Holden Glazer and his bandmates was to create an environment where kids help other kids fighting cancer. Having followed Mya's battle for over five and a half years, a lifelong connection was made. Holden created this night to carry-on Mya's legacy and make a difference in his lifetime, so perhaps one day families will never again hear the words "your child has cancer". Not only did he achieve his vision, in our opinion, he far exceeded it. The night hosted over seven hundred attendees, and raised over \$20,000.00 for The Mya Lin Terry Foundation. Huge Huge Shout Outs to Holden, The Entire Glazer Family, Strong Soul, Deal Casino, GNGR, This New Day and Keith Egan for a creating a night full of hope and love. Can Not Wait For Next Year!

# First MLTF Research Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00

On May 7th, TMLTF awarded its first ever Research Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to St Jude Children's Research Hospital, for the efforts of Dr. Wing Leung, dedicated to his current projects: U.S. patent for genetically modified human immune cells for cancer therapy; Protocol INFT2: HLA - Nonidentical Stem Cell and Natural Killer Cell Transplantation for Children Less than 2 Years of Age with Hematologic Malignancies; Protocol NKEXP: Pilot Study of Expanded, Activated Haploidentical Natural Killer Cell Infusions for Non-B Lineage Hematologic Malignancies and Solid Tumors; and Improving bone marrow transplant survival rates for high-risk leukemia. We are eternally grateful to The St Jude Children's Hospital, Dr. Leung and his entire team, the clinical support staff and ICU team, who tried desperately to save Mya, and who gifted us with an additional two years of life, having been sent home on hospice prior to our arrival at their doors. I hope the efforts of our Foundation continue to grow, succeed, and enable continued and future gifts in her honor.

Budded on Earth,
To Bloom in Heaven

The Mya Lin Terry
Foundation is a
charitable, non-profit
organization created
to honor Mya's
memory and to
continue the legacy of
this amazing little girl.

# One Warrior's Story - Bella age 3

Meet our newest Warrior - Isabella Ward. Bella began her battle with leukemia on December 7, 2013 when her parents Harry and Lisa rushed her to Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank, NJ for a 103.5° fever. After running blood work and x-rays, Riverview immediately transported her to Robert Wood Johnson Children's Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ. More tests were taken and Bella's blood levels were abnormal, pointing towards leukemia. Following a bone marrow biopsy, she was diagnosed with APML - Acute Promyelocytic Myelogenous Leukemia, a very rare subtype of AML - cancer of the white blood cells. Because her condition was so critical, Bella remained in the PICU for 2 weeks. Doctors began round one of very intense chemo medicines. During chemo, she suffered from high fevers and blood clots. She finished the first round in the hemoc floor and after a 41 day stay in RWJ, she was able to go home. Bella's mom Lisa was sent home with many responsibilities



and medications because Bella had an NG tube for feeding and meds as well as a picc-line to administer further chemo. It was as if Lisa had to become a nurse overnight. Round two of chemo was on a daily basis at CINJ, Rutgers Cancer Institute and Bella looked wonderful regardless of her intense treatment. She made many friends and she is now part of a sorority, Sigma Kappa at Rutgers University when they adopted her as their RU4KID program. Meanwhile the family held a bone marrow donor drive in case she needed a transplant. During her third round of chemo, she had a spinal tap and bone marrow biopsy. The results indicated the Bella was in complete remission!! She still had a few trips to the hospital for high fevers but blood cultures came back negative and she continued her therapy. Bella will compete round three followed by maintenance mode which entails 9 rounds - each 85 days long - using an oral anti-cancer chemotherapy drug. It's a long road but she remains cancer free. She will even have the chance to meet her true love, JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE, sometime this summer thanks to Make-A-Wish Foundation. You can follow Bella's journey at www.facebook.com/IsabellaWardFIGHT. She is a true Warrior!



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Mya Lin Terry & Hannah Mains

## **TMLTF EVENTS**

#### July 12, 2014

Frances Foundation Softball Tournament. Every team plays in the name and honor of a child with cancer being assisted by the Frances Foundation. This is Team Mya's fifth year competing, taking home the Championship three times!

#### **August 2, 2014**

Warrior Dash to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital held in Morristown, NJ. Check it out at http://warriordash.com/location/2014-warrior-dash-new-jersey/ Contact Mike Terry at mterry1216@gmail.com to become a Mya Warrior and Dash for St. Jude.

#### September 7, 2014

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mya's Run for Gold 5k and 1 mile Fun Run at Palaia Park in Ocean Township, NJ. To register online go to **www.jsrc.org** and click the Upcoming Events page. Registration begins 8:30 am with Fun Run beginning at 9:30 am and 5k starting at 10:00 am.

# Foundation is always collecting:

- new or gently used DVDs to be donated to local hospitals
- aluminum can tabs to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House

Pay it forward!



A few of the bands performing at Mya's Warrior Jam in Asbury Park

#### **Pediatric Cancer Facts**

- ♦ About one in 500 young adults is a childhood cancer survivor. Nearly 2/3 of the survivors later experience significant and chronic medical problems or develop secondary cancers as adults that result from the treatment of their original cancer.
  - ~ Source: UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital
- ♦ Incidence of invasive pediatric cancers is up 29% in the past 20 years.
  - ~ Source: National Cancer Institute

### **New Junior Board Members**

Our Foundation thrives with Junior Board Members, kids helping kids. We recently welcomed Jilian Roebuck into our efforts and are now equally pleased that Kathy DeBoe, a Pediatric Cancer Warrior and distant family member of Mya's, has also joined the Junior Board - expanding TMLTF's presence into Georgia.

#### Meet Kathy -

Kathy DeBoe,14, from Saint Mary's, Georgia, was born in Bitburg, Germany on December 4, 1999. At birth she was diagnosed with Downs Syndrome. Kathy has an older brother and sister so she is spoiled as the baby of the family. She has lived in Washington DC, Valdosta, Georgia, and now resides in Saint Mary's, Georgia. In December 2006 she was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and received her treatment through Wolfsons Children's Hospital in Jacksonville Florida. After about four months of intensive chemotherapy she moved into the remission stage and will receive her maintenance doses until March 2019. She has had monthly blood work and all has been positive since. She will continue this until age 20 and then she will be declared "cured". We pray, hope and wish for this day. Kathy was promoted to the eighth grade at Camden County Middle School, which will start this fall. She just attended her Sweetheart's Prom with her father as her date.

# 1st Scholarship Opportunity for Academic Year 2014-2015

Stay Tuned for the First Mya Kicks It Scholarship, which will open eligibility in the academic year of 2014-2015, to all Ocean Township Community members, in good academic standing with a June 2015 graduation pending. Eligibility will include demonstration of a strong background in community service/paying it forward/giving back - honoring how Mya chose to live her life.

## **Junior Advisory Board Shout Outs**

Congratulations to Alex Pickett and McKayla Conti for receiving their Driving License.

Hats Off to graduate Gabriella Hagerman - OTHS Class of 2014.

Shout out to Alex Pickett on her commitment to attend East Stroudsburg University.

Happy Birthday Kenny Pickett!

Well done Connor Daly for being the founder and President of the new OTHS Volleyball Club starting in September 2014.

The Mya Lin Terry Foundation

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