

Mary Jo Brown Foundation Quarterly Newsletter



July 2013 Edition

www.maryjobrown.org

Warm Reflections

As we celebrate the 4th of July, one of Mary Jo's favorite holidays, it seems like a perfect time to reflect on how the Mary Jo Brown Foundation has celebrated Mary Jo's memory. The Foundation was started just a little more than a year ago to pay tribute to someone who was always there for others. Her kindness is legendary, her smile unforgettable, and the love she spread to so many is her legacy. Mary Jo's family and friends established a Foundation in her name to continue spreading smiles through acts of kindness, a phrase that has become part of our mission statement.

What a wonderful year it has been! Through donations of time and treasure from Mary Jo's family, friends and colleagues, we have made a world of difference in so many lives.



First and foremost, the Child Life Services Program at Tufts Floating Hospital for Children was the recipient of more than \$25,000 last year and over \$17,000 so far this year as a result of the many walkers, runners and supporters of Mary Jo's Smile Squad, benefiting the Mary Jo Brown Smile Fund at the Floating Hospital. While this is separate and unique from our Foundation, it is certainly helping to spread smiles in honor of Mary Jo.

To expand on the great things that the Mary Jo Brown Smile Fund is already doing, the Foundation has made monthly dates with the hospitalized children at the Floating Hospital to host craft projects, a pizza party, cookie and cupcake decorating, delivery of goody bags, and ice-cream sundae socials, - one with a special visit from Tigger - bringing smiles to the sickest of children.

Our first annual Luau last September raised sufficient funds for us to provide two homeless families with a Christmas, award an all-expense paid trip to Disney World to the family of a child that has battled and is in remission from cancer, along with the monthly events at the Floating Hospital, and just this past week, we sent the first of our hero boxes to a Unit of 25 serving in our military aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz.

The Foundation Board sends their heartfelt thanks to all of our supporters who have made this possible.

We hope you will be able to join us on October 20 for our 2nd Annual Luau at the Saugus Elks, as we gear up to spread another year of smiles.

We look forward to continuing our mission of spreading smiles through acts of kindness in Mary Jo's honor for many years to come. We hope you'll join us on this journey.

Please think of Mary Jo today and do something nice for someone, for no reason at all.

Mary Jo Brown Foundation - Spreading Smiles through Acts of Kindness

More Fun Events Brought smiles to the Inpatient Pediatric Patients at the Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center

Our March, April, and July events featured themed goody bags for St Patty's Day, Easter/Spring, and one of Mary Jo's favorite holidays, the 4th of July!

In May, we tried something new - cupcake decorating, with individually boxed cupcakes, complete with a widespread assortment of toppings.

June brought back the ice-cream sundae social, but this time with arts and crafts where the pediatric patients had the opportunity to create cards and drawings for our military that the Foundation included in the HeroBoxes sent out for the 4th of July.



Mary Jo Brown Foundation Working with HeroBox to Support the Troops

What better time to kick off our Hero Box campaign than on the week of the 4th of July? Mary Jo loved the 4th of July, celebrating our Independence Day, and supported our Troops, so when we found the Hero Box website, we felt like this was a perfect match to help us reach some deserving heroes that are selflessly serving our great country!

This first month, we provided care packages, a.k.a. "HeroBoxes" to a unit of 25 serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. With a list of requested items in hand, Board members went on a shopping trip to Costco, packaged up the items in boxes, and shipped them out, just in time for the 4th of July.

Also enclosed in the boxes was a very special project that our dear friend, Ms. Bridgett, worked on with her Pre-K Special Education class this year to say, "Thank you for your helping hands!"

Bridgett's morning class is an integrated session with seven special needs students with autism, cerebral palsy, and developmental delays and seven peer models. Her afternoon session consists of seven special needs students with autism, vision and hearing impairments, and physical impairments. Throughout the year, these students learned about "helping hands" learning to help each other and the importance of helping people. The teachers in this class were amazed at how kind the children treated each other and would offer help to each other without even being asked! The students not only learned the importance of helping, but also



enjoy helping their friends and teachers. Ms. Bridgett taught the students that people in the military work hard to keep us all safe by using their helping hands to help people who need help.

Pediatric Inpatients from the Floating Hospital for Children participated as well, crafting cards and pictures for us to send.

The Foundation will continue to sponsor members of the military for as long as they are deployed, sending monthly care packages to men and women in the Armed Forces as a special pick-me-up, hopefully bringing a smile to their day.



Recent Events Recap



Tufts Medical Center & the Floating Hospital for Children's 11th Annual Harbor Walk & Run was held on Sunday, June 9 at Carson Beach in South Boston.

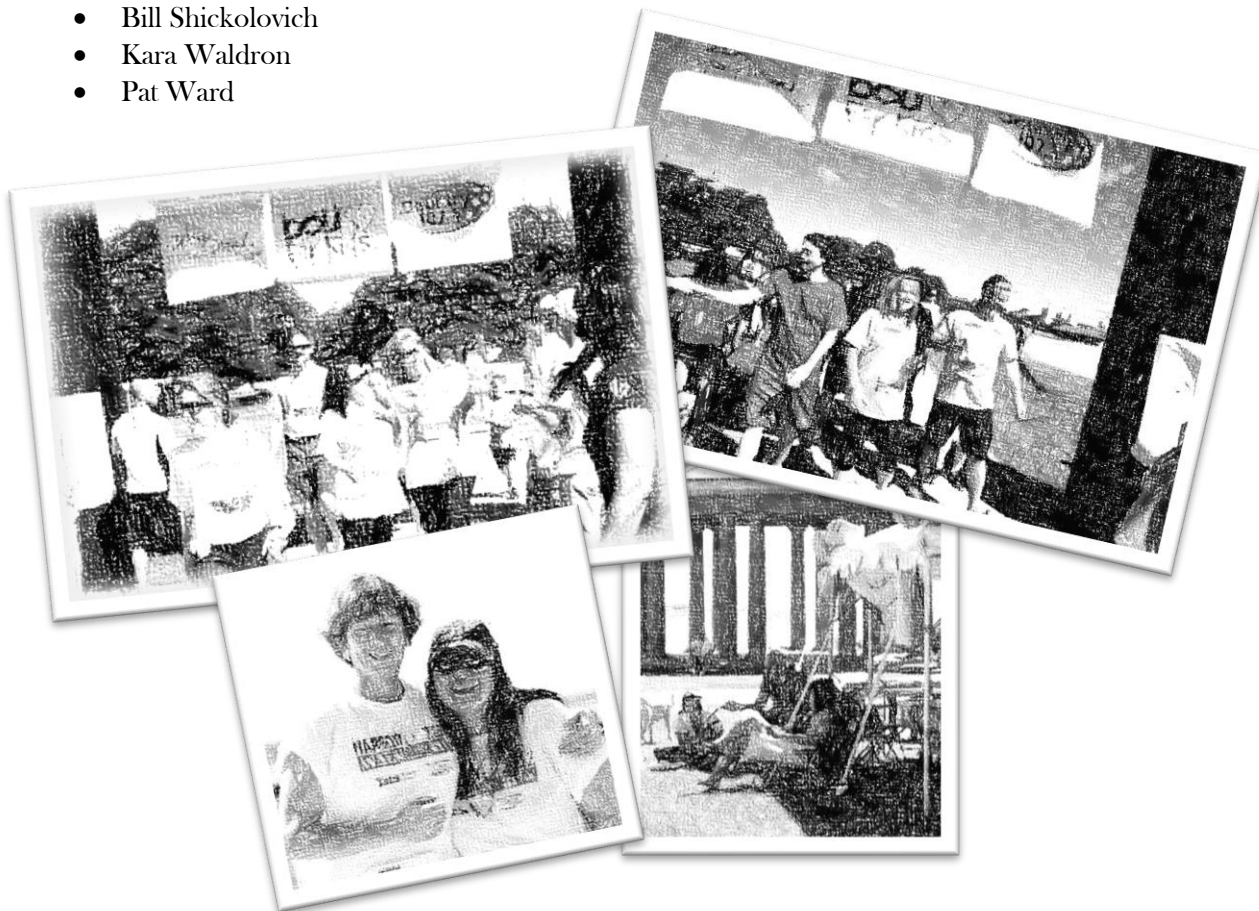
Thank you to all of those that joined us for a beautiful day walking along the South Boston shoreline. What an amazing tribute to Mary Jo!

Results are still being tallied, but right now Mary Jo's Smile Squad is in 3rd place overall and at least 85% has been raised toward the goal of \$20,000 for the Mary Jo Brown Smile Fund at Tufts and the Floating Hospital for Children!

57 Team members participated in the event and \$17,820.01 was raised as of this publication. Fundraising from the Harborwalk may continue through August 1, so visit the Mary Jo's Smile Squad Team page to track our progress at <http://www.harborwalkrun.org>

Special Shout Out to this year's Harborwalk Heroes, who raised a minimum of \$500 by event day:

- Mary Bonasoro
- Karen Bowden
- Christina Brown
- Alia Fadili
- Ron Hill
- Sandee Navaroli
- Bill Shickolovich
- Kara Waldron
- Pat Ward



We have uploaded photos to the Mary Jo Brown Foundation Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/MaryJoFoundation?ref=hl>

If you have not already done so, please visit our Facebook page and "Like" us to get updates on Mary Jo Brown Foundation events.

Upcoming Events

Save the Date - SUNDAY OCTOBER 20, 2013 3PM TO 8 PM

The Mary Jo Brown Foundation is pleased to announce that we will be hosting our 2nd annual Indoor Luau at the Saugus Elks Hall, 405 Main Street, Saugus, MA.



Once again we will have the lovely DJ Deja spinning your favorite tunes and serving as our emcee extraordinaire. A delish hot Polynesian buffet will be served, complemented by a full-service cash bar.

There will be a 50/50 and more raffle, silent auction and door prizes. And what better way to watch the end of the game while the Patriots take on those pesky New York Jets!!

Our goal is to build upon last year's success. Through the generosity of our attendees and donors we raised money that has funded many diverse projects that have caused a lot of people to smile:

1. Monthly events for the pediatric inpatients at Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center.
2. An all-expenses paid trip to Disney World for a recovering pediatric cancer patient and family
3. Two families-in-need were visited by our elves and showered with necessities, gifts, and food to make their holiday season a bit brighter. Making those deliveries made US smile!!
4. Monthly HeroBoxes for men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

We plan to expand our list of recipients as funds allow, and welcome any suggestions of who might benefit from our charitable endeavors.

It is our sincere hope that, if you attended last year, you will join us again. If you are new to our cause, we hope you will come and check us out! Tickets will go on sale by September 1st, available through any board member, reasonably priced at \$25.

We have already secured a few select items for our silent auction including:

- A Samsung Chromebook (Wi-Fi 11.6")
- David Ross Autographed Baseball
- Pair of Patriot's Tickets 10/27 game vs. Miami

If you or someone you know, would care to donate goods, services, etc. for our event, please feel free to contact any one of us. Our contact info is available on page __ of this newsletter and on our website: www.maryjobrown.org

With your help we will continue to build upon the great foundation we have established in our inaugural year.

Mahalo!!

Meet the Challenge – Be a Smile Ambassador!

The Mary Jo Brown Foundation is starting a special campaign...Become a Smile Ambassador by spreading smiles through acts of kindness in Mary Jo's name. We are asking everyone to consider doing something nice for a total stranger, hoping this will start a chain of smiles, and we want you to tell us about it!

Starting soon, you can go to the Foundation website at maryjobrown.org and print off a card to hand to someone to let them know your kind act is to honor Mary Jo. The card will ask them to do some small act of kindness to spread smiles to others. Then send us an email and tell us your stories!

We will share some of these stories on the website and hopefully create a chain reaction. We will also select the best story and share it at this year's Luau.

*Meet Noodle B. Furlong, an
Ambassador of Smiles*



Some things you might consider:

- Providing a \$5 gift card to a homeless person for a sandwich or coffee
- Letting someone ahead of you in a line
- Give a dog-treat to folks walking their dogs (ask permission first)
- Comment on how beautiful someone's child is
- Visit an elderly or homebound person
- Smile and say good morning, good afternoon or good evening to everyone you see (even in an elevator) for one whole day
- Bring pet food/blankets to an animal shelter

I had the pleasure of working on the island of St Croix for a month this year. The Cruzan culture is one where every person greets every person they meet, without fail. I had the experience of sitting in a waiting room at a doctor's office and was struck that every person who entered the waiting room said good morning and all the people in the room responded in kind.

Just think, wouldn't the world be a much better place if everyone just said hello and smiled? I've been trying it here and admit I get lots of strange looks but it won't deter me....

Please give this a try, it makes you feel wonderful!

Construction Zone

Please Note: Our website is undergoing maintenance.

Very special thanks to our Webmistress, Cara Hrubes, for all the time she has been dedicating to perfect this for us.

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SMILE!