

Mary Jo Brown Foundation Quarterly Newsletter



December 2012 Edition

www.maryjobrown.org

Meet the Board of Directors of the Mary Jo Brown Foundation

Christina Brown -I am so thankful to each and every one of you for your support. It got us off to such a successful running start. I also feel fortunate and proud to have the following group of amazing ladies to work with in establishing the Mary Jo Brown Foundation to Spread Smiles through Acts of Kindness to honor my beautiful Mother.

The Foundation has set some goals for its first year to begin spreading smiles to those that need them most. This newsletter is just one of the methods by which we will keep you, our generous supporters, posted on these initiatives and any upcoming events. Our website, www.maryjobrown.org, was designed with much help from Laura Mitchell. Laura's time is now limited due to her many other worthy obligations and since then, Cara Hrubes has taken over as Webmaster. Ladies, thank you both for all of the work you've done to get us up and functioning. It's truly appreciated. Folks, please check out the site for the latest and greatest info and photos from our events. If you are on Facebook, there is also a link to our Facebook page from the website. Please "Like" us to receive updates on our Spreading Smiles campaign.

We're always open to hearing ideas on more ways we can be spreading smiles. Please reach out to me, or any of the other lovely ladies on the Board to share your thoughts.

Until next time, keep smiling...

Karen Bowden - I am honored to be able to serve on the Board of the Foundation established to honor my dear friend and colleague. I met Mary Jo in 1988 when we were both Directors at New England Medical Center. Over the next 13 years we became close friends and shared many work highs and lows as well as traveling the globe. My photo albums show us in exotic travel including working trips to Saudi Arabia and vacations in Hawaii, the Greek Islands, riding camels in the desert front of the Great Pyramids in Egypt as well as Las Vegas at my surprise 50th birthday party, which MJ helped orchestrate. I was blessed to share so many fun times with this special lady and to have been called her friend. I miss her smiling eyes and infectious laugh. Mary Jo did so much for so many people, her giving spirit and good deeds will continue through the works of her friends and family through the acts of this Foundation. Thanks to all of you who remember her with love and thank you for supporting our mission.



Please Allow Me To Introduce Myself...

Sorry, Rolling Stones fans, it's just me, **Sharon Macone!!** I am extremely honored that Christina has asked me to serve as Treasurer of the Foundation. Mary Jo was my long-time friend, best woman (that would be maid-of-honor for you "traditional" types) and the absolute best benefit of my 38-plus years of employment at Tufts Medical Center. While the majority of my career has been spent in health care, I do have a B.S. in Management from Northeastern University. As a matter of fact, Mary Jo and I took the same Accounting class!

We have been extremely successful in our fundraising thus far and want to assure you that your contributions will be used as promised—to spread smiles through acts of kindness. Our quarterly newsletter will keep you apprised of just how your monies are being used. If any of you have any fundraising ideas, please feel free to contact me.

Marcy Young - I feel privileged that Mary Jo's daughter Christina asked me to be a part of the Foundation. I am blessed to have had Mary Jo as part of my family. Her laughter and smile will always be in our hearts and minds. She was always there for others without hesitation. That is why I am so grateful that I have this opportunity to celebrate Mary Jo's life, by helping to continue her acts of kindness. Spreading smiles was Mary Jo's way of life. The Mary Jo Brown Foundation is a great tribute to her and a way to help others on a personal level. I am truly honored to be on the Board with such wonderful and dedicated women that have such a strong commitment to the Foundation because of the personal ways Mary Jo has touched all our lives. Thank you for your support.

Kara Waldron - I



*The Board of Directors of the Mary Jo Brown Foundation welcome guests to the First Annual Indoor Luau on September 16th at the Elks Club in Saugus, MA. From left to right: Front row: Karen Bowden, Vice President and Marcy Young, Secretary
Back row: Kara Waldron, Director; Christina Brown, President and Sharon Macone, Treasurer*

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Recent Events

An Indoor Luau on September 16

Special thanks to all of the folks that made it out in September for our First Annual Fundraising Event, An Indoor Luau, at the Elks Club in Saugus! With your help and also thanks to some very generous sponsors, we were able to raise \$14,000.00 for the Mary Jo Brown Foundation!

There were about 200 in attendance that enjoyed a delicious Polynesian Buffet and desserts, as well as the magnificent music of DJ Deja.

The silent auction was a big success due to some competitive bidding on a variety of excellent items. One lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle went home with a grand prize of just over a thousand dollars! There were many winners of fabulous consolation prizes as well.



A HUGE "Thank you" to the following for their support:

Anonymous (A Generous Donor)
Aurora Salon and Spa, Tewksbury, MA
Sue Barbieri, Natick, MA
Beauty in the Beast - Lisa Geis, Saugus, MA
Mary Bonasoro, Revere, MA
Boston Pizza Tours - Martin Elliott
Boston Red Sox Organization - John & Linda Henry
Karen Bowden, Lynn, MA
Thomas Brown, Wilmington, MA
Celebrities for Charity
Paul Colameta, Everett, MA
Linda Collins, Arlington, MA
Connie's Beauty Shop, Revere, MA
Sophie Daniels - Opici Wine Company, Cambridge
Dave & Busters, Braintree, MA
Joe Dicesare, Quincy, MA
FI Boston, Braintree, MA
Alia Fadili, Stoneham, MA
Ridgely Ficks, Newton, MA
Lisa Fuller, Chelmsford, MA
Christina and Kevin Furlong, Methuen, MA
Pat Furlong, Salem, MA
Karen Gerstein, Melrose, MA
Hilltop Steakouse, Saugus, MA
Karen Hoppe, Reading, MA
Kyung Hwang, Franklin, MA
Hyatt Place, Boston/Braintree, MA

Innitou Ski Runners, Glen, NH
JB Butcher, Stoneham, MA
JJ Grimsby's, Stoneham, MA
Deb Joost, Macy's
Jimmy Kelble, Saugus, MA
King's Ink, Acton, MA
Bobbi LeBlanc, Lynn, MA
Sharon Macone, Melrose, MA
Michele McPhee, East Boston, MA
Medieval Manor, Boston, MA
Derek Mohamed, Wellesley, MA
Nail Expressions, Wakefield, MA
New Decade Hair Designers, Melrose, MA
New England Aquarium, Boston, MA
Zina Pantalone, Methuen, MA
Ed Pitts, Easton, MA
Lisa Ralph, Saugus, MA
Saugus Everett Elks, Saugus, MA
Sky Zone, Boston, MA
Sonny's Car Wash, Reading, MA
Jenny Stuart, Lynn, MA
Karen Sturzenacker, Wakefield, MA
Kara Waldron, Braintree, MA
W Hotel, Boston, MA
Wang Center, Boston, MA
WB Mason
Joe Yanetti, Georgetown, MA

Special Thanks to Denise "DJ Deja" LaCarubba for providing the entertainment!

Thanks to all of our luau guests for kindly supporting the Mary Jo Brown Foundation!

On behalf of everyone here at the Mary Jo Brown Foundation, we sincerely appreciate it!!!

Tufts Medical Center Dedicates the Mary Jo Brown Admitting Department on October 4, 2012

At a ceremony attended by family, close friends and colleagues, Eric Beyer officially named the Admitting Department at Tufts Medical Center the Mary Jo Brown Admitting Department, as her husband Tom and daughter Christina unveiled her picture and a memorial plaque in the Department's waiting room. The entrance on Proger One also denotes the special honor with an elegant engraved name plate, "Mary Jo Brown Admitting Office".



A cocktail reception followed the dedication and more than 100 people whose life was touched by Mary Jo stopped by to share memories and smiles and to thank Tufts for creating this lasting memorial. Mary Jo was the face of Tufts, often the first person hospitalized patients and their families encountered in their journey to better health. She was quick to hold a hand, dry a tear as well as offer words of encouragement by telling patients there was no better hospital in the world than Tufts Medical Center - and she really believed that. Mary Jo's compassionate and caring personality gave strength and comfort to so many people over her 35 years of service. As someone was overheard saying, "It's hard to forget someone who gave us so much to remember."

Mary Jo Brown Foundation - Spreading Smiles through Acts of Kindness

Ice Cream Social brought smiles to the Inpatient Pediatric patients at the Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center

Our first "spreading smiles" event was a great success! On October 19th The Foundation held an Ice Cream Social on the Inpatient Pediatric Unit at The Floating Hospital for Children.

Participants were treated to a make-your-own Sundae bar with an assortment of ice cream flavors and toppings and had a special visit from the Disney character Tigger. Sundaes were also prepared and kept in the freezer for patients who were not able to join us, to enjoy later in the evening. It was a sweet treat for the patients, families and staff who were able to participate and anything that brings a smile is good medicine.



A special “Thank you” to Tigger, aka Denise LaCarubba, to Andrea Pappaconstantinou and the entire Child Life Services Department for their assistance organizing this fun event. With their help, we will be holding monthly events in the Floating Hospital for Children playroom that also included a pizza party on November 15 and cookie decorating coming up later in December. These events are just some of the great things you are supporting with your generous donations!

Holiday Giving

This Holiday season the Mary Jo Brown Foundation will open its arms to care for those who need help the most, those with little reason to smile. This year, we will provide food, clothing and toys to two families who are staying in a Shelter. The first family consists of a Dad and his 12-year old daughter that lost her Mom in the earthquake in Haiti. The second family is comprised of a Dad and his three children. The Foundation will assure that everyone in these families has gifts to open and a special meal to share. This year, our hearts will be warmed to know that these Dads, who have virtually nothing, will see bright smiles on their children’s faces as the Mary Jo Brown Foundation gives them all a holiday to remember.



Disney Trip

Disney World was one of Mary Jo’s favorite places to visit – so what better plan can the Foundation carry out than to offer an all-expense paid trip for four to Disney World in Orlando?



We have developed criteria for selecting a family to receive this trip which is guaranteed to spread smiles. We have a couple of simple criteria and a nomination form you can find on our website at maryjobrown.org.

First, we are looking to award the trip to the family of a child who has battled cancer and won. The Foundation’s Board of Directors welcomes nominations from care givers at Tufts Medical Center as well as from the general public.

Just complete the nomination form and tell us their story and the reasons why this family should be selected. Nominations must be received by January 31, 2013 and the winner will be announced on Valentine’s Day.

For more details, please refer to the Foundation’s website.



SMILE!