



Winter | 2010



# NEWS

“Providing support to Oklahoma children with cancer and their families.”



## 2011 “ART OF LIVING” CALENDARS

It's calendar time! Once again, for a donation \$10 you can decorate your home or office with our kids' artwork. Each month features the colorful artwork of an Oklahoma child with cancer. These make thoughtful gifts, and will inspire you all year long. Order yours on our site in plenty of time for the holidays.

## PATIENT SPOTLIGHT: PJ



Parker “PJ” Young and “Puppy”

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## PATIENT SPOTLIGHT: PJ

We would like you to meet Parker “PJ” Young. PJ is 3 years old and lives in Norman, and was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) in May of 2009.

Because of the progression of PJ’s leukemia, he had to be treated with cranial radiation in addition to the typical chemotherapy and steroids. Thus far, PJ’s treatment has been successful and he is now on “maintenance” therapy which is scheduled to be completed in May 2012.

PJ is an outstanding artist, and he loves books, games and puzzles. He is rarely seen without his faithful friend Puppy, who has been a companion and comfort throughout his treatment and hospital stays.

PJ’s family has expressed enthusiastic gratitude to Ally’s House and the assistance provided.

*“It was a big relief to us! We weren’t sure how it was all going to come together,”* said mom Summer. *“Ally’s House has directly impacted us by giving us less financial worry, improving the quality of our hospital stays - and just the children’s cancer community as a whole.”*



### ***PJ facts***

***Mom:*** Summer.

***Dad:*** James.

***Sisters:*** “Blueberry” Keaton Lily and “Strawberry” Kendall Rose (PJ nicknamed them when they were born).

***Best Friend:*** Puppy. Also, Kort who share’s PJ’s leukemia diagnosis.

***Favorite Movie:*** Toy Story 3.

***Favorite Toy:*** a pink pig.

***Favorite Food:*** Mac ‘n Cheese.

*Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) is the most common cancer in children, representing 23% of cancer diagnoses among children younger than 15 years of age. It occurs in about one of every 29,000 children in the United States each year.*

*Treatment for children with ALL is complex and involves multiple drugs given in precise schedules over a period of two to three years.*

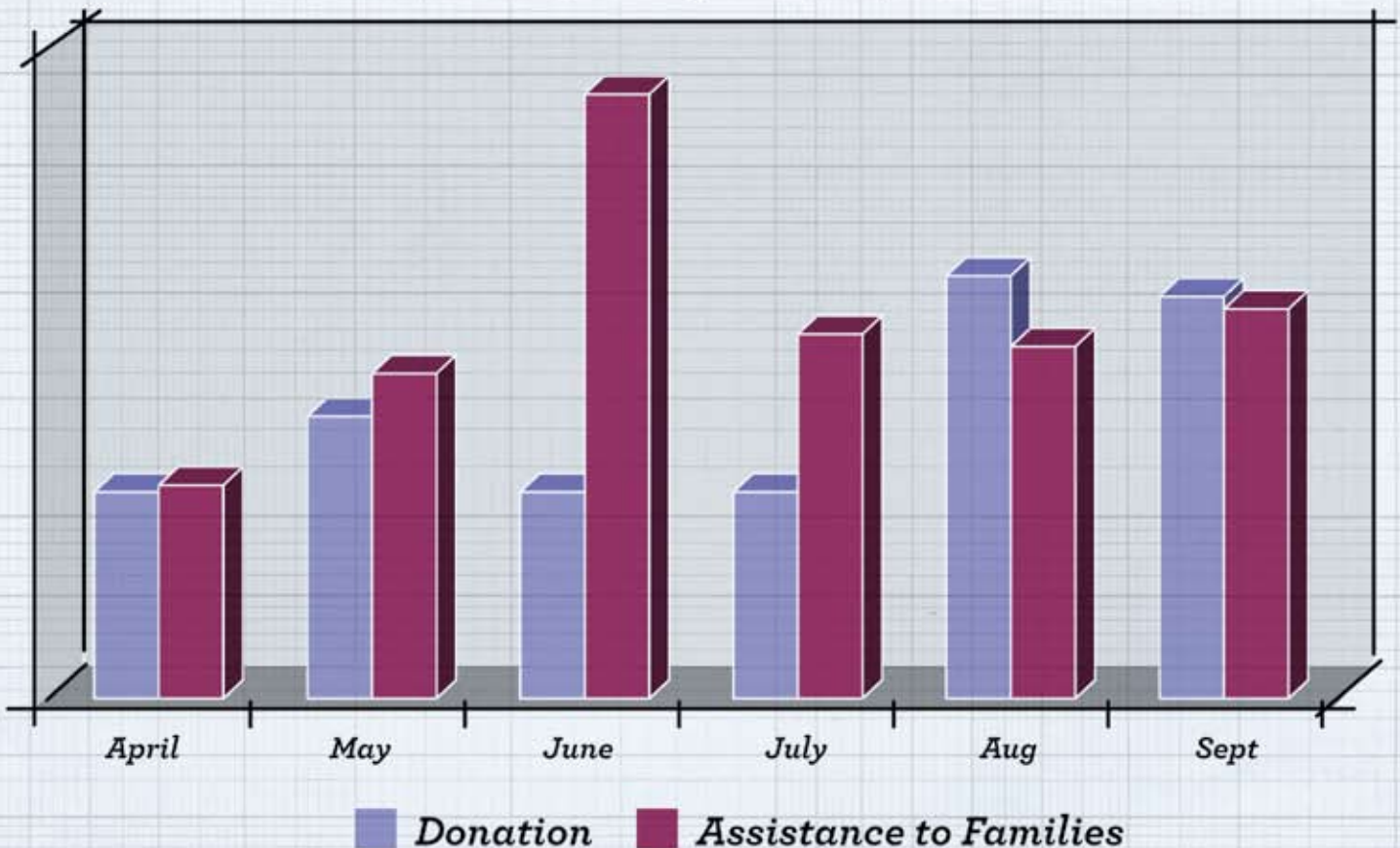
# Family Assistance is Up, Donations are Down

With the recent economic slowdown, many non-profit organizations are feeling the pinch. Ally's House is no different. When individuals and business have to make cuts to their budget, often charitable giving is the first to go. Ironically, often the need for assistance goes up because of the same economic factors.

Over the last two full quarters of 2010, Ally's House has paid 30% more in family assistance than was received in donations. The diagnosis of cancer in Oklahoma children is rising swiftly, making it more difficult to meet the need. Assistance levels have been decreased in an effort to continue to accommodate every family who applies.

We hope you will consider making a donation as part of your end-of-year giving, or even sign up for a monthly pledge for 2011. You can donate online at [www.allyshouse.net](http://www.allyshouse.net) using PayPal or sign up for a monthly donation through a credit card or by check.

## 2nd & 3rd Quarter, 2010





# Holiday Programs

Ally's House is gearing up for another busy holiday season this year! We are excited to continue our tradition of offering the following programs for our families.

## ***Make the Holidays Bright:***

We are proud to partner with the Bob Stoops Champions Foundation to decorate 10 of our cancer patients' homes with Christmas lights for the holidays.

## ***The Elf Project:***

Our kids are submitting their Christmas Wish Lists and are being adopted by "elf" volunteers who do their best to make their Christmas wishes come true. Last year, more than 100 pediatric cancer patients from around the state were adopted for the holidays and we anticipate even more this year!

## ***Annual Christmas Party:***

For many years, Ally's House has worked closely with the Oklahoma Children's Cancer Association (OCCA) to provide a fun Christmas party for all pediatric cancer patients, survivors and families. We are proud to team with OCCA again this year. In addition to providing lunch and fun activities, each child is given a gift. OCCA provides a wrapped gift for each pre-teen, and Ally's House provides a Christmas gift card for each teenager in attendance.

**These wonderful programs are not possible without the tremendous support of our generous donors and volunteers. We wish you and your family a healthy and happy holiday season!**

**how you  
can help**

***Elf:*** Adopt a child by purchasing toys from their wish list.

***Party:*** Donate a gift card worth \$20 from Wal-Mart, Target or Best Buy.

# BE A CHRISTMAS “ELF”!



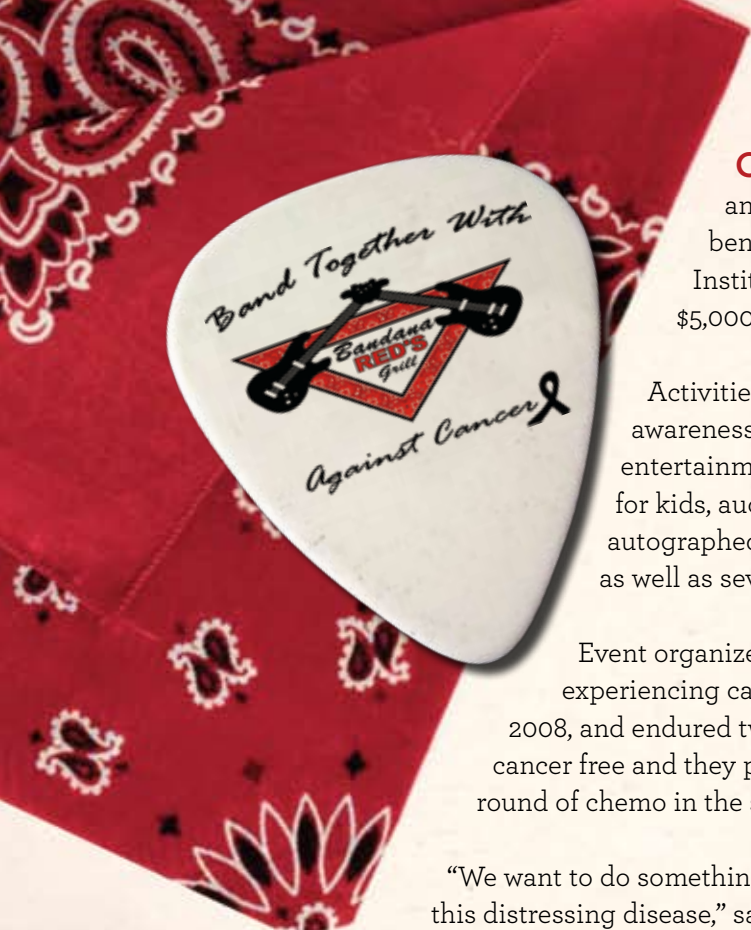
Would you like to shop for an Ally's House child this holiday season? You can be an "elf" and receive the name and wish list of an Oklahoma child with cancer. The shopping guideline is \$50, and your compassionate gifts can bring a welcome smile. To sign up to be an Ally's House elf, email us at [elf@allyshouse.net](mailto:elf@allyshouse.net) right away or contact our office at (405) 733-ALLY or (877) 730-ALLY (2559).



## GET YOUR ALLY'S HOUSE HOODIE!

You can show your support for Ally's House by purchasing a gray zipped hoodie with our logo. These cozy hoodies are available in sizes youth large through adult XL. Get yours or buy one for a gift for \$25 each (plus \$6.50 shipping). Order on our website at [www.allyshouse.net](http://www.allyshouse.net) using PayPal!





**Choctaw eatery Bandana Red's** hosted their 2nd annual fundraising event on September 25th. Proceeds again benefitted Ally's House and the St. Anthony Hospital Cancer Institute, and raised more than \$6,300, which exceeded last year's \$5,000 total.

Activities began at 9:00 a.m. with a 2-mile walk for cancer awareness. Local bands donated their time and talents to provide live entertainment. The event also featured face painting and inflatables for kids, auctions and a car show. The live auction included guitars autographed by Toby Keith, Loretta Lynn, Johnny Lee and Merle Haggard as well as several other items.

Event organizers Steve and LaDonna Bradshaw planned this effort after experiencing cancer firsthand. Steve was diagnosed with cancer in of October 2008, and endured two surgeries and chemotherapy. Thankfully, Steve is now cancer free and they planned "Band Together Against Cancer" right after his last round of chemo in the summer of 2009.

"We want to do something to give back and help the patients and families effected by this distressing disease," said LaDonna Bradshaw.



*Richard Weber, age 3, cancer patient, walks with his grandparents.*

*Over the last several years, Oklahoma chapters of Beta Sigma Phi have shown particular compassion to the children of Ally's House. Our organization has been honored at the last three state conventions of the sisterhood, as well as with special gifts throughout the year. To date, the sisters of Beta Sigma Phi have donated \$21,331.17 in the form of monetary donations, toys and other gifts.*

Beta Sigma Phi is an international non-academic sorority with chapters all over the world, and incorporates service as an important activity.

*We are deeply grateful to the sisters of Beta Sigma Phi. We would like to express particular to local member Gwen Jones who has tirelessly lead the charge.*



## Tutu Palooza

On Sunday, November 28th, several young Oklahoma girls with cancer enjoyed attending the Norman Ballet Company's performance of "The Oklahoma Nutcracker". Tickets for coveted balcony seats were provided to the girls and their families for free by the ballet company, and also included was admission to the after-show cast party where the families met the dancers and Santa!

Prior to the performance, families met for pizza, and the girls were fitted with colorful tutus made and donated by Sherry Stephens of Edmond. Then it was on to the ballet for an amazing performance that added an Oklahoma twist to the timeless Nutcracker classic.

*Thanks for the Norman Ballet Company for making a special day for some of our Ally's House girls!*



## Hoofbeats of Heart:

Thanks to the Kountry Dolls riding club for sponsoring "Hoofbeats of Heart" at Prague Lake on September 25th, which raised \$5,443 for Ally's House!. The fun family fundraiser included a trail ride, horse stick rodeo, haystack dive, string race and rodeo clowns!

*Thanks Kountry Dolls!*





## *Wrapped in Love:* *Quilts & Blanket Donations*

Periodically, Ally's House receives donations of blankets or quilts but this year saw particular generosity in this area! We received donations of beautiful comforting quilts for boys and girls, many handmade. We salute those who remembered our kids and made such an amazing effort to give them comfort.

- **Norman Quilters' Guild**
- **Project Linus**
- **Rose State College**
- **PEACEmakers of Noble First Baptist Church**
- **St. Mark's Catholic Church**
- **Lynne Sherwood**
- **Victoria's Quilts**

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