

COURAGEOUS KIDS

Inspiring Hope. Helping Kids Cope.



# The Courage Express

2012 - 2013 NEWSLETTER



You may also visit Courageous Kids at the following locations on the web:

Website: <http://www.courageouskidsmi.org> Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/courageouskids>

## Our Courageous Kids Community

Our mission is to inspire hope by helping kids cope with cancer and other life threatening medical conditions. We do this by planning continuous fun and exciting events. In doing so, our goal is to provide families with; positive anticipation, distraction, family bonding and emotional support.

The past year has been a year of courage, hope, inspiration and gratitude!

It was an honor to serve so many children with courage and welcome them into our community of hope. This year we have grown from serving 122 Courageous Kids and family members to 217 Courageous Kids and family members.

While attending our scheduled events we have had the pleasure of meeting kids and families from many parts of Southeast Michigan, and beyond. We have met courageous kids who are currently being treated at Beaumont Royal Oak, C.S. Mott, St. John's Van Elslander Cancer Center, Henry Ford's Kaleidoscope Kids, Children's Hospital of Michigan, and Hurley Medical Center of Flint.

Once again a huge thank you goes out to all the hospitals and clinics who have made such a big effort to let their patients know about *Courageous Kids*!

*As we begin the New Year and continue to move forward with our mission of "Inspiring Hope and Helping Kids Cope" with life threatening illnesses, please consider supporting our Courageous Kids in the upcoming year. The following are just a few ways to become a supporter of our Courageous Kids; participate in our annual "Golf for Courage" fundraiser June 22nd ("SAVE THE DATE" attached), become a sponsor/donor for our golf fundraiser or to our general fund, volunteer for an event and watch a child smile, connect us with an organization that may be able to contribute to an event, donate tickets or supplies, or refer a child with a serious illness so that we may have the opportunity to help he/she cope and inspire hope.*

*Yes, you can be directly responsible for helping bring a smile to a very sick child!*

Please take a moment to review *some* of the fun events our Courageous Kids and their families have participated in this past year.

## Movie Mornings



Imagine a child sitting at home recovering from chemotherapy or another form of treatment. As they watch T.V., they will inevitably see commercials for upcoming children's movies such as "Wreck it Ralph", "Dolphin Tales", and "Alvin and the Chipmunks; Shipwrecked", as they did this past year. Every child gets excited looking forward to the magical experience of a new movie but for those experiencing medical procedures and long hospital stays, it means twice as much! We are so happy to have had the opportunity to bring joy, positive anticipation and distraction into the lives of these children and their families, through private movie viewings, just for them!

## Detroit Tigers



The Detroit Tiger Foundation has been very supportive of our Courageous Kids over the past few years. It is one of the events where almost all of our Courageous Kids and their Families meet to celebrate their courage and of course support our amazing Tigers!!! In fact, several parents have shared with us their children's excitement. As soon as Spring came last April, the children were asking "When are we going to the Tigers Game with the *other courageous kids*?"

## Detroit Pistons



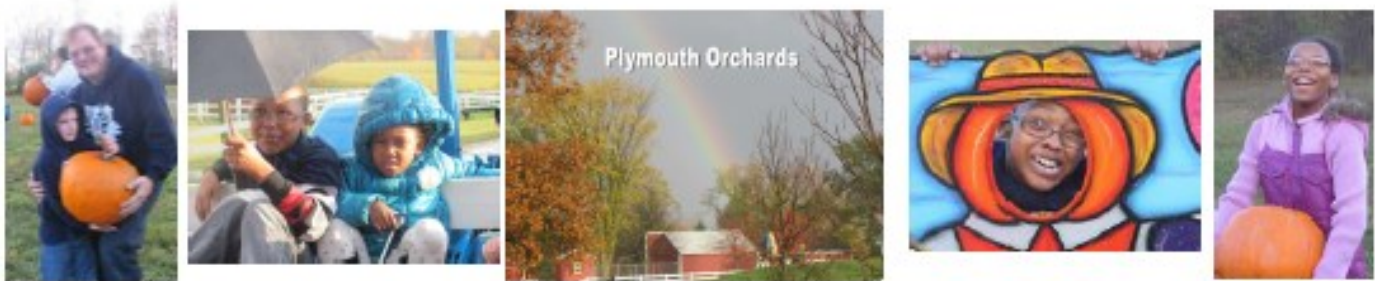
The Pistons have been very generous to our Courageous Kids this season! The Piston's "Come Together" Community Program supports organizations whose mission is to help others in need. We are so grateful for the many opportunities this season to "come together" in the spirit of family fun and enthusiasm in cheering on our very own Detroit Pistons! Our "Courageous Teenagers" especially look forward to these events!

## Hydro Plane Races



One of our Courageous Kid's parents were given tickets to the APBA Gold Cup Time Trials, presented by the Detroit Yacht Club. The best part was the VIP access we had to the "Cold Pit" where our Courageous Kids and their families were invited to meet the race drivers, pose for photos and get autographs. The races were amazing.....and the boats were so fast! It was a very hot day but we had a lot of fun! We are looking forward to going back next summer.

## Orchards and Cider Mill



What started out to be a rainy day, ended with a rainbow! Yes, the picture above shows the beautiful rainbow that appeared after the rain stopped before we took our wagon ride to the pumpkin patch. When we arrived at the orchards (also a farm and cider mill) we met at our private pavilion where we enjoyed pizza, cider and donuts. Yummy! Our Courageous Kids and their families were able to enjoy a fun filled autumn day together.

## Legos



*Legos, Legos and more Legos!* Our Courageous Kids had an opportunity to visit the Robot Garage where a welcoming staff (college students) helped our kids experience a Lego extravaganza! Tables were set up with many Lego activities; Robots that moved by remote control, computers programmed to move Lego animals, and much more! This was an outing we will be repeating for sure!

Turn the page to hear from one of our "Courageous Kids"

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## Meet David!



David

"My son David was diagnosed with ALL Leukemia in 2008. Since then he has missed out on a lot of activities due to his low immune system. He had to miss many birthday parties, events, and stayed away from other kids for at least a year. When my son entered his long term maintenance phase of treatment, his immune system was strong enough to go enjoy activities in public. But with 3 kids, we didn't have the extra money to attend lots of the area events. Courageous Kids was so important to David during that time because he was able to attend a Detroit Tigers game with our whole family, go to an apple orchard with lots of memorable activities, among other fun events. I have met other moms who are dealing with illnesses of their children and was able to meet and talk with them. It provided support to me as a mother. Courageous Kids gives kids a chance to have fun, when otherwise they would miss out and just focus on their illness. Since then David finished his treatments in 2012 and now is a healthy 7 year old.

Thanks Courageous Kids for helping us get through the most difficult time in our lives!"

-Yasmin Michalowicz, mom to David

*~ Just a side note....David and his family are welcome to continue attending Courageous Kids events even though David is in*

## Courageous Kids is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Children's Charity

2012 Courageous Kids' Annual Report

will be available for review after May 15, 2013 at

[www.courageouskidsmi.org](http://www.courageouskidsmi.org)

Annual reports and financial reports give us the opportunity to report to you ~ the people who support us and make our work possible ~ on our recent achievements. But the work we do far exceeds the capacity of this newsletter or our annual report—in telling our story. This past year we were able to touch the lives of many children and families in such a positive way. It is difficult to report, explain or measure the smiles on the faces, the camaraderie of our families and the exciting anticipation of an upcoming event. Yet, this is the summary of our accomplishments for the year of 2012.

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