

The Steven M. Perez Foundation

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDATION

On August 4, 2003, all of us had our lives changed forever. Steven's love of life and appreciation for friends and family made his life complete. Somehow, he knew it would not last. Fortunately, he had the foresight to make sure that he lived life to the fullest. Each and every occasion - dinners, birthdays, etc. - was special, and our lives were made more interesting and exciting because we knew him.

The Steven M. Perez Foundation has incorporated his character into our mission. We are devoted to helping people who have been directly or indirectly affected by leukemia and other related cancers. Funds raised in Steven's name have been used to help improve the quality of life for those already suffering and their families; funds have also been invested to help ensure fewer people are affected by these devastating diseases.

The Foundation has been involved in a broad range of charitable activities associated with leukemia and related cancers. On Thursday, April 29th 2004, we were proud to be a sponsor of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Spring Fling Bachelor and Bachelorette Auction. The event was a huge success and was a great way for our foundation to contribute to such a near and dear cause.

We have established a scholarship fund for college bound high school seniors who have lost either a sibling or close family member to these devastating diseases. We have already selected three scholarship recipients for the 2004 school year. The first is Amanda, who attended Half Hollow Hills High School West and lost her brother, Christopher, to cancer. The second is Cyndi, a senior at Half Hollow Hills High School East who lost her father to cancer in 2003. Finally Jared, who lost his mother to cancer and attended Syosset High School. We are currently evaluating other potential candidates for 2004.

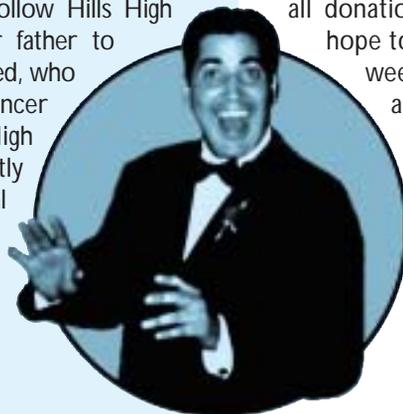
We are also pleased to announce we have selected seven families to sponsor for Camp Sunshine, an organization devoted to enriching the lives of children with life

threatening illnesses and their families. All of the children selected for sponsorship are from Long Island, NY, and all unfortunately have been diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL), which is similar to the form of leukemia that Steven suffered from. These children and their families will attend a week-long camp experience sponsored by the Foundation.

We are excited to announce the First Annual "EL Rey Banana" Golf Outing scheduled for Monday, July 26th 2004 at Inwood Country Club, in Inwood NY. We are anticipating a great response from both golfers and corporate partners to participate in the event. We are also in the preliminary stages of planning our next benefit which is targeted for the Fall 2004.

The goal of the Steven M. Perez Foundation is to continue contributing to these and other worthwhile projects. Your support is the best way to fulfill Steven's dream and our wish to honor his memory. Please contact any of the Board Members or send an e-mail to the website www.smpfoundation.org if you would like to donate your time for these upcoming events.

The Foundation has great plans on the horizon and hopes to continue to create positive momentum in helping those who are affected by leukemia and other related cancers. We are in the final review stage with the Attorney General's office to earn 501c(3) status, establishing the Steven M Perez Foundation as a registered charity, to which all donations will be tax deductible, and hope to receive approval in the coming weeks. We welcome your feedback as we move forward with our mission to honor Steven's memory through positive actions enabled by your donations and support.



**STEVEN M PEREZ FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

The Foundation has established a scholarship fund for college bound high school seniors who have lost a sibling or close family member to leukemia or other related cancers. Our primary focus is to identify qualified candidates who, unfortunately, have had to endure the same hardships as the Perez family. After an exhaustive search and numerous discussions with guidance counselors and administrators from the Long Island area, three very worthwhile teens were chosen.

Our Board of Directors evaluated these candidates and have decided to provide a one-time scholarship of \$2500.00 to Amanda, a \$1000.00 scholarship to Cyndi, and a \$1000.00 scholarship to Jared in recognition of their hard work and perseverance after their tragic losses.

The first, Amanda W., will graduate from Half Hollow Hills High School West in Melville, lost her brother, Christopher, to cancer in 2001. She plans to begin studying pharmacology at St. John's University in the fall. Amanda spent her fourteen years watching her brother suffer the devastation of cancer. She was challenged by her experiences to set her goals to the pursuit of a career in pharmacology. Although ten years apart, both Christopher W. and Steven

Perez graduated from Half Hollow Hills High School East in Dix Hills, and both lost their battles with cancer.

The second is Cyndi D., a high school senior from Half Hollow Hills High School East, Steven's alma mater. Cyndi lost her father to cancer in 2003. She

works hard as a dance instructor in the after school program at a local elementary school and is dedicated to helping and teaching young children. Cyndi plans to attend SUNY New Paltz in the fall. Her ability to adapt, overcome, and continue to be successful is a tribute to her inner strength and determination.

The third, Jared H., is graduating from Syosset High School. Jared is bright, compassionate, honest, hard working, and ambitious. He possesses a strong sense of values and his genuine interest in others is most impressive. We found Jared's greatest accomplishment to be his devotion to his mother when she was

dying of cancer. Jared helped to take care of her and never left her side. Even through his darkest hours, he never used his situation as an excuse. He worked even harder and maintained a positive attitude.

Jared demonstrates excellent leadership skills in the classroom and in his involvement in extracurricular activities. He is currently on the Varsity Baseball Team, he is Treasurer of the Political Science Club, a member of the Model United Nations Club, and a member of the Forensics Club. Jared has also volunteered countless hours at local community centers to help others. He has been accepted to Tufts University in Massachusetts.



**CAMP SUNSHINE:
SUPPORTING CHILDREN
WITH LIFE THREATENING ILLNESSES &
THEIR FAMILIES**

Camp Sunshine supports children with life threatening illnesses and their families. The camp has the distinction of being the only program in the nation whose mission is to address the impact of a life threatening illness on every member of the immediate family—the ill child, the parents, and the siblings. Since its inception, Camp Sunshine has provided a haven for over 16,000 families from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Families with a child diagnosed with diseases such as cancer, kidney disease, lupus, diabetes, solid organ transplants, and other life threatening illnesses attend one of the week-long camps.

Their focus is on alleviating the strain that a life threatening illness takes, not only on the sick child, but also on other family members. Families have an opportunity to rebuild their relationships together and meet other families facing similar challenges.

Families and volunteers, except for those who live nearby, all stay on the property. Camp Sunshine is staffed almost entirely by volunteers, many of whom return year after year. Another distinctive compo-

nent of the program is the medical facilities and professional staff that are available to address the taxing physical needs of children with intrusive diseases. A physician is located at the camp for the entire session so that families can be secure in the knowledge that the camp offers 24-hour onsite medical support.

Recreational hours allow children to relax and enjoy the simple pleasures of childhood while their parents find quiet moments to walk by the lake and reaffirm their support for one another. In addition, games and events are designed to foster family involvement, encouraging families to laugh and play as a unit. This approach provides a source of strength the family can take with them to draw on in the future.

Each family is sponsored by an individual, civic group, corporation, or foundation, which enables a family to spend a week at Camp Sunshine free of charge. The sponsorship for one family to participate in the week-long program is \$1,500.

After analyzing and interviewing many camp administrators and reviewing numerous brochures, we selected Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine. There were many camps that met our investment profile and our mission. Camp Sunshine was particularly attractive because of the fact that the camp is focused on making sure the patients have as much fun as possible and are able to enjoy time together with their families.

Steven always found pleasure in making sure everyone had fun and we believe Camp Sunshine would have been a place he would have enjoyed visiting and supporting had things turned out differently. The Steven M Perez Foundation is proud to sponsor the families of seven young children who suffer from Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia.

PAST EVENTS

**The "EL REY BANANA" Bar Crawl
September 16, 2003**

Only a few weeks after Steven's tragic loss, some of Steven's closest friends, led by Glenn Hechler, Anthony Iuffredo, Scott Redler and Chris Singleton organized a bar crawl on what

would have been his 30th birthday. While it was hard to get motivated, it was important to remember how much Steven loved parties, and how hard he always worked to generate excitement about the next big event. His best friends chose to honor Steven with what we believed he wanted – a fun and memorable birthday celebration. We felt sure that had Steven organized it himself, he would have presented it as the one event not to be missed.

About 50 of his friends started at the

Back Porch. It was right after work, the sun was shining, margaritas were flowing and Steven would have had an audience. After about an hour, the limos were lined up 3rd Avenue and took the entire group to Sutton Place for an open bar and plenty of friends excited to be together. Everyone was enjoying them-



Rickey, Dana and Steven

selves and looking forward to continuing uptown. The drinks kept flowing and the crowd continued to grow. By 9:00 we had arrived at our final location, Mo's Caribbean. Mo's provided the group with the backroom, beer bong, our own DJ and bartender. By 11:00 everyone was enjoying themselves so much that they had missed their trains and were in a desperate search for a pizza place.

Somehow, some way - he was there. He was not only in our hearts but he was standing next to you at the bar, pushing that extra shot of tequila on you. Hopefully, this year will be no different.

**First Annual Benefit at CAPITALE
October 4, 2003**

The first annual Steven M Perez Foundation benefit was a huge success. Everyone was so excited to see so many familiar faces and get a chance to catch up with old friends. Many attendees had never met Steven but by the end of the night felt touched by his spirit. The benefit was held in the Capitale Ballroom, a gorgeous facility in the Bowery that easily catered to our 900+ guests. The event featured a three hour open bar, three premiere guest DJs, a video montage and a silent auction featuring sports memorabilia, event tickets, gourmet restaurant meals and designer packages. Almost all of these items were generously donated by Steven's friends and family. The event was a tremendous financial success and helped raise over \$60,000. Funds raised are being invested to help those who are directly and indirectly



Celebrating at Glen & Tracy Hechler's Wedding



affected with leukemia and other related cancers.

A special thanks to Seth Greenberg and the staff at Capitale for their hard work and generosity in making The Steven M Perez Foundation's first official event a success. The space was absolutely fabulous and we were so grateful that Jason Strauss and Noah Tepperberg could coordinate the arrangements and facilitate the negotiation.

The event could not have been organized and orchestrated without the tireless effort and unfettered support of the event committee including: the entire Perez family, Anthony Iuffredo, Glenn Hechler, Scott Redler and Cori Prilik. The Foundation was so appreciative of all the generous donations for the silent auction which helped raise over \$5,000. All of the promoters, the other ticket sellers and DJs contributed to the over 900 people who attended the event. The night would not have been as big a success had it not been for Ian Collen producing the video montage, Eric Schiff for the video equipment and support, Michael Schilling for the auction, Steven Dixon for his artistic talent and Larry Abrams for the website, not to mention for enabling the credit card access. The Foundation would also like to thank all of the people who worked the door and helped with the auction. Most importantly, the night was extra special because everyone there had one thing in common - their love for Steven.

Steven was definitely there in spirit and was the reason everyone enjoyed the benefit so much. We were all reminded of how Steven made our lives better and more exciting.

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY'S SPRING FLING AT PLAID

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's third annual Spring Fling offered 25 men and women to take the stage to offer a date to the highest bidder, all to raise funds to support the efforts of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. This year's event was hosted by Alex Michel, the original bachelor on ABC's hit show, *The Bachelor*, and Emily Frances of the WB11 Morning News. The highlight of the event offered one lucky girl the opportunity to "Bring the Bartender Home." Jason Lewis, best known as Smith

Jerrod from HBO's *Sex & The City*, was auctioned off to be the highest bidder's private bartender in the "Rose's Cocktail Infusions' Bring the Bartender Home" auction. The lucky winner bid \$10,000 (the highest bid of the night) for the sexy star and enjoyed martinis mixed by Lewis using the stylish new line of flavored martini mixers.

The event included cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a raffle, silent auction and the chance for men and women to win a date with very special New York City singles.

The Steven M Perez Foundation worked closely with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and was

pleased to sponsor Jason Ordini and Eileen Puglisi as a bachelor and bachelorette for the auction. Collectively, Jason and Eileen raised over \$1,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and were excited to attend their dates with the highest bidders.

The Spring Fling was a tremendous success and an excellent opportunity to broaden the awareness of leukemia and other related cancers. The majority of the 600+ attendees were single New Yorkers from the tri-state area who, through their generosity, helped raise over \$100,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

The Steven M Perez Foundation was proud to be affiliated with such a worthwhile event and shares the mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, which is "to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and improve the quality of life for patients and their families".

Ten months have passed since his tragic loss. We have managed to live each day and emphasized the need to share the company of our friends, family and loved ones. Events like these remind us of how precious life is and how important it is to make the effort to see each other and spend time with friends who make you laugh and smile. We know that it is important that we continue to organize both small and large events so that Steven's memory and spirit will not be forgotten.

Thank you all again for making the Foundation's first ten months a success and we look forward to your continued support. Anyone interested in volunteering or making a donation, please contact any of the Board Members or send an e-mail to the website www.smpfoundation.org.



The Perez family

