

The Steven M. Perez Foundation

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation, its Executive Committee and the Perez family are so proud of what we continue to accomplish in the memory of our son, brother and friend. His memory is our guiding light and helps remind us how life is precious and should be enjoyed. Throughout 2007, we continued to remain focused on our core values and further our mission to help patients and their families who have been directly or indirectly affected by Leukemia and other related cancers.

2007 was a year of continued support for some of the wonderful initiatives of years past, highlighted by the successful completion of the Ironman® USA Lake Placid by Scott Redler. We are proud to say that 9 deserving students who have had to overcome their battles with cancer received scholarships that will help them pursue their dreams. We were also focused on expanding our relationships with camps like Camp Ronald McDonald, Camp Sunrise and Camp Sunshine all of which focus on the needs of patients and their families to be together while allowing the campers access to the necessary medical treatments they may need. These camps provide life-changing experiences for these special campers and we are proud that we can help these children and their families enjoy a more normal life experience at a time when they need it most. We are proud to be affiliated with and continue to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, their Team in Training program and the many deserving patients and their families in their personal battles with Leukemia and other related cancers.

The Newsletter is our way of showcasing how your time, donations and attendance at our events is making a real difference to the people who need it most. We will continue to rely on your generosity, love and memory of Steven to help meet our goals. We are proud of what we have accomplished since his loss in 2003. We want you, who have so



generously donated, to know that these funds will continue to be invested in programs committed to helping people affected by these diseases, and to improving the quality of life for those suffering from these diseases. That has been our mission from the start and we know how proud Steven would be for all that we have done in his memory.

Steven would be very proud to know that his friends and family raised and donated over \$180,000 this past year. We hope you enjoy reading about our 2007 events and the personal sacrifices of all of our triathletes. The personal stories of campers, their families and our athletes are truly inspiring and very motivational. We want to acknowledge the Perez family, friends like Celena & Scott Redler, Jessica & Peter Goldring, Mellen & Jack Genatt, Tara & Eric Schiff, Cheryl & Steven Dixon, Jen & Chris Singleton, Jon Rothschild and Sal "The Stockbroker" Governale for their tireless effort, personal sacrifice and commitment to the Foundation. Thank you to our editor Jessica Goldring, designer Steven Dixon, publisher Admiral Printing and the many contributing writers who shared their thoughts and experiences for your reading pleasure.

As a 501(c)(3) status organization, the Foundation is entitled to operate as a not-for-profit. This allows donors to deduct the value of their donations for tax purposes. We hope reading this Newsletter gives you a sense of the great contribution we are making in the lives of people with Leukemia and related cancers. The Foundation continues to look for new opportunities to help those in need. We are always looking for ways to celebrate Steven's life, bringing friends and family together, and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Please contact any of the Executive Committee or go to our website at www.smpfoundation.org for more information about how you can make a difference.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **The 4th Annual Comedy Night** will be held on **Friday May 2nd at Gotham Comedy Club**, located at 208 W. 23rd Street in New York City. Be sure to buy tickets ASAP at our website www.smpfoundation.org as this event is almost sold out!
- **The 5th Annual "El Rey Banana" Golf Outing** will be held on **Monday, July 14th at Tam O'Shanter Country Club** in Brookville, New York. It is a day of tremendous fun, as well as a great sponsorship opportunity.
- **The Jarden Westchester Triathlon** will be in **September 2008**. Become a member of the Team in Training, or come and support your friends as they race for a good cause
- **The search for candidates for the 2008 Steven M. Perez Scholarship** has already begun. Please contact The Foundation with potential candidates or other worthwhile opportunities for The Foundation to participate in.

RECENT NEWS

APRIL 2007

- Lindsey Brass acknowledged the support of The Steven M. Perez Foundation in New York Magazine regarding the elliptical she purchased with our donation. We offer our fondest hopes to Lindsay, and pray for her recovery.
- Lee Edelson's dodgeball team, Flava of Law, selects The SMP Foundation as their "Play For Your Cause" charity and wins their tournament.

MAY 2007

- The Foundation was excited to welcome the Perez girls to this world on May 14th. Through their English and Hebrew names, Sarah Lily and Haley Rose carry on the names of their great-grandparents, and of course, their Uncle Steven. As these months have passed we all have enjoyed watching the twins develop and often remind ourselves how much Steven would have enjoyed being part of their lives and game-playing.
- Kelly Mann, formerly a member of Lou Perez's soccer team, ran with the Team in Training® in the New York City Marathon in support of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She acknowledged The Foundation's support.
- The Comedy Event at Gotham Comedy Club was sold out for its 3rd successful year. Thanks to Sal "The Stockbroker" Governale and Dana Perez for their efforts to make this event such a great night.
- This year, fourteen campers were sponsored by The Steven M. Perez Foundation to attend Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times®. This sponsorship includes all the camp activities and accommodations, plus the specialized training for counselors required by the camp to ensure the safety and well-being of each child.

JUNE 2007

- Nine candidates from the New York area were selected to receive the Steven M. Perez Scholarship. We are always looking for new ways to connect with deserving scholarship candidates. Their experiences, either in support of a loved one or of living with disease themselves, are a continuing source of inspiration for us all.
- Our donation of \$12,000.00 made it possible for us to establish a permanent memorial for Steven on the basketball court and for four children to attend Sunrise Day Camp in Wheatley Heights, New York. Sunrise Day Camp, under the auspices of the Barry and Florence Friedlberg JCC in Oceanside, NY, is the only dedicated day camp in the nation for children with cancer.

JULY 2007

- The 4th Annual "El Rey Banana" Golf Outing, held at Tam O'Shanter Country Club in Brookville, NY was a huge success. On July 16th, over 200 people came out to support The Foundation and enjoy the day, which included a round of golf, raffles, a silent auction and a cocktail hour followed by a buffet dinner. The event raised over \$150,000.00 for The Foundation.
- Scott Redler completes the Ironman® USA Lake Placid with a phenomenal time of 12 hours, 44 minutes, 37 seconds, finishing 868 out of 2,051 who finished.

AUGUST 2007

- The Foundation sponsored ten families at Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine, a retreat for children with life threatening diseases and their families. Our donation of \$15,000.00 went to tuition for ten children from New York with Leukemia to enjoy the facilities and programs Camp Sunshine has to offer with their parents and siblings for a one-week stay.
- The Los Lobos Locos kickball team names SMP their "Play For Your Cause" charity after an undefeated season playing in the ZogSports summer league.
- Employees Dana Perez, Andy Streiter and Brian Donahue made donations on behalf of CareerBuilder.com after winning a sales contest for 2007.

SEPTEMBER 2007

- Scott Redler, Steven Dixon, Chris Singleton, and Jon Rothschild completed the Westchester triathlon on September 23. The Foundation is proud of their efforts to raise money and awareness on our behalf.
- The Foundation supported "Marvin's Team", led by Michelle Rehs, in the "Light the Night" Walk sponsored by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

OCTOBER 2007

- The Foundation proffered support to Matthew Whalen, a nineteen year-old volunteer firefighter from Katonah. Matthew is being treated for Lymphoma at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. His family appreciates the help for everyday expenses, including parking in Manhattan.
- The Foundation proffered support to Ilissa Schoenberg, a 26 year-old schoolteacher who recently passed away from Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). Originally undergoing treatment in White Plains near her home, Ilissa transferred to Sloan-Kettering, where she underwent bone marrow transplant surgery. After a short return home, Ilissa was re-admitted and finally lost her battle with Leukemia. Her family greatly appreciates The Foundation's support.

NOVEMBER 2007

- The Foundation is proud to support Santa's Hideaway Hollow in Middlefield, Ohio, to create Stevie P's General Store. Children with many types of illness visit Santa's Hideaway throughout the year, and we are happy to help make their experience fun and memorable.



4TH ANNUAL EL REY BANANA GOLF OUTING



On Monday, July 16, 2007, The Foundation sponsored the 4th Annual "El Rey Banana" Golf Outing at Tam O'Shanter Country Club in Brookville, NY. It was a beautiful, sunny day, filled with golf, old friends as well as new ones, and classic

the Playboy Mansion Tickets, artwork, and one of a kind jewelry was enough to whet anyone's appetite. The buffet dinner which followed offered a variety of choices to please every palate.

While I love to catch up with those who return every year, it was great to meet so many new people at this event. To me, it means that Steven's legacy is still spreading. As those of us who knew Steven continue to honor his memory through The Foundation, more and more people are being influenced by his way of life. Steven always lived life to the fullest, and the Golf Outing is an opportunity to stop and remember what he was all about – appreciating what you have while you have it. Thanks to the support and enthusiasm of 200 attendees, including participants, sponsors and friends, the "El Rey Banana" was able to raise over \$150,000 for The Foundation. Events like these make it possible for us to continue to help people with Leukemia, Lymphoma and other related cancers live their lives to the fullest.

Please keep a lookout for information about our 5th Annual "El Rey Banana" Golf Outing, coming Monday, July 14th to a golf course near you...



rock to help us make our way up to the 18th green. We would like to thank Rachel and Rick Perez, Dana Perez, Jesse Elhai, Carole and Lou Perez, Tara and Eric Schiff, Jessica and Peter Goldring, and Mellen and Jack Genatt, as well as our sponsors and volunteers, for making the day such a resounding success.

We kept the day simple with a scramble format, a fun putting contest on the practice green and a more challenging chipping contest. Our many enthusiastic volunteers were always coming around with drinks and snacks, or just to chat with players. After finishing on the course, it was refreshing to come back to the clubhouse for a drink. It was great to reconnect with old friends and to have the opportunity to meet new people, while surveying the long list of raffle prizes and perusing the silent auction. The buzz around items like



League Champions for Kickball and Dodgeball

ZogSports is an organization headquartered in New York City. They are a charity-focused, co-ed, social sports club that promotes charity and social action amongst young professionals in the New York area. A portion of all proceeds is donated to charity, and to each winning team's charity of choice through their "Play For Your Cause" program.

Robert Herzog conceived ZogSports after his close call on 9/11, and the acts of charity he witnessed as a result. Through ZogSports' athletic, social and social action opportunities, they encourage New Yorkers to maintain perspective by having fun while giving something back to the community. In five years, over 35,000 people have participated in their activities and ZogSports has donated over \$355,000 to charity.

Lee D. Edelson's law firm, Donovan and Giannuzzi, LLP, decided to form "Flava of Law" to compete in the Dodgeball competition for the Winter 2007 (Jan-March 2007) ZogSports season. After 7 weeks of

competition followed by a 1 night, playoff round-robin, Flava of Law finished in second place. They selected The Steven M. Perez Foundation as our "Play For Your Cause" organization. The team rotates who selects the Cause each season, and we hope they elect The Foundation again come Spring 2008.

In the summer of 2007, the Los Lobos Locos team captured the ZogSports kickball championship. The team donated the "Play for Your Cause" charity award to The Steven M. Perez Foundation. The players who make up Los Lobos Locos, Adam Lazarus, Samantha Lazarus, Scot

Hirschfield, Jonathan Chiaro, Orlee Nagar, Rachel Bogdanov, Lauren Weitman, Jeff Goldis, John Keaveny, went undefeated throughout the regular season and the playoffs to capture the championship for the second consecutive year. We would like to extend a special thank you to Orlee Nagar and Scot Hirschfield for choosing the Steven M. Perez Foundation as the 2007 recipient of their charity award.



2007 Steven M. Perez Scholarship Fund Recipients

Every year, The Foundation seeks out young people who can directly benefit from The Steven M. Perez Scholarship. Whether they are battling Leukemia, Lymphoma or a related cancer themselves, or coping with a family member's illness, we believe it is vital for younger people especially to continue working toward their goals. Oftentimes, continuing one's education after high school and pursuing a career can get pushed aside by the more pressing concerns of living with a life-threatening disease. For this reason, The Foundation looks for high school students who are determined to make the most of their future. In 2007 we expanded our search for qualified candidates to include survivors. We received heart-wrenching applications from siblings and children of cancer sufferers, and heart-warming stories from survivors. They look to the future with hope and determination and thank us all for making their road a little smoother through our scholarship program. This year, nine recipients received The Steven M. Perez Scholarship.

- **Chanel B.** was born to a drug addicted mother and never met her father. She was diagnosed with Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML) as a child, and plans on attending Nassau Community College after graduating from Half Hollow Hills High School East.
- **Paul R.** suffers from a rare disease called Burkitt's Lymphoma, or B-Cell Leukemia. He is graduating from West Seneca West Senior High School and plans to attend Trocaire College in Buffalo, NY.
- **Steven G.** is currently in remission from Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He will be studying at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut.
- **Nicole J.** is graduating from Mepham High School and plans to continue her education at Towson College. Nicole was adopted as an infant shortly after her parents lost their son to Leukemia.
- **Emily A.** lost her brother to Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She ap-

plied for The Steven M. Perez Scholarship after reading about the program on FastWeb. After graduation from Buffalo Seminary, Emily will be attending Elon University in North Carolina.

- **Amanda R.** will also graduate from Half Hollow Hills High School East and continue at Nassau Community College. Amanda lost her mother to Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- **Emily M.** overcame Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) not once but twice. She plans to study at Union College after she graduates from Paul D. Schreiber High School in Port Washington.
- **Kaitlyn A.** relocated from New York to Seattle when she was a child where her mother received a bone marrow transplant. Her mom's CML is now in remission. Kaitlyn plans to continue her studies at SUNY Cortland after her graduation from Eastport South Manor Central High School.
- **Roshanna L.** was first diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma during her freshman year at Brighton High School in Rochester, NY. Currently in remission, Roshanna will attend Cornell University after graduation.

It is a source of great satisfaction for us at The Foundation to be able to help determined young people continue their education. Steven loved his time at SUNY Albany and valued the many friends he made in college. It is a true tribute to his memory to be able to support people working to overcome the obstacles an illness can put in their path and continue to live their lives as fully as possible. Our search for candidates for 2008 is currently under way. We welcome personal referrals in addition to our listing on FastWeb and direct contact with many local high schools. If you think someone you know may be eligible, please contact The Foundation.



2007 Comedy Night

The Steven M. Perez Foundation hosted its 3rd Annual Comedy Event on May 18, 2007. Over 300 people came out once again for a night of laughs with good friends. Sal "The Stockbroker" Governale, a close friend of Steven's, managed to once again recruit the comics from the Howard Stern show to donate their time for an incredible cause. The program included Greg Fitzsimmons, Tony Landolfi, Rob Cantrell, Richard Christy, Shuli, Mike Bocchetti, Sal "The Stockbroker" Governale and Artie Lange was a perfect tribute to Steven who spent his life making his friends and family laugh.

We had a special guest appearance from Mary Jo Buttafuoco. Mary Jo was kind enough to help auction off a tour of "The Howard Stern Show" studio and the opportunity to be on "The Wrap-Up Show," hosted by Gary Dell'Abate and John Hein, every Monday through Thursday after The Howard Stern Show. Thank you to our friends Glenn Reeder and Bob Engel from The Healthy Eatery Café & Caterers in Syosset, New York, who won the auction, for their generous contribution. We know they enjoyed the tour and the chance to participate in a live radio broadcast.

The Steven M. Perez Foundation Comedy

Event generated \$32,000 for The Foundation. We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who helped plan this event and to those who attended for making our 3rd Annual Comedy Night a huge success. Sal and Dana both deserve a special thank you for all their efforts and for making the night so special for all who attended.

Please save the date for our 2008 Steven M. Perez Foundation Comedy Night on Friday May 2nd at Gotham Comedy Club, located at 208 West 23rd Street in New York City between 7th & 8th Avenues. Please visit www.smpfoundation.org to reserve your tickets now.



A Memory of Steven By Jessica Goldring

Everyone who knew Steven seems to have a wild and crazy story. I don't have one of those. I wasn't in Steven's group of boys who traded by day and partied by night. I'm a girl - Steven and I went to each other's formals when we weren't dating somebody else and got dressed up to go out for dinner together. I was never his girlfriend, I was his friend who happened to be a girl.

Steven was a good friend. Some people (mostly other girls) didn't believe me when I told them that, but that was Steven - you either were his friend or you weren't. And it's possible that, in four years at Albany, I was the only girl he was nice to consistently. He was there for me that first year out of college, too, when we lived in the city and nobody seemed to have any idea what they were doing. Steven always tried to make me happy and see that I had a good time, even when I didn't want to. He made me go out to clubs, he made me do a share in the Hamptons, and he laughed in my face whenever I complained.

Then one night in the spring, I was walking up Broadway by Lincoln Center when I heard someone call my name. I turned to look, and there was Steven, lumbering out of a restaurant, waving and smiling and yelling for me to stop. He hugged me like I just stepped off the boat from the old country, and started in, trying to talk me in to coming inside and having dinner with him and his friends. He wasn't interested that I had spent the day cleaning

my apartment and hadn't showered, or that I had just eaten. He didn't mind introducing me to the two other people he was with who I didn't know, and how could I not come in and say hello to David Adler? He was Steven, and he didn't take no for an answer.

So I went in, and there were greetings all around. Steven and David ended up on the West Side to have dinner with Kim Evanter and Peter Goldring. Nice to meet you. I sat with them through their whole meal. I don't remember much of the details, but when it was time to go home, Steven pulled me aside to tell me he wanted to set me up with Peter. I knew most of Steven's other friends, so naturally, I was against it. But Steven gave him my number anyway.

Two years later, Peter and I got married, and now we have a son who is turning five. And every time I look at my perfect miracle of a child, I have to remember that I owe it all to Steven. And every time I stop to think about it, I smile, because I can hear Steven, laughing in my face, because he knows it, too. I wish Steven was here to watch my son, and all the other children who have been born in the last four years, grow up. I wish that I didn't have to tell my son about him, and show him pictures; I wish that he could have gotten to know Steven himself. I wish that I didn't have to tell people that Steven changed my life, because if he were still here, he could tell them about the night he set me up with Peter. But, knowing Steven, he probably wouldn't have taken the credit for it.



Sunrise Day Camp, Camp Sunshine, & Camp Ronald McDonald

We are constantly in search of organizations around the country which provide support for people with Leukemia, Lymphoma and other related cancers. We know first hand the kinds of stress having a life threatening illness can have on the whole family. This is why we search for organizations that provide emotional and psychological support in addition to meeting medical needs. The Foundation is proud to continue to sponsor several such organizations where the mission is to offer hope, joy, and community in an environment created for relaxation and fun.

Sunrise Day Camp on the Henry Kaufmann Campgrounds in Wheatley Heights, NY is a perfect example. Operated by the Barry and Florence Friedberg Jewish Community Center in Oceanside, NY since 2006, Sunrise Day Camp is the only day camp in the United States only for children with cancer. During the day, campers enjoy all the recreational, athletic and social activities of camp, then return to the comforts of their own homes at the end of the day. It also provides the perfect compliment to a sleep away camp experience of only one or two weeks. They offer a full range of sports, arts and crafts, and nature experiences as well as many special features to best accommodate chronically ill children. Because Sunrise Day Camp is free of charge to all campers with cancer, they rely on outside support such as

ours to continue their mission. This year, our donation of \$12,000.00 will make it possible for four children to attend and establish a permanent memorial in Steven's name on the campgrounds.

Another is Camp Sunshine, open year round in Casco, Maine, and with satellite facilities in Wisconsin and Arizona. Camp Sunshine is the only program in the nation designed for the entire family, providing accommodations, meals and activities for parents, siblings and the whole family together. They offer 24 hour medical support and a professional staff to address the taxing physical needs of the children, as well as opportunities for family members to relax and reconnect with each other. In 2007, The Foundation once again sponsored 10 families from the New York area with a family member with Leukemia. We donated \$1,500.00 for each family to enjoy one week with other families facing similar challenges because of Leukemia or Lymphoma. We have received many letters of thanks from these families, including hand drawn cards from the children and notes of gratitude from the parents. "It is a very special time for our family and thanks to organizations like yours we are afforded the privilege to go there. Camp Sunshine will be a part of our lives for a very long time since we plan to volunteer once our little one is old enough. Thank you once again."

Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times®

offers all the activities you would expect at camp, modified to meet the special needs of their campers. They offer sports, arts and crafts, dramatic and visual arts, and technology and computer programs, all designed to promote self-esteem, confidence, friendship and teamwork in a medically supervised, camp environment. Since 1982, Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times has been a haven to children like 10 year-old Holly who thrived after discovering her love for horseback riding. Caring for the horses at camp gave Holly the chance to "take care of someone else for a change," and like Elijah, who wrote on his camp application that the thing he is most proud of is "I kicked cancer's butt!" The \$15,000 donation from the Foundation sponsored 14 children last year. We hope to continue our support of this worthwhile organization far into the future.

While it is a pleasure to plan and attend events like the Comedy Night and Golf Outing, it is important to remember that we are doing this for a reason. Organizations like Sunrise Day Camp, Camp Sunshine and Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times provide environments where children with Leukemia and other life threatening diseases can do more than survive, they can thrive. The Foundation is dedicated to giving these children and their families the opportunity to enjoy themselves and each other, and to live their lives as fully as they can.

Steven has a store at the North Pole

In Middlefield, Ohio there is a small, 93 acre town called Santa's Hideaway Hollow. "Santa," also known as Bill Dieterle, lives there. He has dedicated himself to being Santa for the last twenty-six years. Bill visits sick children at many hospitals around the country and has learned to say "Merry Christmas" in several languages. He has even learned sign language so he can communicate with as many children as possible.

Middlefield, Ohio's North Pole is growing. There is already a candy store and a bakery. Soon, it will have a theater, a post office, an infirmary and many other facilities for the children who visit Santa. One of the new buildings will be Stevie P.'s General

Store, funded by The Steven M. Perez Foundation. Our donation of \$13,000.00 is possible because of your support. Santa has secured a corporate sponsor who will provide "goodies" for the kids who come to the store.



Funding this project and its permanent memorial to Steven is what The Steven M. Perez Foundation is all about. A large percentage of the sick children Bill sees suffer from Leukemia.

It is our continuing goal at The Foundation to improve quality of life for people battling this disease. We are pleased that a visit to Santa at the North Pole can brighten a day in the lives of these children, and we are proud of our participation in such a worthwhile project.



Over Four Years...and It Still S*cks By Rich Park

It's been more than four years since Steven passed, and I don't know about any of you, but for me, the hurt can be really bad at times. It comes and goes, most days better than others, and I can't help but think about how those who were much closer to him than I must feel. Don't get me wrong, it's not every day and it always stems from something good. I tend to let my mind drift, and most of the time, my mind likes to take me to the "good old days" when life wasn't so complicated and filled with the tough choices of being an adult. Life was simple back then — work, get paid and party. It just so happens that, fortunately for me, Steven played a major role during that period in my life.

When we first got out of college and got jobs and we'd be in two separate buildings "working," I somehow managed to be on a conference call with Steven and whoever he felt like prank calling at the time. There was the familiar sound of a phone ringing once, then twice, and a female voice answers, "Hello." Then "click," and Steven's trademark "hee, hee, hee, hee — that was awesome." "What was awesome Steve?" "That was (insert the name of whoever Scott or Glenn were dating at the time)." I admit it always made me laugh. What kind of guy prank calls his roommates' girlfriends? But for some reason, I found it funny. And they weren't the only ones; his poor mother Carole was victim to many hilarious phone calls, ranging from the simple hang-up to an elaborate tale that could go on for hours. Come to think of it, she probably got it the worst (or best depending on how you look at it).

That's just one example of how I remember

him and a much more "PG" version than the ones that normally come to mind. Time and time again, though, I think back to when I have ever laughed as hard or had the most fun or did the craziest thing in my life, and though the places and faces may have changed over time, Steven's face was always a constant among them. That was the beauty of Steven - he was fearless. He'd say, do, or try anything as long



as it would provoke some sort of reaction from his audience, and for better or worse, everyone around him would have to deal with the consequences. I know making prank calls and popping off at the mouth are not very funny or mature, but Steven had the gift of making it work. He always made you feel comfortable and good about yourself while poking fun at him, you, or whoever was around. It truly was a gift.

I don't want to glamorize or downplay Steven as a person because he was much more than prank calls and a good laugh. He was human, just like everyone else, with good qualities and bad. So forgive me for reminiscing and focusing only on the good times we shared, but this is how I choose to heal. It's not so much the times I remember with him that makes it

hurt, but the times he missed in these short four years. The bachelor parties, weddings, the birth of his two nieces, and the births of so many friends' children, whose lives he will never be a part of. It's a shame he won't be there physically, but his presence is felt and missed. He would have been the perfect crazy Uncle Steve that made the kids laugh, told the best stories and brought the best gifts.

The main reasons I continue to support The Foundation are completely selfish and personal. It helps me get back that warmth and comfort I get when I see the old faces at the events, and it also helps me get back that indescribable feeling I get when I write for The Newsletter and get the chance to think back on some of the memories and events held in his honor. But most importantly, it helps keep Steven a part of my life. And life goes

on. Friends are getting married and starting families and achieving some of life's major milestones. I myself recently got married. The Foundation helps me pay tribute to a great friend, but even more, it brings me back in touch with an incredible network of friends from all walks of life, and reminds me how many people Steven has touched. And even though The Steven M. Perez Foundation is a cause that is truly noble and worthy, and no matter how gratifying it is to know we are able to help all those others in need, it doesn't take away from the fact that we lost one of our own. And more than four years later it still s*cks. I only hope that everyone else gets as much out of The Foundation as I do. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next event.

Snow Angels on Bourbon Street By Steve Dixon

Mardi Gras with Steven was an invitation you didn't pass up. Especially when he had already enlisted the company of his two favorite sidekicks, Dave Adler and Rich Park.

I don't think you could create a Festival that catered more to our pursuits. We were amazed to find out the bars don't close during Mardi Gras.

Imagine, Steven in all his glory after he decided we were going to have "The Best Night Ever." That night became day, and that day became night again, and I was more than ready for bed. Steve was pulling out all his

stops to get under my skin, from his patented "most annoying noise" to repeating everything I said. I knew he had no idea how to get back to our hotel, and somehow we had lost Rich and Dave. So there I was exhausted, hammered, and responsible for Steve, IN MARDI GRAS!

I don't know what exactly it was that hit my last nerve, but I finally had enough and told him to fend for himself if he didn't come back to the hotel with me. He refused, and I left him there.

I soon found Adler, and we agreed we should go back and get Steve, for all of our well-being.

As we headed back to the bar, he must have spotted us coming, because as we got closer we saw a crowd forming, and in the middle was Steven making snow angels in the calf-high litter of plastic cups and garbage that only Mardi Gras can produce. He jumped up, threw his arms around us, and with an ear-to-ear smile, said "I knew you couldn't leave me!" I couldn't help but laugh. To me, that summed up Steve. Even when I was pissed at him, he made me laugh, somehow. Even if it took making snow angels on Bourbon Street.



Try Something New... It may Just be Life Changing By Chris Singleton

I know many of the articles in The Newsletter focus on Scott Redler and his great accomplishments competing in triathlons, and by this time, you may be looking to read about something new. Perhaps my story will inspire some of you to give us some great new things to write about.

When Scott first started four years ago, I told him there was no way I could do a triathlon, but I would support him by going to all of his races. While keeping my promise, I started to get the itch to try. The looks of satisfaction on the participants' faces were of such magnitude that I could honestly say I had never had this feeling happen to me. It was not just that they were finishing a triathlon, but for many, they were completing a mission to try something new, and they succeeded.

On January 1st of last year, I decided I was going to try something new. I decided to join Scott in the Westchester Triathlon on September 23, 2007 (Jon Rothschild and Steve Dixon also chose to compete with us). The race consisted of a 0.92 mile swim portion, a 24.8 mile bike portion, and a 6.2 mile run to finish. Scott had given me the bike that Steven and some friends had given him when he started out, so I was all set to begin training. I figured the bike would not be a problem, but running and swimming would be. I set out in the cold on my first day to jog just one mile. I did this for a week or two, then I tried two miles and so forth. By the time spring came, I was out doing five to six miles before starting my day. I was really starting to feel and see where this journey would take me as an individual. At the age of 33, I had found a whole new level of self satisfaction and joy (those of you who know me, know I was already a happy person).

I was also lucky that the new adventure I chose would be a great way to get more involved with The Foundation. After nine months of swimming, biking and running, I ran across the finish line in a respectable 2 hours, 29 minutes, 33 seconds (just half a minute ahead of Mr. Redler!), and I achieved a goal I had only dreamed about one year before. The sense of accomplishment did not disappoint; I felt a feeling of satisfaction I had never felt before, and at that moment, I knew I was hooked. Lots of people from



The Foundation came out to support us, and we raised over forty thousand dollars. It was a huge success on many levels. Little did I know that the journey was not over and there were more good things ahead.

A fellow member of the Team in Training mentioned that there were two individuals in the Bedford/Katonah area (where I live) suffering from Leukemia. One was a 26 year-old schoolteacher, who had undergone a bone marrow transplant and was battling hard against post-surgery affects. The other was a 19 year-old volunteer firefighter whose family was really feeling the financial burden of daily visits to the city for treatment. Parking alone was a real expense. I mentioned these two situations to the Perez family, and within a few weeks of the race we sent the two families donations to help them out. It was great to see the whole fundraising process through from beginning to end.

Unfortunately, Ilissa, the schoolteacher, passed away shortly after receiving the gift. Her family never cashed the check. They sent a heartfelt note asking if they should send the money back. Without hesitation, and in the spirit of Steven, we told them to use it to enjoy themselves in Ilissa's honor.

We all live very demanding lives. Between jobs and families we often find it difficult to carve out some time to try something new and challenge ourselves in ways we never thought possible. I would implore anyone to try to do just that. It may turn out to be something that changes your life and helps bring The Foundation into a new area. I encourage you to think outside the box. Hopefully, some of you can find the peace and happiness I found, doing something different to help raise funds and spread awareness of Leukemia and its devastating effects on the patients and their families and friends. Live life to the fullest and do not take anything for granted.

Anyone who would like to train for the 2008 Westchester Triathlon in September, please let either Scott or me know. We would like to pass on "The El Rey Banana", (the famous bike) to someone new and keep the tradition alive. We encourage anyone looking to take on this challenge, but the bike is sized for someone close to six feet tall.

"Light the Night" Walk by Michelle Rehs

For the past three years, I have participated in The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's "Light the Night" Walk. This is an annual event that raises funds for the search for cures. It is a very festive night filled with special events, food and a sense of camaraderie. Everyone walks with an illuminated balloon that symbolizes someone who is battling the disease, or in honor of someone who has lost the battle.

I began walking in this event when my father was diagnosed with Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia. My sister and I walked in his honor, raising over \$1,500.00. For the following two years, after he passed away, I walked and created "Marvin's Team" in his memory. Last year "Marvin's Team" raised over \$2,300 and I'm hoping to exceed this for 2008.

Funds that are raised through this walk support the work of hundreds of the best and brightest researchers in their search for better therapies and cures for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. The Steven M. Perez

Foundation was pleased to support Marvin's team in its efforts to raise awareness and fight the battle against these horrific diseases. Everyone is welcome to take part in this event. It is a casual walk with people of all ages, including babies in strollers.

Anyone interested in registering for this walk can log onto www.lighthenight.org. If you would like to join "Marvin's Team" please log onto www.active.com/donate/ltmMelvil/2495_MRRehsLTN. Hope to see you there!

The dates and locations for the event are:

Thursday, September 18th at Atlantis Marine World Aquarium in Riverhead

Thursday, September 25th at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow

Saturday, October 4th at Citibank Park in Central Islip

Thursday, October 16th - South Street Seaport/ Brooklyn Bridge



Ford Ironman® USA Lake Placid By Rich Park

On July 22, 2007 a group of us traveled to historic Lake Placid for the Ironman® USA triathlon. It was the culmination of four years of multiple triathlons, endless training sessions and countless fundraising events for our friend, Scott Redler. In case you missed the earlier reports, Scott not only raced, but finished with an amazing time of 12 hours, 44 minutes, 37 seconds. This was truly one of the ultimate tests of endurance. We saw people falling down from exhaustion and dehydration and refusing any assistance, or else risk being disqualified. In one case, a man fell down right in front of us and when we tried to help, he waved us off. Ten minutes later he was up and running again. You can almost feel the pain and suffering of each racer, watching as they ran and gutted through the summer heat and tough course just to finish. Scott finished an impressive 868 out of 2,208 registered racers; only 2,051 finished. He also managed to beat former New York Rangers goaltender and Stanley Cup winner Mike Richter's time by four and a half minutes and forty people. That's pretty amazing considering at one point during the race we thought that Scott wouldn't even finish.

The day was extremely hot. To keep us entertained, we enjoyed frosty beverages and fine food as we cheered on the racers. Some of us even got in a round of golf in between the swim and bike legs of the race. As much fun as it was for some, the same cannot be said for Scott. He had given us estimated time splits before the race so we could try and predict when he would be going past our cheering section. There were two circuits required to complete the bike and run portions so



he asked me, "how you doing?" To which I replied, "I'm drunk and happy to see you... how the hell are you doing?" He gave me the thumbs up and said he was good. Now, exercising for twelve hours straight and to say you feel good is not normal... continuing to exercise after falling down from dehydration is just plain absurd. At that moment, I knew he would make it.

The trip as a whole was a great experience and these athletes are truly inspirational. The drive, dedication and sacrifices they make to train, compete and finish is awe-inspiring. But to be honest, if I were ever to run this race, I would have run the race like Tom Callaghan from Brampton, Ontario. He finished dead last with a time of 16 hours, 58 minutes, 47 seconds. The cutoff time is midnight to get on the official record books. At around 11:40 pm, Chris Singleton (another SMP triathlete) and I headed towards a spot near our condo, about fifteen minutes away from the finish line. We spotted three racers who were walking; they looked defeated. We shouted a few words of encouragement and then returned to celebrating Scott's completion of the race. At around 11:55 pm, we all decided to head to the finish line in the Olympic Stadium and cheer the remaining racers in. We heard over the loudspeakers that there were three racers remaining and that one had gone ahead of the others, hoping to make the cutoff time. Chris and I looked at each other in disbelief - could it be those same three guys? As the racer got closer, his name was announced to the crowd of about one thousand people and they all started chanting his name, "Tom, Tom, Tom, Tom". People who had



Scott would pass us twice. Between the second lap of the bike leg and first lap of the marathon, we were standing around wondering where the hell he was. When we saw him coming up the hill for the second bike circuit, he looked very much worse for wear. His head was down and the smile was gone from his face. He looked pale and sickly and I thought, "that boy does not look good." We waited for what seemed an eternity for Scott to pass us on his first loop of the run, but on mile 11 of the marathon, Scott's body locked up and he had to lie down. After a five minute rest, a few salt tablets from a passing teammate and a change of sneakers, he was back in the mix and running with a vengeance. His wife Celena almost took him out of the race when she leapt from the crowd to give him a hug as he passed. During his final lap of the run, after racing for a good twelve hours, I caught up to him running uphill with a smile and a giddy-up in his step. Before I could say anything

already finished the race were running with Tom, encouraging and escorting him to the finish. The poor guy looked like ten pounds of poo in a five pound bag, but he kept going. When it was announced that Tom was right down the street the entire stadium got louder, chanting his name over and over. Then as Tom burst into the stadium, the crowd erupted into a thunderous roar. Encircled by a dozen runners all cheering him on, Tom Callaghan from Brampton, Ontario was able to finish the Lake Placid Ironman with just 73 seconds remaining to get his name on the books. People were hugging and hi-fiving each other, the music was blaring, and the crowd was in a frenzied state. Other than finishing in first place, I thought that had to be the coolest way to finish this brutal challenge. Tom Callaghan and Scott Redler are inspiring because of their drive and determination to finish what they started and get the most out of their experience.



The Foundation would like to thank:

Aaron Fink
Abrams Family
Adler Family
Adriana Chinnici
Bachmann Family
Baker Family Foundation
Ben Cammarata
Bloomberg Family
Bradley Schwartz
Brian Sklar
Brian Sklar - BASS Trading
Brian Steinhaus
Christopher Scott
Criag Giordano - Alliance Capital
Davidson -Krueger Foundation
Dina Bakst
Dr. Martin Kane - Healthplex

Eichel Family Foundation
Epstein Family
Evan Kaye
Genatt Family
Gitlin Family
Glenn Reeder - Healthy Eatery
Goldring Family
Gruberger Family
Jack Wallace
Jackman Family
Jason Kravitt
Jesse Elhai
Jimmy Vali - Vali Music
Joe Warner - Simon Family Foundation
Jonathan & Heidi Davis
Keith & Holly Lind

Kevin Fisher & Pali Capital
Kogan Family
Lara Graff
Mark, Nancy & Eric Hechler
Mossberg Family
Murray Berkowitz and Sons
National Securities
Orlando Figueroa
Perry Rahbar
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Redler Family
Rothschild Family
Sal Governale
Schiff Family
Schnapp Family
Schonfeld Securities - Lightspeed

Trading
Scott Leemon
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Stacey Pike
Steve Levitan
Steven & Cheryl Dixon
Steven Gendal
Stuart Mitchell
Thomas Durkin
Vastardis Capital
Volk Family
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Peter Goldring recently started a new group on Facebook about the Foundation. In less than a week we had over 400 members and hope to continue to promote awareness and share information through the many old faces that have re-united in the group.

The Steven M. Perez Foundation is a not-for-profit organization operating under Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. All donations are gratefully accepted.

