

# The Steven M. Perez Foundation

## LETTER FROM THE FOUNDATION

**W**hen asked to reflect on 2008 it is hard not to think about all of the difficult challenges the world, the financial markets, and of course, the personal challenges everyone has had to endure. 2008 has left its mark on so many, from Bear Stearns, to Lehman Brothers, to the Madoff scandal and countless others. The events of the past 18 months have been life changing for so many and will affect the landscape of our lives for many years to come.

These difficult times may present financial hardship or the need to make sacrifices. Fortunately for most, they do not take away health, happiness and the love we all have for our families and friends. The Foundation was conceived to help patients and their families through difficult times and to help them find a way to enjoy life and live it to its fullest. We started because Steven made all of us rise to the occasion, think about today and not look back. We know firsthand the challenges these patients and their families are facing are much more challenging than any market crisis and we feel privileged to be able to brighten their days through our collective efforts.

2008 was a year of continued support for some of the wonderful initiatives of years past. Ten deserving students who are fighting to overcome their battles with cancer received scholarships, helping them pursue their dreams. We expanded and continued our relationships with camps like Camp Ronald McDonald, Sunrise Day Camp 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 need. These camps provide life changing experiences and we are proud that we can help these children and their families enjoy a quality life experience at a time when they need it most. We partnered with the NY Mets and the American Cancer Society to provide 2,500 patients, their supporters and families to attend Mets games this past spring at Shea. 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 showing you how your time, donations and attendance at our events is making a real difference to the people who need it most. We hope you enjoy reading about the success of The Foundation and what we continue to be able to do in Steven's memory. The Foundation takes tremendous pride in the way in which we honor Steven at our events like the Comedy Event, our 5th Annual Golf Outing and our Poker Night this past fall. Each of

these events were truly amazing. The only way they would have been better was if Steven had been there with us, laughing at Sal's jokes, or throwing a tee in my back-swing or trying to convince Hech to go "all-in". That was the way Steven lived his life. In these difficult times, it feels incredible that we are still able to do so much for so many people in his memory.

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 Leukemia and other cancers.

That has been our mission from the start and we know how proud Steven would be of all that we have accomplished. Your generosity has helped us raise almost \$175,000 this past year. This would

not be possible without all of your support. We want to acknowledge the Perez family, Jesse Elhai, friends like Jessica & Peter Goldring, Mellen & Jack Genatt, Tara & Eric Schiff, Celena & Scott Redler, Cheryl & Steven Dixon, Jen & Chris Singleton, Tracy & Glenn Hechler, Rich Park and Sal "The Stockbroker" Governale for their tireless effort, personal sacrifice and commitment to The Foundation.

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. The Foundation continues to look for new opportunities to help those who are affected by Leukemia and other related cancers. 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 (See Below). Please contact any of the Executive Committee or go to our website at [www.smpfoundation.org](http://www.smpfoundation.org) for more information about how you can make a difference.



## FOUNDATION & CONTACT INFORMATION:

**For donations & general information:**  
**Steven M. Perez Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 955**  
**Melville, NY 11747**  
**Tel: 631-367-9016**  
**Fax: 631-367-3848**  
**Website: [www.smpfoundation.org](http://www.smpfoundation.org)**

**To volunteer or get involved  
in upcoming events:**  
**Rick Perez**  
**Cell: 917-750-2522**  
**Email: [rickperez71@gmail.com](mailto:rickperez71@gmail.com)**

**Dana Perez**  
**Cell: 631-523-4006**  
**Email: [dmp0118@aol.com](mailto:dmp0118@aol.com)**

**The Steven M. Perez Foundation  
is a not-for-profit organization  
operating under Section 501(c)(3)  
of the Internal Revenue Code. All  
donations are gratefully accepted**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Please join the Steven M. Perez Foundation in supporting Scott Redler and Chris Singleton in the Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon on June 14th. We look forward to cheering them both across the finish line.
- **The 6th Annual "El Rey Banana" Golf Outing will be held on Monday, July 13th at Tam O'Shanter Country Club in Brookville, New York.** It is a day of tremendous fun, as well as a great sponsorship opportunity.
- Join us in supporting Scott Redler and Chris Singleton in the New York City Triathlon on July 26th.
- The search for candidates for the 2009 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

**FEBRUARY 2008** - \$5,000 went to Sunrise Day Camp in Melville, NY. The half-court basketball area will be named for Steven for a total donation of \$20,000.

**FEBRUARY 2008** - The Foundation provided Shayna Stephanek with \$500 for a half marathon on April 28th as part of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training® (TNT).

**MARCH 2008** - Gisele Z., a 2-year-old girl with Leukemia from Copiague, received a \$1,000 donation to help her and her family live life to the fullest.

**APRIL 2008** - The Foundation supported Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine with \$15,000 for 2008, for 6 Long Islanders to attend camp this summer and for one family to attend the bereavement session.

**APRIL 2008** - The Foundation partnered with the American Cancer Society and the NY Mets to provide tickets for 2,500 young patients and their families to attend Mets games. LETS GO METS!!!

**APRIL 2008** - The Tay-Bandz Dance-A-Thon was co-sponsored with ESP Entertainment to raise money and awareness for Tay-Bandz, an organization dedicated to finding cures for cancers that strike children.

**MAY 2008** - Thanks to Sal "The Stockbroker" Governale and Dana Perez for making the 4th Annual Comedy Night on May 2nd at Gotham Comedy Club another great success.



**MAY 2008** - The Foundation supported the Jacob's Cure Bowling event on May 4th with a donation of \$1,000.

**JUNE 2008** - The Steven M. Perez Scholarship was awarded to 10 deserving high school students for a total of \$14,500.

**JUNE 2008** - Annie and Will Epstein, daughter and son of David and Robyn Epstein, set up a lemonade stand near their home in New York City. They proudly donated all the proceeds to The Steven M. Perez Foundation.



**JUNE 2008** - The Genatt, Schiff and Perez families were proud to participate in the Walk to Help the Sun Rise, a non-competitive activity for people of all ages at Sunrise Day Camp.



**JUNE 2008** - Jen Berk guest-bartended at Rewind on Essex Street in New York City as part of a Vogue Magazine philanthropic event. She donated one third of the proceeds to Team In Training® and one third to The Steven M. Perez Foundation.

**JULY 2008** - The 5th Annual El Rey Banana Golf Outing raised

over \$130,000 on July 14th at Tam O'Shanter Country Club in Brookville, NY. Thank you to all our players, sponsors and volunteers for making this day such a success.

**JULY 2008** - An additional \$10,000 for The Steven M. Perez Foundation Playpod Maze in the playground at Sunrise Day Camp was donated.

**AUGUST 2008** - The plaque for the basketball court and the playground donated by The Foundation was officially dedicated at Sunrise Day Camp on August 17th.



**AUGUST 2008** - The Foundation supported Chris Singleton's participation in The Hudson River Swim for Life™ on September 7th with a donation of \$500. The money he raised went to the Westchester/Hudson Valley Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS).

**AUGUST 2008** - The Foundation welcomed Chace Redler and Sean Singleton as our future triathletes.

**NOVEMBER 2008** - Our 1st Annual El Rey Banana Texas Hold'em Poker Tourney on November 10th was a huge success thanks to the efforts of Glenn Hechler, Steven Dixon, Rich Park and Scott Redler. The Foundation raised over \$20,000 at Brother Jimmy's on Lexington and 31st in New York City. Seventy-two players and many volunteers and on-lookers came to watch the tournament unfold. Congratulations to our winner, Jason Yanofsky who generously donated a large portion of his winnings back to The Foundation.



## HUDSON RIVER SWIM FOR LIFE™



The Hudson River Swim for Life™ is a 5k swim across the Hudson River from Nyack to Sleepy Hollow. On September 7, 2008, Chris Singleton and Jonny Rothschild braved the waves in memory of Steven Perez and his brother, John Singleton. The money raised, approximately \$2,000, went to both Friends of Claire and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The swim happened to be the day after a tropical storm and the Hudson was extremely rough. Chris finished with a time of 2 hours and 32 minutes and Jonny came in with a time of 2:01.

Chris will be the first to tell you that before being inspired to participate in events like these, he was not in particularly good shape. Seeing that participation can make a difference inspired him to get up and give it a try. More than 823,000 Americans are battling blood cancers such as Leukemia, Lymphoma, Hodgkin's Disease and Myeloma. Even small donations can bring them hope and support.

Please join The Foundation in support of our friends participating in events like these in the coming year, including but not limited to Escape From Alcatraz™ triathlon, the NYC triathlon, TimberMan Half Iron Triathlon, the Philadelphia and NY marathons.



# THE STEVEN M. PEREZ SCHOLARSHIP

In 2008 we continued our search for qualified candidates for The Steven M. Perez Scholarship. In the spring, we awarded ten scholarships in Steven's memory for a total of \$14,500. Some of them lost close family members while some are in remission themselves. With the help of college counselors at several Long Island high schools and through FastWeb, the online scholarship search network, we continue to seek out candidates for the coming year. We also welcome personal referrals from our members and friends.

We were fortunate to meet a social worker affiliated with Schneider Children's Hospital. He introduced us to survivors of Leukemia and Lymphoma who have battled against these diseases and won! We were thrilled to offer scholarships to the candidates he introduced us to. For 2009, three families have already contacted us through Schneider's and will soon submit supporting documentation so we can provide scholarships to them in the coming months.

**Marie M.** has been very active in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team In Training® where she met Scott Redler. After graduating from Fiorello LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, she will be attending The George Washington University.

**Chelsea B.** is graduating from Brooklyn Technical High School and has been accepted into the College of Business at Johnson and Wales University. Chelsea's brother died of Leukemia at age 18, and her sister is a past recipient of the scholarship. Chelsea wrote, "Yes, Jaime B. is my sister. I am the youngest of three - Grasonde, Jaime and me (Chelsea). Jaime is completing her sophomore year at Howard University. She is doing very well and has been a good role model for me. Jaime told me about Steven and the Scholarship fund in his name. Jaime said she remembered how the Scholarship helped her and still puts a smile on her face. Jaime is busy looking for a paid summer internship and preparing for finals. I told her you asked about her and she sends her regards as well as another big THANK-YOU!"

**Ryan C.** was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease when

he was 16, and is now in remission. He plans to study music at SUNY Potsdam after graduating from Liberty Central High School.

**Darcy C.** was temporarily paralyzed from the waist down as a result of her treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). She is now in remission and will pursue a career in Early Childhood Education after she graduates from Christ the King Regional High School.

**Seth B.** will be graduating from Syosset High School and continuing his education at UCLA. Seth lost his mother to Leukemia.

**Raphael B.** is currently in treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and plans to continue his studies at C.W. Post after graduation from H. Frank Carey High School.

**Michael M.** donated his blood marrow to his younger sister, who later lost her battle with Burkitt Leukemia in 2008. He plans on attending Stonehill College in Massachusetts after graduation from Chaminade High School.

**Julie R.** is still enrolled at Edward R. Murrow High School. A survivor herself, Julie is a counselor at a camp for ill children in New Jersey, and is also active at Sloan-Kettering events for high school kids.

**Alex O.** will be graduating from Niskayuna High School in June.

**Craig B.** lost his brother to Burkitt's Lymphoma when he was 15. He plans to study nursing at Mansfield University after he graduates from Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

When we award The Steven M. Perez Scholarship, we make it a point to tell the recipient that he/she can use it toward tuition, books, or "anything that would put a smile on their face". A very large part of our mission is to spread Steven's message to "live life to the fullest", no matter what. He knew quite well that the benefit of higher education means more than just what is learned in the classroom – it means quality of life. We thank all our donors for allowing us to continue to put a smile on the face of someone who is fighting their own uphill battle due to these diseases. If you know of a candidate, please contact The Steven M. Perez Foundation.



## THE METS & THE SMP FOUNDATION PARTNER WITH THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY



In April of 2008, Eric Schiff began working on a way to bring The Foundation together with the American Cancer Society and the New York Mets to provide 2,500 young patients with the opportunity to attend baseball games last spring. He devoted many hours of his personal time to make this partnership happen. As a result of his untiring efforts, The Foundation established relationships with several ACS chapters, which led to a mutually beneficial partnership.

Over the course of several games, The Foundation and the ACS sponsored 2,500

young cancer patients and their families to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon at Shea Stadium. During the game, welcome messages to The Foundation and the American Cancer Society were displayed on the scoreboard. This partnership made it possible to provide this opportunity to many more deserving people than either organization could have done on its own. The Foundation's name and message has since been featured at many ACS events and on their giveaways.

One attendee wrote: "...seeing the name on the score board was a dream of our son's

that finally came true. We are so grateful to all of you and to your organizations. Our family was thrilled to learn of the donation. We can't thank you enough..."

And from the American Cancer Society: "...our chapters were so appreciative of your donation, our group had a great day and brought smiles to all... thank you for your generosity and partnership..."

We are proud to have been able to brighten the day of so many patients, supporters and families that attended, and we would like to thank Eric for all his hard work making this partnership happen.



# CAMP RONALD MCDONALD FOR GOOD TIMES® - 2008

In 1982, Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times® was created with the mission of offering fun filled, medically supervised, cost-free year-round camp programs for children with cancer and their families.

Children diagnosed with cancer experience a quick and abrupt end to the life they know and are introduced to one that includes unending medical appointments, painful treatments and the fear of living with the unknown. Their illness keeps them at home or in doctors' offices. They are isolated from their friends and the busy schedules they once knew. The structured programs and activities Camp offers provide the social, educational, emotional and recreational opportunities these very special children need not just to survive, but to thrive. The outdoor camp experience creates an opportunity for children to discover independence while being supported in a caring, warm, secure and medically safe environment. Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times® is accredited by the American Camp Association and the Children's Oncology Group Association. Through the generosity and kindness of The Steven M. Perez Foundation, ten amazing young people living with, and affected by, Leukemia attended Camp over the summer of 2008. The Foundation's generous contribution made it possible for these ten kids to enjoy a fun-filled, enriching summer with the comfort and medical support their special needs require.

**Allen B.**, a seasoned camper at age 15, attended his fifth summer camp session this year. Originally diagnosed at age 4, he had been cancer-free until two years ago when his disease returned. As a teenager, Allen knew what was waiting for him and his determination to beat cancer again was extremely strong. "Cancer invaded my body once, and I was not going to let it happen again," he said. What helped Allen the most was his ability to keep in contact with his Camp friends throughout his illness. Through Facebook and MySpace, the close network of Allen's Camp friends gave him tremendous support and strength. "My friends at Camp know what it's all about and I couldn't have done it without them and my parents. I'm very lucky to have them in my life."

17-year-old **Angelina A.** is a senior in high school, on the basketball team and a 9-year Leukemia survivor. She loves to talk on the phone and drive along the beach, although she complains that her parents don't let her do that enough. Angie, as she is called by family and friends, is looking forward to moving to Santa Barbara, where she will start college in the fall. This summer will be her last at Camp, and she's thrilled that she's never missed a single session. "Camp was the very first place I discovered where I felt safe if my bandanna were to fall off. No one cared. In fact, no one even noticed. The only way you can describe a place where you can feel that secure and comfortable is home. And, that's exactly how I feel about Camp – it is an extension of my home and I will always carry it in my heart."

**Justin** is 9 years old, very shy and reserved, and his favorite activity is playing with his Gameboy. He has been fighting Leukemia for 14 months now, and he has many trying and difficult days. Three years ago, his older brother, Jonathan, lost his own battle with the disease. Those wounds are still very fresh in Justin's memory and he worries about his own fate. This summer was his first at Camp, and he had great difficulty leaving his parents for so long. By the time the bus pulled up to Camp, the Gameboy was tucked away in his backpack.

"I know Justin has a long way to go, and we

are very hopeful for a different outcome than Jonathan's, but when Justin got off that bus, it was as if he was a different kid," says his Mom. "That level of energy and enthusiasm was back and it was just amazing. I know Camp gave him something wonderful, and I know that experience will have a lasting effect on him in the future."

**Tamara H.** is 12 years old and just full of spunk! She got diagnosed at age 6 and has been living with cancer for half her life. Prior to her diagnosis, Tamara sang all day, every day - anything you could imagine. Her Mom, Angie, says she started singing before she could say "Mama" or "Dada." The singing stopped when the cancer invaded her body. "It was as if a switch was turned off," says Angie. "It was so sad not to hear that happy, cheerful voice anymore. Her self-esteem and confidence were shattered beyond repair." At Camp, which she has been attending for three years, one of the activities is at the Camp radio station. Each cabin writes their own lyrics to existing music, records a CD, comes up with artwork for the cover and the kids get to take it home as a souvenir. Although Tamara participated in writing the words to her cabin's song, she would not sing on the recording. This issue plagued the staff to no end, and they worked hard with the other kids to try to get Tamara to believe in her singing again. On the very last day of Camp, during lunch, the dining hall fell silent as Tamara was introduced by her cabin counselor. Without batting an eye, she belted out Britney Spears' "Oops, I did it again" and lit up the room. Thunderous applause and cheering broke out, and as Tamara hugged her counselor she proudly stated, "I sounded pretty good, didn't I?"

Thirteen year old **Elizabeth** was diagnosed at age four, and has been fighting cancer ever since. This summer was very hard for her since she is in treatment again and insisted on coming to Camp. The medical team on site was able to care for all her needs while at Camp, but as soon as the session ended, Elizabeth went straight to the hospital. She is having a hard time to this day, in and out of the hospital. There

are many wonderful stories about Elizabeth, but the one that captures her spirit best is when she stood up for herself as a four-year-old. She had lost all her hair and hated being without her princess hat, whether at home or out. Her family had attended Family Camp and there, as a little girl, she found the support and strength not to worry about being bald. A few weeks after that family session, Elizabeth was in the grocery store with her Mom and a little boy just around Elizabeth's age called her a "weirdo" because she did not have hair. Elizabeth heard it, turned around to look at him, put her hands on her waist and announced, "I am not a weirdo! I have cancer!"

**Emily** is a feisty 15-year-old who was diagnosed with Leukemia at age four. She is very determined not to let this disease ruin her family. Her younger brother, Max, was diagnosed when he was eight years old, and sadly, passed away three years ago. Dealing with her brother's loss, coupled with the fear of living with the uncertainty of her own illness, can be too much for her. "I just love Camp," says Emily. "People can understand me and things about me, that even I have a hard time understanding. I don't know what I would do without Camp."

**Kayla** is 13 years old and her illness has caused many issues for her, including social and behavioral ones. She was diagnosed at age seven and went through a very long and difficult path before things took a different direction for her. The amount of time away from her peers, along with the smothering and constant attention she received from her family, caused her to experience many issues growing up. She was very angry, became instantly outraged if things didn't go her way and had immense difficulty making and keeping friends. At Camp, the counselors have worked very hard with her, quite often on a one-on-one basis, to help her deal with her anger, and more importantly, to appreciate the value of good friends. "Because of Camp, I feel like I am a different person now," says Kayla.

**Maddie** is yet another inspiring young woman who is a member of the Camp family.



# POKER NIGHT AT BROTHER JIMMY'S

She is 17 years old and has been dealing with Leukemia since she was 2. When she first came to Camp, she was the kid that all counselors wanted to buck to another counselor. She had a ton of energy and absolutely no focus. With time, hard work and the strong bonds developed at Camp, she has emerged to be a leader in her cabin year after year, and she now listens to everyone – even if she does not agree with them, simply out of respect. “Everyone has a different story – not a better one, but just a different one,” says Maddie. “And everyone deserves to be heard. That’s what I got to do at Camp – be heard because I was Maddie, not because I had cancer.”

**Gustavo** is 17 years old and was diagnosed nearly seven years ago. He attended Camp every single year since his diagnosis and there wasn’t an activity he would try or a kid he would not go up and introduce himself to. Sadly, after this last session, Gustavo relapsed and was hospitalized for several weeks. He returned home around Thanksgiving, but he’s having a very hard time. Although he’s older and stronger this time around, he’s also capable of understanding more and knows that this challenge is a difficult one. About two weeks ago, he called our office to ask us to reserve a spot for him during the third session. “I’ve not missed that session in seven years and I’m not going to miss it this time, either,” said Gustavo. “I need to get to Camp – that’s what’s been keeping me focused throughout all this.”

**Kristina** is a superstar! If ever there was a kid who made you marvel, it would be Kristina. At 13 years old, she is so thoughtful, kind and considerate to everyone (including nature and our planet) that it would be hard to believe she’s been fighting a devastating disease for 10 years. Each summer, she shows up with a monkey’s fist\* for everyone in her cabin. When a cabin mate who is going through treatment has difficulty getting up in the morning, she gets up 30 minutes earlier to make sure her cabin mate is ready on time. Without any suggestions from anyone, she writes thank you notes to all her counselors, maintenance employees and cooks to thank them for a great summer session. “I learned at Camp that it’s all about giving a hand to someone else and that’s what I try to do,” says Kristina.

\*Monkey’s fist is an ancient nautical knot used by sailors and mariners. It was used as a weighted fob to propel a ship’s tie down lines to either a neighboring ship or to a dock. Within the camping industry, monkey’s fists have come to represent hope and friendship. Each monkey’s fist is different in some way, just as friendships each are different and special.

The First Annual El Rey Banana Texas Hold’em Poker Tourney took place on November 10th at Brother Jimmy’s BBQ on Lexington and 31st in New York City. It was standing room only and the crowd was buzzing. The packed house was alive with the sound of poker chips and salty language as 72 players competed for the title of SMP Texas Hold’em Champion. It didn’t take long for the crowd to warm up to the game, and in no time we heard what would be the all too familiar call of “RE-BUY”, as the booze began to flow and the beer muscles started kicking in.

Like many other SMP events, it was a really memorable night; there was plenty to eat and drink, lots of action and laughs had by all in attendance. The professional dealers and pit boss added that special extra touch that has always been a



trademark of SMP events. Everyone felt welcome to relax and enjoy themselves and have a fun night out. The winner, Jason Yanofsky, outlasted 71 other entrants. He walked away a happy camper with \$3000 in winnings, but made a very generous and appreciated donation back to the SMP Foundation. The Foundation was able to raise \$20,000 at the event and we are planning to make next year’s event bigger and better. We would especially like to thank Eric Schiff and Gabe Landau for providing the dealers and tables and Brother Jimmy’s BBQ for hosting the event. We would also like to thank Glenn Hechler, Steven Dixon, Rich Park, and Scott Redler all the attendees and volunteers as November was a difficult time and we were very grateful for everyone’s efforts, attendance and support.

## TWO TRIATHLETES

This summer, The Foundation is proud to support two longtime friends, Scott Redler and Chris Singleton, as they tackle the Escape From Alcatraz™ Triathlon and the Nautica New York City Triathlon. As we grow older every year, go to work, watch our families grow and try to make time for friends, it’s hard enough just to get to the gym a few times a week. Scott and Chris have made a commitment to The Foundation and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, to their families and to themselves to work every day to prepare for these two challenges. Both of them have demanding jobs and young children, and both of them manage to get up every morning to train, rain or shine, and have been doing so every day for months.

Many of us are already familiar with the Escape from Alcatraz™ Triathlon from Scott’s experience of 2006. This race consists of a 1.5-mile swim through frigid waters from Alcatraz Island to the shores of the St. Francis Yacht Club, a grueling 18-mile bike ride, and a demanding 8-mile run through the trails of the Golden Gate Recreational Area. The waters of San Francisco Bay, reputed to be patrolled by sharks, are usually about 55° Fahrenheit. And the trails of the Golden Gate Recreational Area are mostly along the beach, so it’s a run through sand, except for the part where it’s about 400 steps to climb. On June 14th, Scott and Chris will again be going up against World Champions, Olympic

Medalists and the best amateur triathletes from 50 states and over 40 countries. For the first time, his good friend Chris will be joining him.

Most people would take a break after an event like this one, but Scott and Chris are not most people. Once the race is over and they come back from San Francisco, they will continue training in preparation for the Nautica New York City Triathlon on July 26th along with their Team In Training®. This race consists of a 1500-meter swim through the Hudson River, a 40-kilometer bike ride along the West Side Highway, and a 10-kilometer run through Central Park. Sounds easy... no sharks, no hills, no problem.

This level of commitment is hard for most of us to imagine. They train every single day – running, swimming and biking in all kinds of weather, going to bed early and waking up before dawn. They have given time they could have spent with their families and friends to prepare, to raise money and to raise awareness for The Foundation and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. We are proud of all they have accomplished thus far, and we look forward to cheering them across the finish line this summer. Chris has often said that watching Scott train and participate has inspired him to do the same. Now it is his turn to inspire others with his generosity and commitment. Please support our triathletes in their fundraising efforts



# The 5th Annual El Rey Banana Golf Outing

The 5th annual El Rey Banana Golf Outing took place on Monday, July 17, 2008 at Tam O'Shanter Country Club in Brookville, NY. We are proud of the fact that The Foundation was able to raise over \$130,000 through the support and participation of so many players and contributors. On a personal note, it is always such a pleasure to see so many people coming together to take a day off and just have fun.

Golf was a sport Steven really liked to play. Spending the day outside with as many people as he could convince to go with him, enjoying a little friendly competition, was something he loved to do. And what better way to end it than with a good meal? One of the things that makes the golf outing so special is knowing that he would be right there with us on the greens with a big smile on his face. He always wanted everyone around him to be happy and have a good time, and that's exactly what we do at the El Rey Banana.

The Foundation would like to thank the many contributors who donated so generously to the raffle and silent auction. There were several exciting packages this year, including a trip to Las Vegas with hotel stay, spa treatments and dinner reservations, and an evening out in Manhattan with a personal driver and bottle service at premiere NYC nightspots. There was also a VIP-only event at the Playboy Mansion, a NCAA Basketball Championship package, and tickets to the last All-

Star game at Yankee Stadium and Billy Joel's last concert at Shea.

But of course, it's not just fun and games. The funds go to several worthy causes and many individuals who really need the help, real people whose lives are only made more complicated by the diseases they are battling. Your support enables them to do more and live more fully, whether it's for a week of camp or a semester's worth of books, or simply to go out and do something they enjoy.

Thanks to our many sponsors, contributors, players and volunteers who showed their support. Taking a Monday off to play golf is not always easy, but the field this year was sold out again. The day can only run smoothly with the help of the many volunteers who are willing to do whatever is needed, from checking players in with a smile, to selling raffle tickets, to driving around the course with bottles of water.

Each year, the El Rey Banana Golf Outing is an opportunity to come out and remember Steven for the way he lived his life – surrounded by friends and having a good time. The fact that it is also a chance to give something back only makes it that much better. We hope you can all join us for the 6th Annual Golf Outing July 13, 2009 at Tam O'Shanter. Please contact The Foundation to reserve your foursome soon, as these spots fill up. See you on the tee box!!



# The 4th Annual Comedy Night

On Friday May 2, 2008 the Steven M. Perez Foundation hosted the 4th Annual Comedy Event at Gotham Comedy Club, located at 208 W. 23rd Street in New York City. Once again, we had a sold out event with over 300 people in attendance. Sal "The Stockbroker" Governale spearheaded the effort, bringing together talented comedians who were willing to donate their time for another night of laughs. The line-up of his fellow comics from "The Howard Stern Show" included Geno Bisconte, Richard Christy, Mike Boccetti and Artie Lange.

The Foundation auctioned 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 Jon Hein, every Monday through Thursday at 10:00 am following the Howard Stern Show on Sirius Satellite channel 100. Congratulations to our friends Glenn Reeder and Bob Engel from The Healthy

Eatery Cafe & Caterers in Syosset, New York who won the auction. They had a great time visiting the studio and hanging out with Jon and Gary. In addition, we had a raffle which was drawn at the end of the show for a cash prize. Congratulations to our winner, Jay Lauter, who was generous enough to donate money back to The Foundation.

The Steven M Perez Foundation Comedy Event generated \$30,000 for The Foundation. We would like to express our appreciation to Sal, Dana and everyone who helped plan this event and to those who attended for making our 4th Annual Comedy event another huge success. It is important for The Foundation to continue these events on an annual basis in remembrance of Steven. There is truly nothing more that Steven loved than sharing laughs with his friends and family.



## The Foundation would like to thank:

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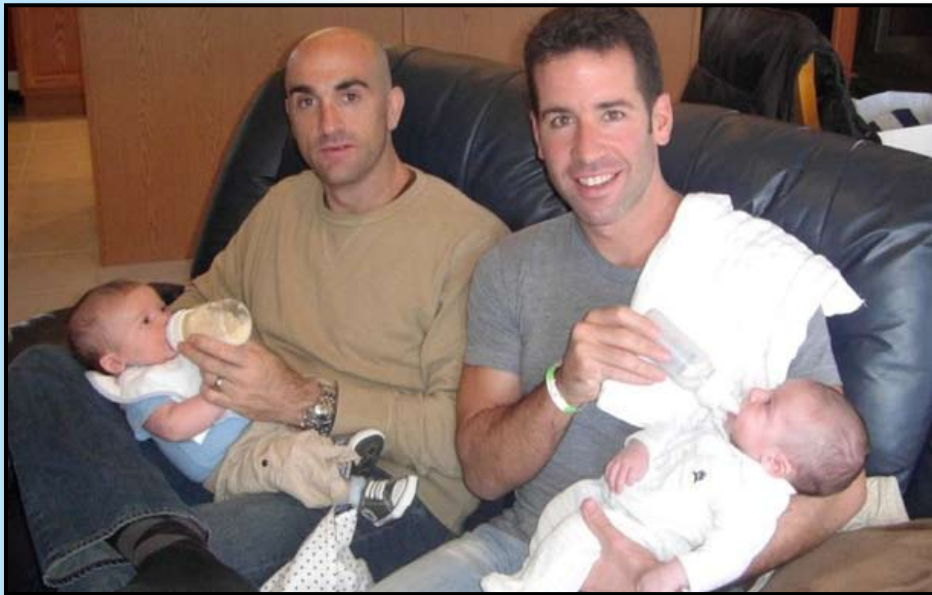
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# Athlete training report: Philadelphia Marathon

By Chris Singleton

With all the updates on our race performances and hard training, one would be led to believe that Scott and I must be so different from how we were in our younger and wilder days. While this is certainly true in many ways, we still hold true to Steven's motto and "live life to the fullest".



Last November, Scott and I decided to run the Philadelphia Marathon. This would be my first marathon ever, so we decided to round up some of the gang for a road trip. Glenn Hechler and Rich Park were quick to sign up for what would surely be a weekend of laughs. I believe they said, "You had me at hello." We arrived Saturday morning in the City of Brotherly Love and after picking up our race bibs, we were off to the sports bar to watch some college football. While Glenn and Rich were kicking back, hooting and hollering with the regulars, Scott and I discussed strategy for the race. I had read about pace groups and told Scott I thought we should run with the 3 hours and 50 minute pace group. They basically assign "professional" runners to different groups that run the race at a pace that guarantees you to be in at a designated time (at least in a perfect world, but more on that later). You can pick any 5 minute interval or so and the "pace runners" have balloons with times written in black marker so you can keep up with them in the crowd.

Scott agreed and assured me we

would stick to my game plan.

After a few hours hanging at the bar, we decided to carbo-load for the race and headed out for a nice Italian dinner. A few bottles of red and a ton of pasta later, we ended up at the hotel bar. Scott and I decided to turn in at around 10:30. The last we heard as we headed

upstairs was Rich and Hech saying, "Those guys are going to bed already? I wonder how far we are from Atlantic City?" I had a feeling those guys were in for a long night. When we woke up the next morning at six, of course Glenn and Rich were nowhere to be found. Scott texted Rich "Where are you guys?" and gets back "In AC, playing blackjack, see you guys at the finish line."

So Scott and I went to the race and, as expected, Scott turned to me and said, "Forget the pace group, we will be fine." Knowing exactly how this was going to turn out and against my better judgment, I agreed to follow Scott's lead. I assumed he knew what he was doing, having done this so many times before. Two or so miles into the 26 mile race I tried to persuade Scott to slow it down a bit and pace ourselves. Scott is a stronger runner than I am and he had agreed to run TOGETHER. Remember, this is my first marathon ever whereas Scott has a pretty good record; he's done some of the toughest triathlons there are. At about 12 or so miles in, we still hadn't seen anybody from the 3:50 pace group so we knew we were

ahead of our pre-race agreed upon time. Scott then said, "Lets pick it up - we can do 3:40". Again, knowing how this would turn out, I agreed anyway and we picked up our pace.

They say miles 18-24 are the hardest, because you are starting to tire and your adrenalin has not kicked in yet for the finish. Well, whoever "they" are, "they" know what the hell "they" are talking about. It was not two feet past the 18 mile mark that I hit a wall. My legs were tiring and felt like mashed potatoes (I later found out that I tore my MCL in my knee) and all conversation had come to a complete halt. Scott would try and talk to me every half mile or so and all I would do is hold my finger up to my mouth and give him the shush sign. I just had to focus on finishing.

As we got through mile 24, my legs were really heavy, but I started to feel the adrenaline and pictured crossing the finish line. I caught myself thinking, "Wow we must be doing great!!! We haven't seen anyone from the 3:50 pace group and only about two miles to go." Not thirty seconds later a pack of 25 or so runners passed us with ease. I looked up and sure enough there were the balloons with the 3:50 mark on them. They not only passed us, they were putting a sizable gap between us. Scott looked over at me like he knew I was ready to kill him, and we took off to catch them. We had to really kick it into high gear and I had to dig real deep the last two miles but we did pass them with about a 1/4 mile left and we finished at 3:52. So much for the professional pacer.

As we were about to cross the finish line, right in front of the Philadelphia Art Museum and the famous "Rocky" statue, we saw Glenn and Rich, fresh from AC on no sleep and flush with stories of victorious blackjack hands, never-ending rounds of vodka-7's and a high speed cab ride back into town before they closed the highway off for the race. After a quick checkout, we headed for one of the famous cheese steak places in town for cheese steaks washed down with Choco Tacos (a Steven Perez favorite). Then it was back in the car as I tried to get us home in time for the Jets game while my three comrades were passed out happy and full. So yes, we may be a bit healthier and somewhat more mature, but we still hold true to the SMP motto and Live Life to the Fullest!!!

