Donor Features

Honoring a Friend

Thomas Scanlon, Vice President of Human Resources at The Okonite Company, a wire and cable manufacturing company headquartered in Ramsey, New Jersey, has a special relationship with Judge Baker Children’s Center. His friend, Mark Williams, was a Counselor at the Baker’s Manville School. Tom and Mark became friends when Mark was in college in Rhode Island. Their friendship continued as Mark moved to New Jersey and then made his way to Massachusetts to work at the Manville School. Sadly, in November 1998 Mark passed away from Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. He was only 37 years old when he died.

After Mark’s passing, Tom and the Williams family collected memorial donations for Judge Baker Children’s Center in Mark’s honor. “He had a wonderful opportunity with the Baker, and we couldn’t think of a better way to honor Mark than to give back to the organization that gave him happiness,” said Tom. For the past 11 years, Tom has continued to make a generous donation to the Baker in Mark’s honor. These donations come at the same time every year, right around Mark’s birthday.

Mark Williams’ memory will always live on with his friends and family, and in a unique way with the Manville School. Each year at Manville’s graduation an award is presented in Mark’s name, The Mark Williams Award for Tolerance. This award is given to an upper school student who interacts with others in a manner which reflects a sense of respect for himself/herself and others as well as an appreciation for each person as an individual despite their differences. Mark is described in this award as, “a counselor who demonstrated respect, caring, and cultural pride which he shared with all members of the school community.” It is clear that Mark’s presence made an impact on Manville and now his memory will continue to live on through future Manville students.

This past spring, Tom Scanlon and Mark’s sister, Deborha were able to attend the Baker’s Presidential Reception and Open House. They took this opportunity to see the organization where Mark spent his days. Although it was not the actual facility where Mark worked (the Baker moved to its new location in 2004), they were able to understand the Baker, and feel the power of the programs, staff, and children. “This was a great experience for us,” stated Tom. “These young people have such poise, and the entire evening was both touching and informative.”

For Tom, being a donor to Judge Baker Children’s Center is a way to honor his dear friend and celebrate his birthday. “This is my way to remember Mark. Hopefully it will help further the cause of the Baker. This really is a remarkable place.” The Baker is proud to have such a loyal supporter as Mr. Thomas Scanlon.

Corporation Hits a Hole-in-One for Kids

As a non-profit organization, Judge Baker Children’s Center relies on the support of corporations and individuals to raise necessary funding. For the past four years, Federal Street Advisors, a wealth advisory firm located in Boston’s Financial District, has contributed to the success of the Baker’s annual golf tournament as a Corporate Sponsor. This level of sponsorship is essential to the success of any fundraising effort. It is also an opportunity for corporations to provide philanthropic assistance through a special interest event.

Included as part of their sponsorship for the Baker’s golf tournament, Federal Street Advisors sends eight employees to enjoy the tournament first hand. “Our staff that participate in this tournament have had nothing but wonderful things to say. They enjoy themselves every year and rave about the golf courses they get to play. They are also moved by the stories of children the Baker has helped, and this makes them want to participate again the following year,” said John LaPann, President and Founder of Federal Street Advisors.

“We believe strongly in the Baker’s mission, which is in line with the values of the firm, so support is a no-brainer,” LaPann commented. The Baker stays in touch with Federal Street Advisors throughout the year, keeping them informed of important happenings and news updates. “The ongoing work that the Baker does for children and their families is comprehensive and highly effective. This has remained the motivation for Federal Street’s continued support.”

As a corporate sponsor, it is important to know that your contributions are making a difference. For Federal Street Advisors, the understanding that their help is making an impact is what brings them back year after year. “We are aware of the severe shortage of quality mental health services for children, and feel it is important to support good organizations like Judge Baker Children’s Center,” stated LaPann. “Our support has been in place for several years and we expect it will continue to be there in the future.”

In fiscal year 2009, the Cadillac Invitational Golf Tournament to support Judge Baker Children’s Center raised $77,550 thanks to the help of individual donors and corporate sponsors like Federal Street Advisors. Founded in 1991 and headquartered at 50 Federal Street in Boston, Federal Street Advisors has 30 individual donors and corporate sponsors like Federal Street Advisors.