



**Bennett
Clayton
FOUNDATION**

BCF

For Children with OI

news

from Bennett and his family

volume 2 issue 1

Another Success!

5th Annual Charity Golf Event



Bennett hits first ball of 2008 tournament

On a beautiful August day, over 100 golfers took to the links at Shoreland Country Club in support of the Bennett Clayton Foundation for Children with OI. Golfers enjoyed spirited competition with their

friends—both new and old—as well as games, prizes, food and their contribution to a worthy cause. More friends and supporters joined the group for the silent auction and dinner provided by Famous Dave’s Bar-B-Q. Corporations, businesses large and small, individuals, family and friends provided sponsorships, led by Davisco International, this year’s Presenting Sponsor.

In keeping with the Johnny Cash theme, black shirts were visible as golfers “putted the line” for BCF and OI. John Frank was



The Boy in Black



the winner of the costume contest in his Folsom Prison uniform! Volunteers and the Shoreland staff worked efficiently to present a successful event—despite storm damage done to the clubhouse just a week prior to the BCF event. Through the generosity of sponsors, golfers, volunteers and friends more than \$16,000 was raised to support the work of the Bennett Clayton Foundation. Bennett and his cousins once again sold lemonade to help with the fundraising.

You will recall our family’s need to “do something” after Bennett was diagnosed with Osteogenesis Imperfecta. So



Erin and new friends

we formed a non-profit corporation and organized our first charity golf event. Now, thanks to all of you, we have just completed our fifth event. We are proud of all of you for supporting us these five years. Thank you! We’ll see you on August 14, 2009. ■

Concert to Benefit BCF

St. Peter’s vocal jazz group, **The Riverlights**, will present a concert on Sunday evening, Dec. 7th in Union Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. Proceeds from the concert will go to the BCF Scholarship Fund. The concert is open to the public; donations may be made at the door. Please join us as we begin the holiday season. ■

Our Sponsors



In the Beginning...

When the DeBlieck and Olson Families first learned Bennett had OI, we quickly decided we had much to learn, much to do and that there were many more people who needed our help. The first golf event was born and we went to work. But we didn't do it alone. Many people stepped forward as sponsors. In this column, we will acquaint you with some of them. In future issues of this newsletter, we will acknowledge many others.

In the previous two issues of this newsletter, we introduced you to our first year's "Birdie" and "Par" sponsors. With this issue, we recognize Davisco Foods International which moved up to be our "Presenting" sponsor. In addition, new "Par" sponsors were Gallagher Company and Swingtown Marketing Group.

We sincerely appreciate all of our sponsors, at all levels. ■

Personal Health Grant Deadline

The semi-annual deadline for the Bennett Clayton Foundation Personal Health Grant is quickly approaching. Deadlines of June 30th and December 31st have been established for this grant. Applications are invited for consideration prior to the next deadline, December 31, 2008. Please see our website for more information and an application form—www.BCFforOI.org ■

BCF Scholarship Program Off & Running

BCF marked the first year for the Bennett Clayton Foundation Scholarship program in 2007. This scholarship is for young adults with OI who are preparing to continue their education into post-secondary study. The scholarship is \$2500 per year, renewable for up to four years. It is managed by Scholarship America. Please see our website for information and an application. ■

Bennett...

...turned 6 years old on January 24th

...met his 1st grade teacher, Ms. Walters, when she was a volunteer at this year's charity golf event

...rode the Metro in Washington, D.C.

...loves caramel rolls



...had a great time catching bass on a family vacation.



Bennett, Paula, and Marianna take a break from their ball and tee decorating duties.

National Conference of the OI Foundation

Five members of the DeBlieck and Coomer families traveled to Washington, DC in August for the biennial conference of the OI Foundation. Once again we met new friends in the OI community who helped us to understand the disease and how families adapt to special needs. Seminars and speakers taught us about the current research, recent medical achievements and coping with OI. Bennett and Marianna enjoyed riding the Metro and attending Camp OI while adults attended the conference sessions. A little sightseeing was a special treat, even walking to the Lincoln Memorial in pouring rain! Thanks to Senator Amy Klobuchar's staff, we enjoyed a personal tour of the Senate Chambers and our nation's Capitol. The 2010 conference will be held in Portland, Oregon. ■



The mission of the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation is to improve the quality of life for people with OI through research to find treatments and a cure, education, awareness, and mutual support. To learn more, visit www.oif.org, e-mail Bonelink@oif.org, or phone 1-800-981-BONE.

BCF and IO Get in on Education



The Bennett Clayton Foundation would like to acknowledge Noah Kreft, a St. Peter High School senior, for deciding to complete his senior project on osteogenesis imperfecta (OI) and BCF. His project introduced many new people to what OI is and how BCF works to raise money and awareness. One of the Foundation's goals is to educate the public about OI. We thank Noah for his assistance in helping us to achieve that goal. ■

Others Helping...

Wells Fargo Bank continues to support the Bennett Clayton Foundation with funds raised at its annual charity golf event held at Woodbury's Prestwick Golf Club in September. Bennett, his sister Marianna, and his dad Chad met golfers as they tried to "Beat the Pro", Uncle Ron Coomer. Auntie Paula Coomer helped Mari and Bennett decorate golf balls and tees for good luck. Event organizers, led by Anthony Tibor, solicited support from many Wells Fargo employees and vendors in support of this event. Those attending came from California, Texas, New York, Chicago, Boston, Iowa, South Carolina, Milwaukee, Colorado, Canada, and of course Minnesota. Through the generosity and hard work of fifteen volunteers and 152 golfers, \$180,000 was raised. Funds from this year's event will be donated to The Vail Place as well as BCF. The Bennett Clayton Foundation is sincerely grateful for the financial support of Wells Fargo Bank, the efforts of Anthony Tibor and the ongoing commitment of Patty Chouanard-McAdam, a friend of the DeBlieck Family and a Wells Fargo employee. ■

2007 Benefit Concert

On December 9, 2007 St. Peter's vocal jazz group, The Riverlights, presented a concert of holiday music to benefit the Bennett Clayton Foundation. Some of the members are employed by Scholarship America, the organization which manages a newly created scholarship for students with OI. Those members suggested that proceeds from the 2007 concert be used to fund the BCF scholarship. It was a wonderful performance in the beautiful Union Presbyterian Church. This year's Christmas performance will again benefit the BCF scholarship program. (See related article on page 1). ■



The Riverlights at the 2007 benefit concert for BCF. Front: Marci Eloffson, Cary Albers, pianist Vonnie Elker, Brenda DeBlicek, Annette Meeks; back: David Haglin, Ron Reitz, and Andy Johnson.

The mission of the Bennett Clayton Foundation for Children with OI is to raise funds for education, research and support for issues affecting children with Osteogenesis Imperfecta. ■

Funding for this newsletter is provided by the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation.

Part of the Community

Winterfest: Once again we bundled up on a cold February night to participate in the St. Peter 2008 Winterfest parade. While walking, riding a float and juggling (thanks to Dave Roder, our resident juggler), we distributed candy, flashing lights, and information about BCF and OI. ■



The BCF gang braving the cold at the 2008 St. Peter Winterfest parade.

Meet & Greet

On April 19th the Foundation hosted its second annual "Meet & Greet" gathering of OI friends in our region. Several new friends joined us at Bent Creek Golf Club in Eden Prairie for an afternoon of getting acquainted, sharing joys and needs, food and fun. Some of those friendships were renewed in August at the OI Conference and the BCF golf and charity event. Our thanks to the Bent Creek staff for a pleasant venue and to Nancy Rydland, Shannon Klick and Nettie Jubie for entertaining children while adults visited. ■



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