



**Bennett
Clayton
FOUNDATION**

B C F

For Children with OI

news

from Bennett and his family

volume 4 issue 1

Charity Golf Event



The 7th Annual Charity Golf Event took place on a slightly rainy August day at Shoreland Country Club. Golfers, volunteers, area supporters, Shoreland staff and OI families joined us in raising another \$18,000 for the Bennett Clayton Foundation for Children with OI. This year's "baseball" theme created great fun for golfers as they not only golfed, but played on-course games including the "homerun derby". Paul Amos was the winner of the grand prize, including tickets to a Minnesota Twins game in new Target Field, dinner at J.D. Hoyt's and a gift card for lodging. Even Harry Carey showed up—aka John Frank, our perennial costumed golfer. Bennett and his siblings, cousins, and friends once again sold lemonade and kettle corn donated by Wendy Bachmann and family. Wonderful silent auction items contributed to the proceeds. Many generous donors shared unique and profitable sale items which became great buys for those in attendance. Loyal sponsors, led by Davisco International, our Presenting Sponsor, contributed generously. We sincerely appreciate all of our sponsors. ■

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.

Scholarship Concert

On December 10th, St. Peter's local jazz group, **The Riverlights**, once again presented a concert of Christmas music at Union Presbyterian Church. Proceeds were donated to the BCF Scholarship Fund. In their twenty years together, the Riverlights have generously performed concerts benefiting many organizations and worthy causes, including a 2008 Christmas concert on behalf of the Bennett Clayton Foundation. Two of the Riverlights—Annette Meeks and Cary Albers—are employed at Scholarship America, the organization which administers the Bennett Clayton Foundation Scholarship. Other Riverlights are Paul Albers, Brenda DeBlieck, Marci Elofson, Andrew Johnson, Doug Kvidera, and Ron Rietz. Joining the Riverlights in concert this year were Michael and Bonnie Jorgensen. ■



Above: The Riverlights at their December benefit concert for BCF. Back row, left to right: Doug Kvidera, Ron Reitz, Paul Albers, and Andrew Johnson. Front row: Annette Meeks, Brenda DeBlieck, Cary Albers, and Marci Elofson. Right: Concert guest artists, Bonnie and Michael Jorgensen



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BCF Scholarship

The first Bennett Clayton Foundation scholarship was awarded in 2009 to Tawnya Taylor, currently a student at Kaplan University. In 2010, a scholarship was awarded to Hanna Rapsky who is attending the University of Wisconsin-



Hanna Rapsky

Stevens Point. We are proud of both of these young women and proud of our many friends and colleagues who have helped to fund the BCF Scholarship program. Congratulations to Tawnya and Hanna! Applications opened recently for 2011 graduates.

Scholarships may be renewed by earlier recipients as well. Information and application materials are available on the BCF website: www.BCFForOI.org. Scholarship America continues to administer the scholarship program on behalf of BCF. ■



Erin DeBlicek, Paula Coomer, Tawnya Taylor and Brenda DeBlicek.

Personal Health Grant Awards

Two Personal Health Grants have been awarded since our last newsletter. The Bennett Clayton Foundation is pleased to have assisted these families with unique needs including a specialized stroller and special flooring. We encourage children with OI to apply for funding assistance with medical needs not met by families' insurance, personal funds or other aid resources. Deadlines are June 30th and December 31st each year. Please see our website for more information and an application form – www.BCFForOI.org. ■

Memorial

The family of William Stone generously designated the Bennett Clayton Foundation as a recipient of memorials following his death. Gifts from friends of Mr. Stone will be used to continue the work of BCF in providing scholarships, personal health grants, education, family support, and research. Our sympathy to Bill, Joanna, Sarah Kate and Michael in the loss of Bill's father. ■

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Bennett...

- ...is in the 3rd grade with Mr. Robinson as his teacher
- ...loves to hunt and fish with his dad
- ...played baseball in a summer community program ■



Dates & Deadlines:

March 1, 2011
BCF Scholarship
Application deadline

June 30, 2011
BCF Personal Health
Grant Application
deadline

OIF National Conference—Portland

In July several members of the DeBlieck and Coomer families attended the biennial conference of the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation (OIF) in Portland, Oregon. Conference sessions included hearing loss in OI, a bisphosphonate update and DEXA results as they relate to OI patients as well as many other events and educational opportunities. ■



Grandma Brenda DeBlieck, Bennett, and friend, Henry DeBoer at the OIF national conference in Portland.

OSTEOGENESIS IMPERFECTA



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.

Others Helping...



Left to right: Erin DeBlieck; Kevin Traut (Superior Press); Brenda DeBlieck; Steve Traut (Superior Press); Mark Walker (Wells Fargo, San Francisco); Paula Coomer; Ron Coomer. Front Row, Marianna and Bennett DeBlieck.

Another charity golf event generated significant funding for the Bennett Clayton Foundation. The WITS (Worldwide Internet Treasury Services) division of Wells Fargo Bank held its annual fundraiser at Prestwick Golf Club in Woodbury on July 29th. Bennett and his family were on hand to help with the day's events, including staffing a BCF tent on one of the tee boxes. Bennett and his Uncle Ron would tee off first for each group. Marianna once again decorated golf balls, many of which brought good luck to the golfers. We were reacquainted with friends from past years and met new friends and supporters from all around the U.S. and Canada. Proceeds will be shared by the American Cancer Society, Vail Place, and the Bennett Clayton Foundation for Children with OI. WF employee, Anthony Tibor once again organized a very successful event supported by Wells Fargo employees and vendors. We are grateful to Anthony and to Patty Chouanard-McAdam, for their ongoing support and commitment. ■

Meeting Friends

One of the goals of the Bennett Clayton Foundation is to reach out to other families dealing with OI. Sharing information, determining needs of others and providing support are benefits of communicating with others. To meet that goal, we have hosted several "Meet and Greet" gatherings. Recent events have been held in Eden Prairie, West Saint Paul, Richfield and most recently in Golden Valley. At this December 5th gathering, we enjoyed sharing family stories; creating Christmas ornaments; listening to music performed by cellist, Jeff Erbland; refreshments and the hospitality of the Hovden-Roll family at Valley of Peace Lutheran Church. Thirty of these friends also joined the DeBlieck Family for the last regular season Twins game in Target Field on October 3rd. With continuing encouragement to meet again, we look forward to future events including a winter bowling outing coordinated by the Brundieck family as well as a spring gathering with medical professionals focused on hearing issues among the OI population. ■



OI Foundation Award

The Bennett Clayton Foundation continues to support medical research and other programs of the OI Foundation. Significant support has been donated by BCF to the Linked Clinical Research Centers. We are currently participating in a five-year capital campaign to reach the OIF's goal of raising matched funds for the Centers. ■

A Wedding Gift

Casey DeLanghe and Christine Otis were married in Moorhead on August 7th in a beautiful, outdoor wedding and reception. Casey and Christine made a donation to the Bennett Clayton Foundation in honor of their wedding guests rather than table favors for each guest. We appreciate their creative and generous "wedding gift". ■

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www.BCFforOI.org

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