



*Cancer Crusher Night founder Amanda McKean, a childhood cancer survivor, is shown here in the Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School gymnasium with her mother, Lisa.*

## Kids Unite Again to Crush Cancer

For the second consecutive holiday season, high school students worked together to “crush” cancer and celebrate childhood cancer survivorship.

The second annual Cancer Crusher Night was held December 11 and featured a performance by up-and-coming singer Val Emmich and a grand finale by Tim McLoone’s Holiday Express, as well as silent and gift auctions featuring concert tickets and restaurant and spa gift certificates. According to its organizers, the mission of Cancer Crusher Night — which in 2008 raised \$40,000 for the Pediatric Survivorship Program at Monmouth’s Valerie Fund Center for Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders — “is to crush cancer by empowering our community to collectively fight the battle against this devastating disease afflicting children from infancy to 21.”



The Pediatric Survivorship Program will provide follow-up care and treatment vital to childhood cancer survivors — a cause close to the heart of event founder Amanda McKean, a Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School senior who spent two years as a toddler fighting leukemia.

“I had pediatric cancer when I was 2, and when I go to the pediatric cancer wing for follow-up checkups, I can’t express the feelings I have when I see these young patients,” she said. “I want them to see, ‘Here I am, I’m a survivor, I’m living proof — just keep fighting.’” ☀️

## Riding for a Cause

The annual Kickin’ Childhood Cancer Charity Horse Show to benefit The Valerie Fund Children’s Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at The Children’s Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center raised \$21,000 through a silent auction and ad journal, as well as food and craft vendors and family fun activities.



*A young equestrian leads her mount over a perfect jump during the horse show.*



Organized by sisters Sandra Siliato, pictured at right, and Bethie Dayton, shown at left with Sandra’s 5 year-old daughter Autumn, in memory of their brother, Jimmy Walters, the event was held October 26 at Red Oak Farm in Stirling, N.J. where Bethie lives and works as a horse trainer. Also pictured, center from left, are equestrians Nicole Adams, Libby Dayton and Diane Douglas, who raised \$800 for the event by braiding the tails and manes of the show horses. ☀️

## GRANT NEWS:

### Monmouth’s Valerie Fund Expanding to Ocean County



Supporting Comprehensive Health Care Services for Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders Since 1979

Thanks to a generous contribution from The Valerie Fund and WaWa in support of a new satellite Valerie Fund Children’s Center at Monmouth’s sister hospital, Community Medical Center in Toms River, The Children’s Hospital is bringing its center of excellence in pediatric hematology and oncology to the Ocean County community.

“It is part of our hospital vision to be a leader in designing new ways for delivering services by forming innovative and collaborative relationships with other providers, and by working together with supporters such as The Valerie Fund and the Charity Committee at WaWa, we are meeting this goal,” says Rosemarie Yalden, interim vice president of development for the foundation. “We are so grateful to them for supporting this important expansion of our Valerie Fund Center for Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders.”



## Making the Holidays Bright

Every year, The Children’s Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center is visited by a host of generous organizations and individuals hoping to make the holiday season brighter for hospitalized children.



For the fourth holiday season, members of Off Da Hook MC, a non-profit organization whose members are professionals who enjoy riding motorcycles and giving back to the community, traveled to MMC to support The Children’s Hospital. Shown at left, from left, Tawanda Cooper, business manager, presents a \$100 donation to Children’s Hospital patient, Jamie Mayo, as, from left, Barry Graves, president, and Wes Greene, sergeant of arms, and Donna Green look on. Based in Neptune, Off Da Hook was established in 1994.

Perennial children’s hospital supporter Matt Bongiovi, owner of Element Steakhouse & Lounge, Sea Bright, once again hosted a toy drive to benefit pediatric patients at Monmouth. Shown here, Bongiovi’s business manager Vinnie Riccio checks out some of the gifts with, from left, Margaret Fisher, M.D., medical director of The Children’s Hospital and chair of pediatrics, Debra Petersen, clinical director of pediatrics, and child life specialist Kristin Furlani.