

Hope and help every day to fight the deadliest children's disease



# Children's Brain Tumor Foundation

## Letter from the President



The last few months have been busy ones for Children's Brain Tumor Foundation (CBTF)!

In October, with the generous support of Jenna's Rainbow Foundation, we participated in our second week of 2007 at Camp Sunshine. This camp, in Casco, Maine, provides respite for the entire family of a child with a brain or spinal cord tumor. Nearly 40 families were in attendance and benefited from the opportunity to share their experiences with others who are on the same journey.

Also in October we shared hosting duties with Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy for the first New York City-based Rise to Action Conference for pediatric cancer survivors. Nearly 50 brain tumor survivors and their families participated, as did 60 survivors and parents of other childhood cancers. Participants heard from professional experts as well as peers and gained new insight into the issues and concerns facing survivors and their families. This event marked the first educational outreach of our Survivorship Program.

We capped off October with a record crowd at our 19th Annual Big Apple Circus! The generous support of sponsors, including Diamond Sponsors Jane and Joel Shiff, enabled us to fill a tent and give hundreds of our kids and families a joyful, care-free day with Grandma the Clown and other entertainers. We look forward to seeing everyone next year at our 20th Anniversary event.

In November CBTF honored five new research grant recipients and three renewal grant recipients at the 3 West Club in Manhattan. Dr. Peter Phillips, Chair of our Professional Advisory Committee, spoke briefly about the excitement of brain tumor research today and presented the awards of \$75,000 each for 2008, bringing the total amount

of research funded since our inception to nearly \$6,000,000! We also acknowledged Quality of Life awards that had been given this year to Camp Sunshine and Friends of Karen as part of our continuing efforts to help families.

As we closed the calendar year we benefited, thanks to CBTF Honorary Board member Linda Angel's efforts, from two performances of *Hear our Song* on December 1 and 2. This musical review features five women celebrating the ages and stages of their lives. All proceeds support CBTF.

Last but not least, we participated on December 9 with Beth Israel for our Annual Holiday Party. Five hundred twenty five children and parents attended and enjoyed the hospitality provided courtesy of a generous grant from ProTravel International.

Finally, I want to offer thanks to two organizations. The Chait Foundation has agreed to provide funding for a new CBTF initiative that will enable adolescent and young adult brain tumor survivors to attend Camp Mak-A-Dream in Missoula, Montana. We are excited by the prospect of this camp and grateful to the Chait Foundation.

We are also very grateful to the Licensing Industry Merchandiser's Association (LIMA) for committing to raise \$3 million to support an exciting new research initiative CBTF is undertaking. LIMA raised \$1.5 million in its first four years of sponsoring CBTF, and this renewed commitment is a testament to the deep concerns that they have for kids and families across America and around the world. -Bob Budlow, Board President

The 19th Annual



Children's Brain Tumor Foundation invited 1600 people to the Big Apple Circus in New York City on October 21st.

The event offered children with brain tumors and their families an escape from the rigors of their treatment to an afternoon of acrobats, clowns, and many smiles. Bob Budlow, CBTF Board President, shared, "Laughter connects family, friends and supporters under the big top for a day of magical memory building."

Miriam Barry, CBTF Board Member and co-chair of the Circus Committee explained, "The best part of the day for me is watching the families as they leave, for all are smiling and leaving happy. I find a lot of joy in giving out the event gift bags and meeting families personally. As a parent of a long-term survivor, I recognize the importance of a fun day together as a family."

Eric Snyder, CBTF Board Member said, "This is my second year co-chairing the Circus Committee and for me, the event is so important. I have children and want to ensure that all children have the opportunity to laugh, relax, and have fun. I am committed to working on this event to help bring happiness to those touched by a pediatric brain tumor. It was amazing to see all the seats under the big top filled with children and families!"



Christine Merson Photography

CBTF is committed to offering events, like the Big Apple Circus, throughout the year that provide families opportunities to reconnect, meet others, and have fun. If you are interested in learning more about this or any of our future events, please email us at [info@cbtf.org](mailto:info@cbtf.org).

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## Seasons greetings from CBTF!

Please consider a gift to support our work in the new year!

### CBTF Board Members:

- Bob Budlow, *President*
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- Lisa Jerles, *Secretary*
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- Jennie Leclere, CPNP
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- Anita Nirenberg, RN, CNP
- Nicole Ronco
- Jane Shiff
- Eric Snyder
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### Honorary Board Members:

- Linda Angel, *Past President*
- Anita Lobel
- Leonard Lustig

### Chair Professional Advisory Committee

- Peter C. Phillips, MD

### Medical Directors

- Jeffrey C. Allen, MD
- Jonathan Finlay, MB, ChB

### CBTF Staff:

- Joe Fay, *Executive Director*
- Tracy Moore, *Director of Support Services*
- Sarla Patel, *Accounting*
- Eric Talbert, *Development Manager*
- Sanya Vijayan, *Office Manager*
- Stacia Wagner, *Director of Survivor Programs*

[www.cbtf.org](http://www.cbtf.org)

Toll-free Support Line: 866-228-HOPE