

Hands for Maddie Foundation SPRING NEWSLETTER 2009

"If you were born without wings, do nothing to prevent them growing" Coco Chanel

FUNDRAISING APPEAL RAISES \$45,000!



The students of ORRJHS created and hung this banner in the ORR High School gym lobby on the evening of the game.

Due to your overwhelming generosity, *The Hands for Maddie Foundation* has had a tremendously successful fundraising effort. Over the past two months, the Foundation, whose mission is to raise funds for the medical treatments and therapeutic services provided for Madison not covered by health insurance, has raised over \$45,000 through widespread appeal. Various fundraising events have added to its success. The Foundation was officially formed as a non-profit corporation in the state of Massachusetts.

CIT to Begin on April 13, 2009

Madison will begin her Constraint Induced Therapy program on Monday, April 13, 2009 at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, RI. Your contributions have enabled the funding for this first CIT clinic. During this therapy, Maddie will have a removable cast on her left upper arm to fingertips, which will fully restrict that arm. Without the use of her left hand, Madison will be required to use her right hand through this intensive four week, 126 hour therapeutic program in her own environment. We hope that the forced use of her right hand (affected by stroke) will result in creating new pathways in her brain giving her more function. Although it is unknown just how much function will return because of this therapy, clinical results have proven that she is likely to make advances. Madison and her mom have been busy preparing for this program by shopping for T-shirts that will fit over her cast, and items to accessorize her cast like nail polish and other doo-dads. Mom, Dad and "Big Zach" spent the better part of a weekend assembling a play structure, which will be needed respite from therapy.



ORRJHS Hosts Annual Student/Faculty Game for Foundation

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School hosted its wildly successful annual student-faculty basketball fundraising event on Thursday, April 2, 2009 in honor of the *Hands for Maddie Foundation*. All proceeds from the event, including ticket sales and raffles, were donated to the Foundation. The evening was comprised of four quarters of highly competitive basketball between the students and faculty at ORRJHS with raffles at half time. Some of the prizes included ornate gift baskets made and donated by school staff and parents, gift cards to area restaurants and a chance at taking a half-court shot to win the 50/50 raffle earnings. The turn-out was incredible as parents, students and faculty filled the seats in the ORR High School gymnasium in support of this event. "The atmosphere was electric." said Jason Moura, Madison's dad. "It was humbling to see such a show of support from so many. To think this was all dedicated for the support of our daughter is truly amazing." For Nancy Moura, Maddie's grandmother, and ORRJHS Principal's Secretary, this year's event was especially meaningful. Madison's family and friends were in attendance for the event including Cheryl and Todd Herman and their boys, Gavin and Parker, Maddie's twin brother Kevin, younger brother Zachary, parents Jennifer and Jason, grandparents Nancy and David Moura, as well as Maddie's aunt and uncle, Amy Lee-Vieira and Jay Vieira, with Maddie's cousins, Owen and Joshua. All had a grand time!



Facts & Figures about Stroke

- * Stroke occurs at a higher rate in infants who are less than one year old: around 1 in 4,000 live births
- * Strokes do occur in utero, as in Madison's case, however the rate of occurrence is unknown
- * For children ages 1-18 years old, stroke occurs in 6 out of 100,000 children

For more info about CIT and Maddie's story, go to www.handsformaddie.org