



ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON
MEDICAL SCHOOL

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey



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New Program Aimed at Helping the Young Children of Cancer Patients Will Enter Second Series
Generous Donation from Warren Township Family to Aid in CINJ Social Work Department Goal

New Brunswick, N.J., April 15, 2008 – A successful pilot program conducted at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) last fall aiming to help young children whose parents are diagnosed with cancer, will be offered again this spring thanks to a generous donation from a Warren Township family. A \$1,000 gift from the Beth Joy Rappaport Memorial Fund will provide supplies for the CLIMB (Children’s Lives Include Moments in Bravery) program, which will enter its second cycle beginning next month. CINJ is a Center of Excellence of the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

By joining a national movement led by The Children’s Treehouse Foundation, to focus on the emotional needs of children going through the cancer journey with their family, CINJ was able to offer the CLIMB program for six weeks to children aged 5 to 11. At the sessions, youngsters were encouraged to use art in order to help identify and communicate difficult feelings. A concurrent parent group also was held during the same period, to help them talk to their children about their diagnosis.

Linda Mathew, M.S.W., L.S.W., O.S.W.-C., a social worker at CINJ, received special training and was the facilitator of CLIMB. “A cancer diagnosis affects the entire family, not just the patient. In finding new ways to enhance our multi-disciplinary approach here at CINJ, our families will grow stronger, thus providing a stronger support system for the loved one battling this terrible disease. And we are extremely grateful to the Rappaport family for their generosity,” she noted.

Rappaport siblings Jason (17), Jackie (13), and Jared (10), along with their father Scott, created the Foundation in honor of their mother Beth, who was treated at CINJ and lost her battle with breast cancer a year ago. The entity, in its inaugural year, gave gifts to institutions that shared their mother’s “spirit of love, kindness and commitment to making the world a better place.” A portion of the funds will go toward the purchase of craft supplies and snacks for the next session of the CLIMB program, as well toward the many other programs the CINJ Social Work Department offers to its patients, their families, and the community at large.

The next session of CLIMB will run for a six-week period from May 20 to June 24 each week on Tuesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the CINJ Learning Resource Room at the facility’s 195 Little Albany Street location in New Brunswick. Registration is required by calling Linda Mathew at 732-235-8799.

Additional information on the various programs offered through the CINJ Social Work Department can be found at www.cinj.org.

About The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is the state’s first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, and is dedicated to improving the prevention, detection, treatment and care of patients with cancer. CINJ’s physician-scientists engage in translational research, transforming their laboratory discoveries into clinical practice quite literally bringing research to life. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is a center of excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. To support

CINJ, please call the Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation at 1-888-333-CINJ.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Network is comprised of hospitals throughout the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate important discoveries into the community. Partner Hospital: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Affiliate Hospitals: Bayshore Community Hospital, CentraState Healthcare System, Cooper University Hospital*, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook Hospital, Raritan Bay Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton (CINJ-Hamilton), Saint Peter's University Hospital, Somerset Medical Center, Southern Ocean County Hospital, The University Hospital/UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School*, and University Medical Center at Princeton. *Academic Affiliate

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