

**Patient Inspires 3rd Annual Jack McGee Golf Outing**

It was a drizzly, chilly day on the golf course, but the hearts were warm and the smiles were wide at the 3rd annual Jack McGee Golf Outing benefiting Euro-Peds® patients. Jack McGee has been a patient at Euro-Peds for several years. Somewhere along the line, Jack's parents, Katie & Mike McGee, decided that they were very fortunate to have insurance and the support of their large Irish Family, so they organized a benefit to help other Euro-Peds® kids get therapy. Eighty-some golfers (and some golfer wannabes) set out on the chilly and rainy May day to play golf, and then headed over to Chris McGurrin's Irish Pub for the auction and lunch. Altogether, the outing raised nearly \$4000 for the Adopt a Euro-Kid fund. Thanks to the McGees, many families without insurance can be helped.



Update

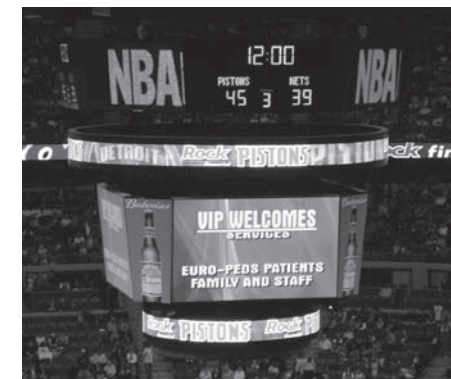
Spring/Summer 2006

**Detroit Pistons Score a Win For Euro-Peds® Patients at Valentine's Day Game**



Riley & his Dad were in town from Missouri to enjoy their first NBA game together

Thanks to Cendrowski Corporate Advisors, patients who were in session the week of Valentine's Day got to see a Piston's Game! For most kids, it was the first Piston's game they had experienced live; for others from out-of-state, like the Tades, they didn't mind being Piston's fans for a day!



A Big VIP Welcome for Euro-Peds staff and families!



Owen with his family at the Piston's Game



Jessie gets into the game

**Message from the Director, Michelle Saunders, PT, MSPT**

**New Euro-Peds® Therapy Suit**



We are pleased to announce that after many months of research and development, the new Euro-Peds® Therapy Suit is now being used within the clinic for those children qualifying for suit therapy.

In addition to its use as an effective therapeutic tool for alignment, strength & endurance, enhanced sensory integration and proprioception, the Euro-Peds® suit has been designed with comfort & convenience in mind for each child.

Throughout the development process, we were also conscientious of creating a suit that was time-efficient, allowing more actual therapy time in the suit and less time for putting it on. Even though the primary designers of the suit were Slawek Walenski, PT, Associate Director of Euro-Peds®, and myself, all of the PTs and PTAs were involved in fine-tuning the final product with recommendations based on their hands-on experience administering suit therapy.

As with the previous suit, the new Euro-Peds® Therapy Suit is strictly used within our clinic by specially trained and licensed PTs and PTAs as a tool to accelerate the therapeutic process and therefore is not being sold.

As always, we welcome your feedback on the suit, as well as any other topic in how we can best serve you and your family!

**Fun Day 2006 is coming soon...**  
Sunday, July 23, 12pm-4pm, Hess-Hathaway park,  
Waterford, Michigan  
RSVP today if you haven't already at:  
1-888-875-NOMC (6662)

## Arnie's Corner "Therapy Dog Extraordinaire"

After a short hiatus from his volunteer work to nurse a sore foot, Arnie the Therapy Dog and his human volunteer, **Kay Neslage**, returned to work at Euro-Peds just in time to play Easter Arnie.

One example of Arnie's work was experienced by twelve-year-old patient, Daniel, from Arizona. Daniel was motivated to only use one cane as he held Arnie's leash and walked him down the halls of Euro-Peds



## More Special Thanks to Special People...

...**Leona Revoldt & The Pythian Sisters, Merrill Paine, & Ilene Keen** for the stuffed animals for the kids...**Viola Millmine & Maxine Andrews** for providing us with some new hand-wraps for our patients... **Cindy Aquilar & The Erdelac's** for the new books for our library...**Oakland County Sheriff's Department** for making Easter Friday a blast...**Girl Scout Troop 6466** for Easter Bags for the kids...**Harry Cendrowski** of Cendrowski Corporate Advisors for the Piston's tickets for our patients and their families...**Patty & Adriana Lyons, Julie Williams, & the kind folks at The Residence Inn Marriott-Pontiac** who all donated videos...and to all of you who brought us food and helped our patients...Thank You!



*Michelle Saunders, PT, MSPT, Director of Euro-Peds & Bob Anderson, Director of North Oakland Foundation, receive the library cart and books donated in honor of Emma Howard.*

## H.S. Volunteer Organizes Talent Show Benefit For Euro-Peds®



*(Left to right): One of the 15 acts to perform was H.S. student and violinist, Jonathon Johnson, and his string quartet; Euro-Peds patient, Nick with Benefit Coordinator, Dannielle Aldridge; Nick and Euro-Peds PT, Angie Jackson, assist Dannielle on stage for the raffle drawing*

**Dannielle Aldridge**, a Euro-Peds® volunteer, took an idea and made it a reality when she decided to create a talent show at her high school to benefit Euro-Peds®. After convincing the Waterford-Kettering H.S. administration & staff to donate their state-of-the-art auditorium for the benefit, she sold sponsorships to local businesses, held auditions, and organized volunteers. Finally, on April 12, the event came to life with 15 acts performing various acts from dancing, singing, poetry, comedy and instrumental music. Euro-Peds® patient, **Nick Ballard**, also took the stage to tell the audience how the program has helped him. The event raised over \$500 for the clinic, which will go towards the **Adopt a Euro-Kid** fund (administered by the North Oakland Foundation) which provides grants to families to help pay for therapy costs not covered by insurance. Thank you, Dannielle and all the volunteers for your time and generosity!

## NOMC Euro-Peds® Parent-2-Parent NORTH OAKLAND MEDICAL CENTERS

### Parents of Special Needs Kids Formed One Voice for Positive Change in School

~By Rita Angelini, Mother of Euro-Peds® patient, KiKi Riess



*Rita Angelini from the Chicago, Illinois region, shown here with her daughters, KiKi and Marina Riess during a session for KiKi, at Euro-Peds.*

We were concerned that KiKi was not getting the appropriate attention she needed to learn. KiKi is non-verbal and uses a Dynavox communication system. When I observed her in the classroom it seemed very chaotic. I felt the class size was too large, and that the teacher did not utilize her communication device. In general, the students were not given enough time to respond using their communication devices due to time constraints. I also had concerns about staff training on integrating her communication needs into the classroom. As I spoke to other parents they also had the same concerns.

To voice our concerns the parents decided to have "coffee with the principal." All the parents were notified. At the meeting we discussed issues we had with the special education program. The principal helped us formulate a plan to bring the issues to the school board. As a parent group, we drafted a letter detailing our concerns with specific examples and sent it to the school board. Then we requested a special meeting outside the school board meeting to discuss the letter. At this meeting we brainstormed on possible solutions. The school board recognized there were deficiencies in the program but did not commit to a plan of action on that day.

Three weeks later, the school board called an informal meeting with the parent group to discuss the plan of action. The board recognized that last year's budget cut to consolidate classrooms was a mistake. Immediate action was taken to add another classroom. With regards to staff training, the board will schedule training sessions over the summer to better prepare the staff for the next school year. The board determined that their present staff was not able to handle the augmentative communication needs for many of the students.

As a unified group, we, the parents, were able to accomplish more than what we would have done individually.



*Oakland County Sheriff (left), Michael Bouchard, visited the clinic with a giant 6 foot Easter Bunny to give away Easter goodies to the patients.*



## Euro-Peds® at Forums Around The U.S.:

**August 18-20:** Abilities Expo-Novi, Michigan, Rock Financial Showplace (Speaker: M. McGinnis/S. Walenski)

**November 6:** Michigan POHI Conference, Saginaw, Michigan

**Nov. 17-19:** World Congress & Expo on Disabilities-Philadelphia Convention Center (Speaker: M. McGinnis, MPT)

Please visit [www.abilitiesexpo.com](http://www.abilitiesexpo.com) and [www.wcdexpo.com](http://www.wcdexpo.com) for more information on the events, or go to [www.europeds.org](http://www.europeds.org) for more information about the Euro-Peds® presenters.