

PEDIATRIC CANCER FOUNDATION



2010 Annual Journal



This year, **Pediatric Cancer Foundation** proudly dedicates its 2010 Annual Journal to its Brooklyn Chapter Chairs, Denise Lamberto and Julianne Calisto.

In December 2004, at the age of six, Christopher Lamberto of Marine Park, Brooklyn, was diagnosed with Burkitt's Lymphoma. With no promise of a cure, Chris underwent nine months of grueling chemotherapy treatments at Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian, one of the hospitals **PCF** supports. With the expertise of his doctors, nurses and support staff, Chris Lamberto is in remission today.

Chris's mom, Denise, was grateful for the success of her son's treatment and the exceptional care he received. However, something else nagged at her. Chris was not the only child in Marine Park stricken with cancer. In fact, while Chris was undergoing chemotherapy, Denise and her close friend, Julianne Calisto, learned of at least three other children in their Brooklyn community who had either survived cancer or were still fighting the disease. Some were treated along with Chris at Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian; others were treated at several of the other hospitals **PCF** supports. Denise and Julianne were compelled to do something more, to find a way to help other children in their fight to survive. To these two women, rallying their children and families to raise money for the cancer research and treatment at the hospitals **Pediatric Cancer Foundation** supports seemed like the perfect way to give back.

Armed with help from those Brooklyn families also stricken by childhood cancer, Denise and Julianne spearheaded Marine Park's first-ever "Make a Difference Day" on October 27, 2007. Paying homage to their children's love of skating, Julianne and Denise launched what would become an annual day of celebration with their first Family Ice Skating Benefit, where families could come together to have fun, celebrate life and make a difference.

The First Annual Family Ice Skating Benefit to raise money for **Pediatric Cancer Foundation** was truly phenomenal. Through word-of-mouth and traditional grass-roots efforts, Denise and Julianne brought together an entire community. On a shoestring budget and in record time, they sold 350 tickets and raised \$17,000. Fueled by the success of their first event, Julianne and Denise graciously accepted their appointment as **PCF's** Brooklyn Chapter Chairs. One year later, Julianne and Denise and their endless circle of family, friend and community volunteers, held the Second Annual Family Ice Skating & Carnival event, and nearly doubled their efforts, selling over 500 tickets and raising nearly \$30,000 for **PCF**. A testament to their hard work, on October 25, 2009, Julianne and Denise proudly hosted the Third Annual Family Ice Skating & Carnival, with overwhelming support from their community.

Pediatric Cancer Foundation applauds the ingenuity, dedication and determination of Julianne Calisto and Denise Lamberto, two remarkable women whose strength, compassion and humor enable them to lead where others will follow. By making a difference in the lives of the children in their hometown of Marine Park, Brooklyn, they have made a difference in the lives of children everywhere. **Pediatric Cancer Foundation** proudly honors Julianne Calisto and Denise Lamberto for strengthening our charity and exemplifying our mission to *...hold the hand of a child*.