



Tie up your sneakers and join us for the 16th Annual FFC Walk and Family Picnic on Sunday, September 23.

Set your own pace as you walk, bike, or scooter around Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield, Mass., to support FFC. This year registration starts at 9:30 am, and the walk kicks off at 11 am.

A family-friendly picnic will be held on the Wakefield Commons at noon. There will be fun activities for the kids as well as raffles. The event will take place rain or shine.

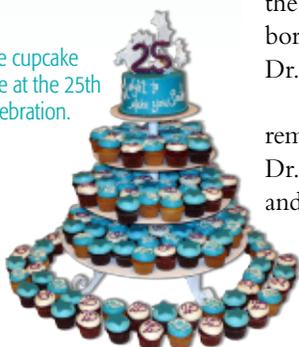
"We want to expand on our amazing turnout of 450 people last year," says Melina Fortin, walk co-chair. "Our 2012 goal is to have 600 participants."

The fundraising event makes possible FFC's free educational publications, videos and website about facial differences. Plus, donations support informational meetings for individuals and families as well as annual student scholarships.

The walk is also an opportunity to meet other families. "The event opened my eyes to how many people have gone through the same things," says Melina. "It gives you a sense that you're not alone and others care and are willing to reach out and help."

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The cupcake tree at the 25th celebration.



FACING THE FUTURE

Saturday Program Offers Support

Starting this September, FFC, in cooperation with Prescription Parents, will offer a monthly Saturday Drop-in Program at Boston Children's Hospital to give parents the opportunity to meet each other and to talk about issues related to raising a child with a craniofacial difference.

"We hope the program will help people develop more of a sense of community," says Meera Oliva, co-organizer of the program with Dotty MacDonald, RN, of Children's Craniofacial Centre. "Craniofacial conditions affect the whole family, not just the child. We want to offer a way for parents to meet and support each other."

Meera, an FFC board member and mother of a 2 1/2-year-old, was motivated to help launch the program because of the difficulties and uncertainties she encountered herself raising a child with cleft lip and palate.

Each of the four initial sessions will be geared to a different age group. A medical professional will talk for approximately 20 minutes, then take questions and comments from the audience. The rest of the time will be available for people to mingle.

"The purpose of the Drop-in Program is to have open conversations and not lectures," says Dotty, who will speak at the opening session. "The group leader will put out some facts, then start conversations with parents about experiences with their lives and their child."

Program sessions will be held Saturdays from 10 am to 12 noon in meeting rooms A and B on the first floor

of the Enders Building at Boston Children's Hospital. The upcoming schedule is:

September 22 "Infancy to Preschool" (birth - age 5) – prenatal diagnosis, feeding, planning for operations, speech

October 13 "The School-Age Child" (ages 6 - 12) – siblings, self-esteem, doctors' appointments, bone graft, lip revisions

November 17 "Adolescents" (ages 13 - 18) – self-esteem, school issues, dentistry

December 1 "Young Adulthood" (ages 18 plus) – final operations, dental implants, preparing for college, relationships

Parents are welcome at any session, even if their child is not that age at the time. Organizers believe people can benefit by learning what lies ahead.

Future talks will focus on specific areas, such as health insurance and dentistry/orthodontic challenges.

"We hope connections people make go beyond the program and that parents can find others for continued support," says Meera.

Please drop in and join us! Coffee and donuts will be served. The program is designed for parents, but young adults and teens may attend. Although you may bring children, child care will not be provided.

To preregister for sessions, contact FFC director Mairi Bleakie at mbleakie@facesofchildren.org or call 781-875-1914. ■

A Night to Remember

FFC's 25th Anniversary Celebration was a night to remember and to pay tribute to those dedicated individuals who founded the organization in 1986 as well as those who played key roles throughout the years. Held at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Mass., on May 19, the event also honored FFC board member John Mulliken, MD, and all the medical professionals whose work we support. In addition, it was a night to acknowledge current Foundation leaders and to award FFC scholarships to three outstanding students.

The gala event began with a silent auction and a sunny reception in the hotel courtyard. Before dinner in the ballroom, board member Jack Condon, master of ceremonies for the evening, welcomed the crowd of 150. He described how when his son Brendan was born with bilateral cleft lip and palate, he and his wife Dee found their way from Texas to Dr. Mulliken in Boston.

"Children's craniofacial team without a doubt is one of the best in the world," said Jack. "One of the many remarkable attributes of the team is that the core group has been working together with John for 22 years." Besides Dr. Mulliken, other team members who attended and were honored at the event included nurse Dotty MacDonald, and Drs. Steven Shusterman, Richard Bruun, Bonnie Padwa, Charles Nargozian, Mark Proctor, and David Kim.

The Foundation for Faces of Children was the brainchild of Dr. Mulliken. He realized, Jack said, that the families of children with craniofacial conditions had many questions, such as "How does one find qualified surgeons

Dotty MacDonald smiles brightly after the 25th celebration.



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And the Winners Are ...

At the 25th Anniversary Celebration, FFC proudly presented three students with Jane C. McDaid Memorial Scholarships, which have been increased to \$2,000 this year. The students were selected based on their excellent academic performances, numerous extracurricular activities, and exemplary community service.

In presenting the awards, scholarship committee chair Mary Lania noted that the recipients had characters marked by determination. "They have to overcome so many obstacles yet they still persevere and not only do what's expected," says Mary, "but go beyond anyone's expectations." The 2012 college scholarship award winners are:



Chris Timpson from Narragansett, Rhode Island, a recent graduate of Narragansett High School. Chris was a member of his high school's varsity teams for both lacrosse and cross-country and was named

cross-country team captain this past year. He also served as a member of the Future Farmers of America Club and ran a landscaping business. In addition, Chris was a member of the Foreign Language Honor Society. For his senior project, he organized a fundraiser for cancer research, which is close to his heart.

He also provided community service through his church and the Katie DeCubellis Foundation, which works to raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol abuse.

Chris will be attending University of Rhode Island in the fall, majoring in business management. Chris would like to travel abroad his junior year and find an internship with an international company. He hopes this will launch his dream of becoming a business manager for an international company, such as Fiat.

Lauren Dausch from Sharon, Mass., a graduate of Sharon High School in 2011. During the past year, she volunteered with mentally disabled teens as well as the elderly, while taking classes at Wharton County Junior College.

Lauren enjoys horseback riding, singing, writing, and playing the guitar and piano. She took voice lessons throughout middle school and high school and performed in three choirs, including one selected by audition.

She has a great sensitivity for other children and young adults that are dealing with craniofacial differences and has developed a website to offer education and support to others: TheFacesOfHope.webs.com

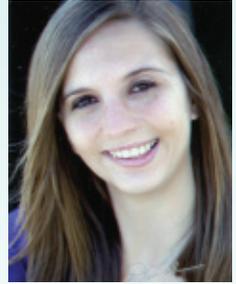
In the fall, Lauren will be attending the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where she plans to major in psychology. Lauren aspires to become a social worker, a career in which her accomplishments and sensitivity would be sure to make a difference for the children and teens she counseled.



Kassaundra Jebb from Wilbraham, Mass., a graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School. Kassaundra was a member of the field hockey team and also participated in band and chorus. She was selected by audition for the Western District Senior Festival Concert in 2011. In addition, she was a member of National Honor Society and served as a member of her school's Model Congress.

Actively involved in the Wilbraham Summer Youth Theatre, she performed principal roles and was chosen as the student intern for the summer 2012 season. She also competed regionally and nationally with the Academy of Dance. In the community, she volunteers for the American Red Cross, Relay for Life, her church and local library.

Kassaundra will be attending Providence College in the fall. She plans to continue her education through graduate school. By combining her interests in history, literature, theatre, and film, she hopes to become a screenwriter.



PACES FOR FACES 2012, continued from page 1

"I'm turning 25 this year and having been born with a cleft lip, I feel as if I've grown up with the Foundation," says co-chair Jennie Keniston. "I love what it does for families. I'm excited to be a part of the walk again."

Step by Step

STEP 1 Form a team. Invite family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to share the fun and walk with you. If they aren't able to, ask them to sponsor you. (Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.) Individual walkers are welcome, too!

STEP 2 Sign up. To preregister, go to firstgiving.com/FFC/paces-for-faces-2012. or contact Mairi Bleakie via email at mbleakie@facesofchildren.org or call 781-875-1914.

Preregister by September 1, and you will receive a free official walk T-shirt.

STEP 3 Collect your pledges.

Fill out sponsor sheets available at pacesforfaces.com and bring them to the walk with the collected pledges. Make checks payable to Foundation for Faces of Children. Mail any remaining pledges by October 23 to FFC at: 258 Harvard St., #367, Brookline, MA 02446.

STEP 4 Check-in and walk! Meet on the common by the First Parish Congregational Church at 1 Church Street, Wakefield, Mass. Free parking is available on the street. Fuel up with free donuts and coffee, then enjoy



the three-mile loop around the lake. (Families are welcome to walk any portion of that distance.)

Win Raffle Prizes

After the walk, you'll have the opportunity to participate in a gift basket raffle. Buy tickets for a chance to win the basket of your choice. FFC merchandise will also be available for purchase, payable by cash or check.

Be an Angel Walker

If you can't join the walk on the 23rd, you can still collect donations to benefit FFC. Angel walkers can send donations to FFC (see address above).

For registration forms, directions, sponsor sheets, photos, and more, visit our special website at pacesforfaces.com.



From left, Nancy Vonir, event committee member Monir Sakha, and Cynthia Markle

Former board member Faith Hickey (left) and former FFC president Patricia Connery



Emcee Jack Condon (left) and Fred Frawley, founding parent and current board member

FFC president Joey Smith presents a crystal award to John Mulliken, MD.



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER, *continued from page 1*

and long-term medical care? How do you feed the child? What will the future be like and how, in heaven's name, did this happen?"

"It was John's vision to fill that gap," said Jack. He began by recruiting parents of patients. The first was Fred Frawley, an attorney, who helped set up the Foundation. He and his wife Polly were soon joined by Robert (Brad) and Priscilla (Prilla) Bradway. Brad served as the first FFC president. Rita Bartczek and her husband Norman were founding parents as well. Rita, who became FFC's second president, was known as the "Running Mom" for raising funds by running in the New York marathon.

On behalf of the event committee, Johanna (Joey) Smith, FFC president, presented Dr. Mulliken with a crystal award in recognition of his "25 Years of Extraordinary Vision." During his remarks, Dr. Mulliken repeated his oft-said sentiment, "I have had thousands of children, and they all have had facial differ-

ences." But now, as the father of 18-month-old Olivia, he said, "I feel more intensely with all my patients and parents. My emotions have changed from sympathy to empathy."

Dr. Mulliken praised the founding parents of FFC and paid tribute to past president Jane McDaid, who focused the mission of the organization on education. He also recognized Joey Smith for serving 13 years on the FFC board — 8 years as president — the longest tenure of any FFC president. He recounted some of the recent activities and accomplishments of the Foundation, including the scholarship program, "Paces for Faces" fundraising walk, website, videos, teen forum, and insurance meeting for parents.

Attendees were then treated to a fabulous photomontage highlighting events in FFC's history. (To view the montage, go to FFC's home page.) Next scholarship committee chair Mary Lania awarded the 2012 Jane C. McDaid Memorial Scholarships to

three deserving students. (See page 2.)

In his closing remarks, Jack recognized FFC's first and only director Mairi Bleakie, saying, "Her energy and creativity has had an enormous impact on the Foundation." He also lauded Dotty MacDonald as an expert in the care and feeding of our children. (Watch for the Foundation's next project—a feeding video created by Dotty.) The evening concluded with dancing to music performed by the band "Four Guys in Tuxes." 🎵

Kudos to all who made such a memorable evening possible, especially event co-chairs Anne-Marie Gagnon and Ann-Marie Rogers, along with the many committee members. Special thanks to FFC past president Patricia Connery who worked with the committee to produce the evening's featured photomontage and put together the event program, a large collection of photos and newsletters, and posters of all 36 past and present scholarship winners. Finally, thanks to master of ceremonies Jack Condon and "Four Guys in Tuxes," who performed live music, including the theme song of the night "Smile."



Part of the student scholarship display



Event co-chairs Anne-Marie Gagnon (left) and Ann-Marie Rogers

Prilla Coffin (Bradway) and scholarship committee chair Mary Lania (right)



Wine raffle winners Jennie Keniston and Sergio Figueiredo

Brad Bradway and Rita Bartczak, past FFC presidents and founding parents





Welcoming guests to the anniversary celebration



Linda Southern and her son Rob



Long-time colleagues Drs. Charles Nargozyan (left) and John Mulliken



Dr. Mark Proctor (left) and David Kim of Children's Craniofacial Centre

Craniofacial team member Dr. Steve Shusterman with his wife Sandra



Crystal award recipient Dr. John Mulliken and his wife Dr. Portia Chiou

Guests eagerly bid on the many silent auction items.



The outdoor reception



Jack and Dee Condon dancing

Nicole Lania (left) and Krista Galligani selling raffle tickets at the event



Dr. Padwa (left) and board member Kara Jackman





Meet a Foundation for Faces of Children Board Member

Bari Popkin

Bari Popkin joined the FFC Board of Directors in March of 2011, but she had been donating her time and efforts to the Foundation long before then. She began by encouraging her son Jared to give back to the organization that had helped the family after he was born with a cleft

lip, which was repaired by John Mulliken, MD.

With her guidance, in 2006 Jared, then nine years old, raised \$757 from family and friends for the FFC Walk. Several years later, he volunteered at the FFC Walk for the charitable component of his bar mitzvah. Working with his mother, Jared organized a variety of fun activities for kids. He also passed out water bottles to participants and even announced the start of the walk. Plus, he raised more than \$2,000.

In 2010, Bari coordinated a group of volunteers who painted 50 tiles with a “Smile” theme to top a large table that was placed in the waiting room of the Craniofacial Clinic at Boston Children’s Hospital. She planned the project as part of the annual “Mitzvah Day” at the Solomon Schecter Day School, attended by Jared and his younger sister Hallie.

Most recently, Bari took an active role in preparations for the 25th anniversary celebration, selecting the menu for the event and arranging for all the table centerpieces.

A resident of Needham, Mass., Bari was born and raised in Akron, Ohio. After graduating from the University of Cincinnati School with a degree in fashion design, she came to Boston to work for Mast Industries, the production arm of The Limited. She

then continued developing and importing products for stores and catalogs, including Bradlees and Chadwicks of Boston. Her work in apparel sourcing took her around the world.

In addition, Bari has worked as an interior designer and started her own import business, to which she is returning as her children get older. (She reports Jared is now 15 and has grown 8 inches in the last two years!)

Besides the FFC board, Bari volunteers with her synagogue and her children’s schools. She also enjoys needlepoint, mosaic art, Pilates, and boating on family vacations at Nantasket.

As an FFC board member, Bari hopes to help the organization to grow. “Now that FFC is becoming more financially stable,” says Bari, “I want to see it expand and accommodate more patients with facial differences. ■



NEW TREASURER
Board member and legislative advocate Adrienne Musto, MBA, has assumed the position of treasurer of FFC. Adrienne and her husband Tom are the parents of three boys, including Tony, who was born with a cleft lip and palate. Many thanks to Ron Parkinson of Newton, Mass., for volunteering to serve as treasurer for nearly six years.

The Foundation for Faces of Children is dedicated to improving the lives of children with craniofacial differences, including cleft lip, cleft palate, and other head and facial conditions.

Our mission is to:

- Provide patients and families with the most accurate, up-to-date, and accessible information about facial differences.
- Advocate for the best care possible for children with facial differences.

We achieve this by:

- Collaborating with leading specialists.
- Endorsing the team approach to care.
- Partnering with individuals and organizations with similar goals.

We are a not-for-profit organization entirely supported by private donations, grants, and fund-raising initiatives. Please contact us if you would like to participate in or sponsor a fundraising event.

Board of Directors

- Johanna (Joey) Smith, Esq., *President*
- Alfred C. Frawley, Esq., *Clerk*
- Adrienne Musto, *Treasurer*
- Kara Jackman, *Secretary*
- John M. Condon
- Anne-Marie Gagnon, MSW
- Mary Lania, RN
- Dorothy M. MacDonald, RN, BSN
- John B. Mulliken, MD
- Katherine Murphy
- Meera Oliva
- Bari Popkin
- Ann-Marie Rogers

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- Cindy Shields, *Designer*

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- Joe Carroll
- Mary T. (Mate) Converse
- Kristin DeKuiper, Esq.
- Beth Tomasello, Esq.



FOUNDATION FOR
Faces of Children

Celebrating 25 Years

258 Harvard Street, #367
Brookline, MA 02446

617-355-8299 | info@facesofchildren.org

www.facesofchildren.org