

Montana Hope Project



Sponsored by the Association of Montana Highway Patrolmen

December 2003

Volume 7, Issue 2

Hope



Love



Peace



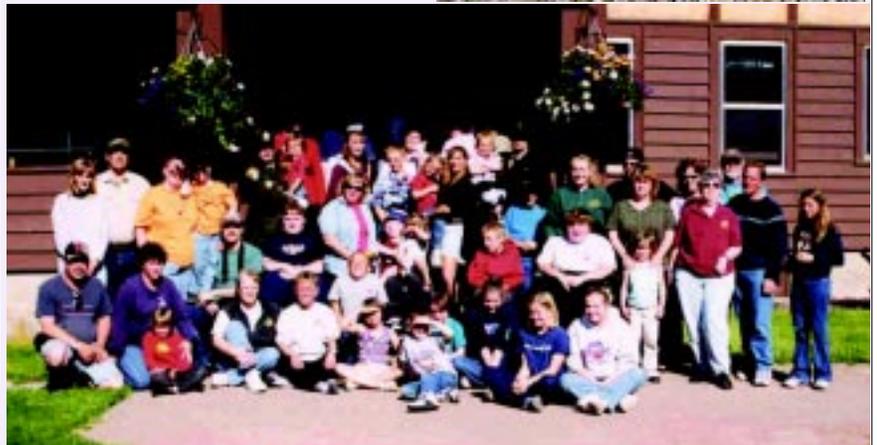
Joy



*in the
coming
year*



*From our family
To yours*



From the President's desk.....

This has definitely been an interesting year of changes! Some were for the good, some for the bad; and we are still trying to figure others out. First, Kelly Mantooth retired June 1 as President of the Montana Hope Project. Kelly and his wife, Carrie, have purchased a business in Lewistown called "All Awards." They just cannot seem to find 26 hours in a day to fit everything in. After four years of devoted time and effort to the Project as president and 14 more as a coordinator and volunteer—we thank him and his family for all their work. They will still play a major role with the Hope Project. I must admit, it was through Kelly's enthusiasm and energy for the Project that my interest peaked in taking over the reins. So, I began the list of pros and cons. I had worked 14 years on the road. I was a supervisor. I closed my eyes and jumped! I want to give a big THANKS to our volunteer staff for catching me.

In June, off I went to the first major event of the season—the Essex Reunion. Twenty-two recipient families joined us at Isaak Walton Inn, for a weekend of sun, laughter, and games. Trips through Glacier Park—in the renovated red jammer buses, courtesy of Glacier Park, Inc.—brought smiles of delight as the children took turns riding between the buses and the motorcycles. One of my favorite memories will be the sight of the motorcycles pulling back in to Isaak Walton after a long day of sight-seeing. There, on the back of one of the motorcycles, is a small child sleeping securely between the arm rests, his head tilted back and his arms splayed out over the armrests as if soaking in the last rays of the sun. I do not think I have ever seen a more content child in my life! Although, the looks in the boys eyes as Miss Montana and Miss Teen showed up to join us for dinner, may give him a run for his money! There were rides in a semi, horse-drawn wagons, a National Guard HumVee, Royal Canadian Mounted Police car and endless motorcycle rides with our devoted Ride for Hope 500 Riders. Hope to see you all

there next year.

The summer continued as a blur with every weekend filled with delightful fundraisers across the state. Our Ride for Hope 500, which through the great work of Cal Janes and his slaves brought not only a gala of laughter and stories at the Rock Creek Lodge, but, throughout all the beverages and hamburgers, our mission was still accomplished. In the end, more than an \$60,000 was collected. They set a record this year. Then there was the Millenium car show, Anaconda Golf Tournament, Kalispell Golf Tournament, the Billings Auction, Anaconda Fun Run and so much more. All of them are an incredible testament to the dedication of our coordinators combined with the kindness of the community.

Throughout the summer, I watched excitedly as the donations and pledges poured in. I also watched as we were on course for a record-breaking year in wishes. With 19 wishes granted so far this year and 13 wishes pending at an average cost of \$5,000-\$6,000 a wish, I was beginning to wonder how Kelly did it. Then a call from the Governor's Office came. Governor Judy Martz wanted to do something special and offered to have a Quick Draw Auction at the Western Governor's Conference in Big Sky; the proceeds to be donated to the Montana Hope Project. So, a borrowed dress and jewelry for me and a new shirt and vest for Gordy and we were on our way to the Quick Draw. Six of Montana's finest artists dedicated their time and artwork to our Project—a beautiful sight to see in action. Our overwhelming gratitude to Larry Zabel, C.A. Grende, Nancy Cawdrey, Elliott Eaton, Marla Edmiston and Tom English. Their generosity helped raise more than \$22,000 for the children! Once again, Governor Martz's efforts for the Project exceeded my hopes for the night. At the dinner, Governor Martz announced that Tim and Edra Blixith of the Yellowstone Club, had generously donated a weekend for six at the **President's desk con't page 5**

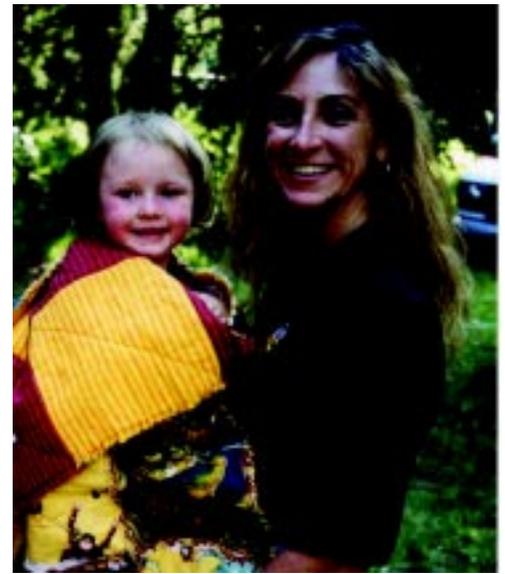


Photo by Leanne Smith

New Hope Project President Barb Lobdell enjoys a warm moment with recipient BrieAna Miller of Helena during the 2003 Annual Reunion. Barb's mother and other members of the Flathead Quilter's Guilds made BrieAna's quilt.



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In memoriam

Miranda McKinley



September 14, 1989- July 3, 2003

ANACONDA — Miranda Ann “Rudy” McKinley, 13, a straight-A student at Fred Moodry Middle School in Anaconda, died of cancer Thursday, July 3, 2003 at her home in Anaconda.

Cremation took place under the direction of KT Riddle Funeral Home of Anaconda, and her ashes were scattered on Flathead Lake. A friendship service was held at Washoe Park in Anaconda, followed by a balloon release and luncheon.

Survivors include her parents, Bruce and Cheryl McKinley of Anaconda; two sisters, Jessica Ann and Kristin Ann McKinley of Anaconda; a brother, Ben McKinley of Anaconda; grandparents Marlin and Ruth Wilke and Chuck and Dorothy McKinley, all of Great Falls; a great-grandmother, Eunice McKinley of Kalispell; three aunts and spouses, Andrea (Kent) Wilke, Sheree (Jerry) McKinley, and Cathy (John) Altringer, all of Great Falls; her pet companion Lily, a toy Yorkshire terrier; numerous cousins, other relatives and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her great-grandfathers and a great-grandmother.

Miranda passed away at the family home, surrounded by her loving family, after a 22-month battle with cancer, which never broke her spirit.

She was born Sept. 14, 1989, in Salt Lake City, Utah, the youngest of four children born to Bruce and Cheryl (Wilke) McKinley. The family was living in Cut Bank, Mont., at the time of Miranda’s birth, moving to Anaconda in 1991, as Bruce was transferred with Montana Power Company.

Miranda attended school at Washing-

ton, Lincoln, and would have been an eighth-grader at Fred Moodry Middle School. She was a straight A student.

Miranda was a very loving, caring and a very happy girl. She worried about people’s well-being and never showed self-pity. She had a large pig collection and the full collection of videos of the TV series “Friends.” She was very creative with LEGOS and doing sketches. Her career goal was to be an interior designer.

She loved to swim, float Warm Springs Creek and go tubing, especially on Flathead Lake. She loved (playing) on ocean beaches and a dream came true when she swam with the dolphins this past May in Florida, made possible through the Montana Hope Project. Her future plan was to golf with her father.

Memorials are requested to the Montana Hope Project, P.O. Box 5927, Helena, MT 59604; Rocky Mountain Candlelighters for Childhood Cancer, P.O.

Box 526083, Salt Lake City, UT 84152; and/or the Miranda Ann McKinley Memorial Fund, c/o Southwest Federal Credit Union, 200 E. Park Ave., Anaconda.

Love, Miranda

Dear Montana Hope . . .

Editor’s note: This thank you letter appears exactly as Miranda wrote it.

I had so much fun when my wish finally came true, I got to swim with a dolphin. I could hardly wait. First we got ready to swim, then we got in the pool. The dolphin that we swam with name was Roxy. She was funny and nice. We got to kiss her, she pulled us in the pool, we pet her, we got to feed her, and we saw her bellybottin. We saw a couple of other animals, and how they live and eat.

Love, Miranda con’t . . . page 4



Remembering Miranda



On July 3, 2003, the Hope Project lost one of the newest members of our family. Miranda McKinley of Anaconda passed away.

Miranda was born on September 14, 1989. On September 11, 2001 Miranda was diagnosed with osteosarcoma. So began her 22-month battle with cancer.

Miranda loved the water and always wanted to swim with the dolphins. Miranda’s dream came true in May of 2003. She and her family went to Disney world and she swam with the dolphins.

Miranda wanted to become a professional interior decorator. She decorated any room she entered with her bright smile, and for those of us whose lives she touched, her smile has decorated our lives a lot more. Although she has left us, we know that she is swimming with the dolphins and decorating to her hearts content. Our prayers and thought go out to her mother, Cheryl, father Bruce, sisters, Jess, & Kris, and brother Ben.

—Alice M. O’Donnell

Butte/Anaconda Area Coordinator

In memoriam



Jerry Luckey

Jerry Luckey, pictured above with a Montana Hope Project recipient, was killed near Wallace, Idaho in a motorcycle crash July 25, 2003. Jerry earned the privilege of attending the annual reunion and giving rides to recipients and their families by being one of the top pledge earners in the Ride For Hope 500. He had recently moved to Spokane, Washington.



Johanna (Mayer) Schmid

April 16, 1963 - July 23, 2003

MISSOULA - On Thursday, July 24, 2003, Johanna (Mayer) Schmid, 40, went home to be with her Father in heaven due to complications from an epileptic seizure.

Jo was born April 16, 1963, to Tot and Caroline Mayer while Tot was stationed in El Paso, Texas. In 1972 the family moved to Missoula, where Jo attended Rattlesnake Grade School and graduated from Hellgate High School in 1982.

Jo had a passion for sports, her favorite being softball. This brought her to her best friend and love Bob Schmid, whom she married on Feb. 23, 1991.

Jo faced many challenges in life living with epilepsy, which she met with courage and faith. Her daughter Anitra is a cancer survivor and Jo brought many people to faith through her experiences. Goodbye, loving wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend. We will miss you.

Jo is survived by her husband Bob and her young angels Miranda and twins Malia and Anitra, all of Missoula; her parents, Tot and Caroline Mayer of Missoula; sister Iris Deadwyler and family of Colonial Heights, Va.; brother Jim Mayer and family of San Antonio, Texas; brother David Mayer and family of Boring, Ore.; sister Co Rogan and family of Anderson Island, Wash.; sister Tonyia Fuller and family of Brighton, Colo.; sister Caroline Thurston and family of Missoula; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Editor's note: Johanna Schmid is the mother of recipient Anitra Schmid. Our thoughts and prayers are with Anitra and her family during this difficult time.

Love, Miranda con't .. from page 3

We got to feed stingrays, that was cool, they would come up to us and suck on us, because they knew we had food. We got to feed sharks. We stuck a fish on a pole, and the shark ate it. We got to swim in a pool with hundreds of fish in it. We got to see a baby dolphin, it was 3 months old.

At the end of the day we got to swim with the dolphin again, but this time we had to hang on tight, because when she pulled us she went alot faster.

The place we stayed at was nice it had alot to do.

It had games, icecream, movies, and alot more.

All the people were nice. Aside from my wish we got to go to disny world, and all the differant parks. I had so much fun thank you for sending me.

Love,
Miranda



Memorial ride held By Cal Janes, Townsend

The Leather Store and More of Helena, Mont., held a poker ride to benefit the Montana Hope Project this summer.

The informal poker ride brought in about \$925 which was donated to the Montana Hope Project. Leather Store owners Lonnie and Robin Morgan plan on making the poker run an annual event and with proceeds used as a fund-raiser for the Montana Hope.

We welcome The Leather Store and More to our family of supporters.

Please visit
our website at
www.montanahope.org

Kudos

The Montana Hope Project is able to continue to exist due in large part to the generous contributions of countless businesses. We'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a few of them.

Best Buy in Missoula has donated a camera for any family that doesn't have one to use. Travel coordinators Richard and Tiana Hader, Missoula, will check with families when they call them to see if they need a camera.

The Wingate Inn, a new business Hotel out at the Missoula airport, has donated rooms for any of our out-of-town families who will fly out of Missoula for their trip.

Missoula's Valet Limo has agreed to provide free limousine service for Missoula Families.

Action Print in Helena prints our newsletter and other materials at a reduced rate.

The Annual Reunion could not exist without the continued support of the Izaak Walton Inn in Essex.

There isn't space to thank all of the businesses. We'll continue to list them, in no particular order, until they have all been acknowledged.

President's desk con't . . . from page 2

Yellowstone Club—oh, and did I mention their private jet would fly anywhere to pick the high bidders up? The bidding began with our auctioneer of the night Bruce Brock. Many of you may know him from the Charlie Russell Auction in Great Falls. Bruce's delightful wit, along with his purple pants, entertained the audience into bidding over \$10,000 for the weekend trip. The night's final tally for the Hope Project was more than \$30,000. A special thanks to Marilyn and Kristine for coordinating the Quick Draw and our humble gratefulness to Governor Martz for all you have done for the Project and the children!

But, as with everything in life, there has been sorrow for the Project in the last couple of months. We lost three very special people in July. On July 3rd, Miranda McKinley out of Anaconda, passed away from cancer. Then on July 24th, Johanna Schmid, mother of Anitra Schmid—our recipient, died suddenly from difficulties from an epileptic seizure. She was only 40 years old. And last, on July 25th, Jerry Luckey died in a motorcycle crash outside of Spokane. He was very popular with the kids at the reunion and a supporter of the Hope Project.

Through all this sadness, there have been some positive lights in the darkness. BrieAnna Miller, of Helena, was diagnosed to be in remission. Richard Hader gathered the kids for the Thunderbird show in Missoula which was immensely enjoyed by all who attended.

As for next year—it will be our 20th anniversary for the Hope Project. Year after year, patrolmen and volunteers have dedicated their time, energy and money to make sure these beautiful children receive a gift of a lifetime. Thank you all for your efforts and patience—it is a fulltime commitment, but I can honestly say that I have never been more fulfilled than watching the smiles on these children faces and hearing them say "thank you" for their dreams come true.

God Bless you all,

Barb Lobdell

Give the gift of HOPE

Help make a wish come true for a critically ill Montana child. Make a donation to the Montana Hope Project in the name of a family member, friend or recipient.

A donation to the Montana Hope Project directly benefits Montana children.

HOPE—always the perfect gift

This gift is made in: honor of _____
memory

It is being given by: _____
Your Name

Send confirmation card to: _____
Name

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Complete and send to: The Montana Hope Project, P.O. Box 5927, Helena, MT 59604

Dear Mt Hope...from page 6

By Jeanie Butler, Clyde Park

Our trip to Disney World was the most wonderful trip, especially getting to see how excited Cameron got about different things. That is everything but the big characters. He loved to look at them from afar, but didn't want them to touch him.

We got up at 5:30 the morning of April 12th, and headed towards the airport. We live about a hour away from it. We got all checked in. Although Cameron enjoyed looking out the window at the big planes, it was hard for him to understand that we needed to take one particular plane, and he kept getting mad and saying, "Let's go!"

He enjoyed the flight which was just beautiful and smooth to Minneapolis. We had a short layover there and then headed down to Orlando, Florida.

When we got there at 5:30, someone from Give Kids The World was waiting for us. They were holding a sign that said *Give Kids The World Welcomes Cameron Butler*, so they were very easy to spot. They took us to the rental car and everything was prepared for us as well as a car seat. They gave us directions to get to Give Kids The World.

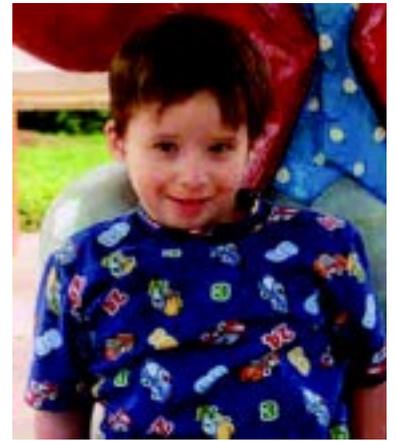
We got to Give Kids the World, and she immediately handed Cameron a stuffed Mickey Mouse and then threw a Shamu whale at each of Brandon and Aaron. We needed to stay around for Kevin to attend a meeting, so we spent that evening walking around Give Kids the World. We wouldn't have had to even leave that place and Cameron would have been completely happy.

The whole little town is set up just for kids. Cameron's favorite place was the carousel. It was specially hand carved in Holland for Give Kids The World. It had all different kinds of animals, but the lion was Cameron's favorite. It didn't matter if you were the only one on it, they would run it as many times as you wanted them too. Of course, we didn't want to ride it as many times as Cameron and finally figured out, on our last day, that it was best to make the older boys ride it with him.

We also played in the arcade a lot. There were games especially for little ones Cameron's age. Everything was set so that you just push the button and you don't pay for anything. They also had this one room set up with trains, and the kids could push the buttons to start any of the trains, helicopters, equipment, you name it, it was there. We also met Mayor Clayton which is a huge bunny that is Mayor of the town of Give Kids The World. Cameron was none too thrilled.

After we checked everything out and Kevin was out of the meeting, we headed to the hotel. It was pretty late by then. They also were ready for us. This bellboy drove us around the whole resort and showed us where everything was and then took us to our room. Brandon and Aaron went swimming afterwards while we let Cameron wind down a little.

We woke to the most beautiful 80-degree sunny day out. We decided that we would first check out the Magic Kingdom since I knew that's where most of the characters were and maybe we would see Winnie the Pooh. Since our resort was part of Disney World, we were able to ride the monorail right to the Magic Kingdom. We walked around all day long. It turned out that Cameron's favorite ride was Winnie the Pooh. We saw lots of characters, rode the train, walked a lot more. It's just a beautiful place. We were pretty hot, so the three of us headed back to the hotel and left the older boys to explore longer. Actually, we hadn't seen them since we left in different directions at the gate. We took a little ferry back to the hotel. Cameron was very excited about it, but turned out to enjoy the monorail much more. Because of our Give Kids the World button he was able to ride up front with the driver. We then went and walked along a white sandy beach at our hotel and let Cameron get his feet wet. Then we left for Give Kids the World. The days were quite long. We got back to the hotel and the boys were in the pool again, so Cameron and I got in with them. Then every night at 10:00 we would sit out on our balcony and watch the big fireworks that they would shoot off over the castle



Cameron Butler

at the Magic Kingdom.

The next day, we once again woke to a beautiful day and headed to Sea World. It was a really fun day also. We got to touch the rays that were swimming around, and then we also fed the dolphins and sealions. When you would put your hand down to feed the dolphins, you could pet them. They didn't feel anything like I thought they would. They were quite rubbery. We also went and watched the dolphin show and of course Shamu. Both were just amazing shows. Then we would spend each evening over at Give Kids the World so that Cameron could just run and play.

The next day we took a bus right from our hotel door to MGM. That wasn't as thrilling for Cameron, so we didn't stay very long. While we were there, he was able to see Bear In The Big Blue House live which he really enjoyed. With our button, we were let in before anyone else, and Cameron got to sit front and center. We left the older boys there and headed back to the Magic Kingdom which Cameron seemed to enjoy more. Of course, we had to ride the Winnie the Pooh ride again. I didn't mind though, it was a really cute ride. He also liked the It's a Small World ride in which you get into a little boat and go through all the different places of the world. I could kick myself for not taking any pictures of it. It was truly beautiful.

The next day was quite long as we went to Universal Studios. We went and watched Barney live. We were able to stay

Anaconda Fun Run boasts record turnout



Courtesy photo
Anaconda area recipients attended this year's Fun run (L to R) Brett Worland, Jordan Allen, Sable Shafer, Kyle Miller, (front) Tristen Killoy.

There were 39 entrants in this year's Anaconda Fun Run.

Ben McKinley, Miranda's brother, ran the 2K and he beat the bus back. My two newest recipients and families from Anaconda were there as were recipients Doodge Schalk and Jordan Allen from Anaconda, Sable Shafer and family from Dillon, C.J. Harlan and her family from Deer Lodge and the Miller family from Butte.

One lady from Butte was unable to run or walk, but she collected \$215 in pledges.

One hundred yellow balloons were released in memory of Miranda, past recipients, present recipients and future recipients.

Ben McKinley drew the name for his late sister Miranda's Hope Bear. The Anaconda Chief of Law Enforcement, Tom Blaz, won it and gave it to his wife who is on the fun run committee and worked the event.

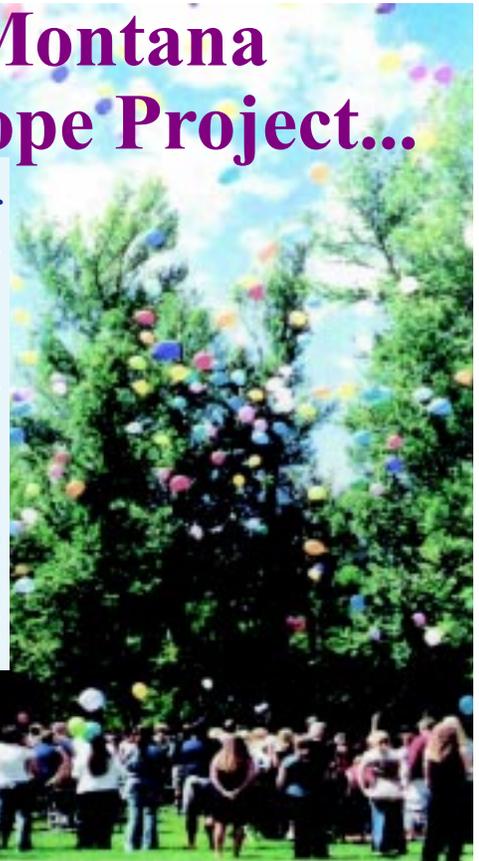
Dear Montana Hope Project...

Thank you once again for thinking of us. The flower arrangement was very thoughtful.

We enjoyed them and they added a little cheer to our house at such a trying time.

Thank you for all your efforts for the kids and families.

Bruce, Chery, Jess, Kris and Ben McKinley



Courtesy photo
Helena car show coordinator Duane Pershinger is shown here in front of a 1937 Ford Cabriolet. The annual event raised more than \$4,575 this year.



The Albertsons Community Partners Program continues to raise funds for the Montana

Hope Project. So far this year, Albertsons has donated \$2,466 to the Hope Project.

Albertsons donates three percent of each cardholder's sales to the project when shoppers present their card at the checkout register.

Call Perry Brown at (406) 227-9287 or e-mail him at mtride@centric.net to request your free card today.



Courtesy photo

Sutey Oil/Thriftway Corporation, headquartered in Butte, teamed up with Meadow Gold Dairies in Butte and posted logo sales of \$5,300. Thriftway grocery stores, Sutey Oil gas stations and Meadow Gold sold the logos for \$1 each at their locations throughout Montana.

The stores sold logos in April and are taking a break this November. Look for sales to resume in April of 2004. Next time you stop into your local Sutey Oil/Thriftway store, please take the time to tell them how much we appreciate their continued support.

HOPE con't from page 7

after the show for Cameron to meet Barney. We then spent quite a bit of time at Dr. Suess land. He liked the little play area and especially The Cat In the Hat ride. I'm not sure how they did it, but the boys ended up running into us, so we got their pictures taken with their face put on someone else's body. Cameron got his on someone surfing on Shamu. It's really cute. Then we left the boys and headed over to Island Park. By then, it was the time that we were to meet the boys, so Kevin went and got them. We went and ate dinner, and then believe it or not the boys went on the dualing dragons. OOOH, better them than me. It was getting pretty late, and Cameron was totally wore out so we headed back to the hotel just in time to catch the fireworks. Cameron would get so excited about them that he would just be hollering about how big they were and all the different colors. It was just a perfect way to end each day; however, afterwards it would be difficult to get him calmed down enough to go to sleep, and I would end up sending the older boys out of the room. They usually would go swimming.

Wow, we're down to our last day, and we slept in so there wasn't a whole lot of it. We were thinking of going to the animal kingdom, but decided that we would take Cameron back to the Winnie the Pooh ride that he loved so much. We also went into Mickey's House and Kevin and Cameron rode the Dumbo ride. Cameron wanted to ride the carousel, so we let him ride that once and figured we would watch the parade and then head over to Give Kids The World. He could ride the carousel there as many times as he wanted. He rode the carousel, and then we played miniature golf. They were having Christmas there in which they actually pump out snow (soap) on the walkway. Now that's my kind of snow!! You could actually wear shorts and a t-shirt and not be cold. We went and saw Santa, and Cameron got a present. He chose this wooden dinosaur that he was able to pull around. He pulled that thing all over that whole town. It was so cute. We also spent a

Dear Montana Hope . . .

We all had such a terrific time at Disney World. Give Kids The World and its people were the best.

Trenton loved the ice cream parlor the most. He liked having ice cream and soda anytime he wanted it.

We all got into the Disney characters and rides. The Tower of Terror was the boys' favorite.

Thank you for making it possible to go on such a dream experience. We will have memories to last a lifetime.

Thanks again,
Pam, Trenton, Michael and Travis
Butler and Steve Spritzer



Courtesy photo
Trenton Butler at Disney World.



Recipient Brittany Riley shares a moment with Montana Highway Patrol Officers Brian Sampson and Toman Baukema during her house warming.

House warming



Courtesy photos

great deal of time looking for little lizards for him to chase. Also, that evening we were given a gold star to write Cameron's name on, and they put them up on the ceiling of the castle there.

Time really flew by. It's already time for us to leave. Kevin was ready, but I think the kids and I could have stayed longer. Brandon and Aaron were dying to go back to Universal studio, and I think I would have enjoyed another week just to lay out in the sun. AND, I'm positive that Cameron was not ready to leave Give Kids the World. We decided to just pack up and spend the day at Give Kids the World for Cameron. Most of the people were gone at the parks, so the little town was pretty empty. However, there was still a volunteer at the carousel, so guess what we did? This is when we learned that it was better to have the older boys with us and that they each had to ride with him. Hehe. We also made sure that we went back into the castle and they showed us where Cameron's star was put. It will stay there forever. I plan to take him back when he's older to show him his star up there. It's amazing and also sad just how many stars have been placed up there.

Well, we headed back to the airport to come home. I felt it was kind of bitter-sweet. I treasure the memories that we made, but I also think that if I could have made time stand still and just stand watching the happiness that Cameron had, I think I would have done it.

Tourney tops

By Blaise Wingert, Kalispell Coordinator

The MT Hope Project golf tournament was held in Kalispell at Buffalo Hills Golf Course on Sept. 6, 2003.

This year we had 44 participants, most were from the Flathead area, but a few souls made the long journey just to have fun. Thank you so much to Shawn Hazelton, John Quinn, Dave Scotson, and Brad Sangray for making the haul from Great Falls and Cut Bank. And then there was that other team made of Barb Lobdell, Kathy Mathern, Kam Dahl, and Sherry Dahl who made the trek from Lewistown.

Then of course were the ever faithful locals—some brand new and other back for another year of laughs, memories and great prizes. Thanks you to Sherri Sonju, Vickie Engle, Debbie Spain, Virginia Weggeland, Bruce Young, Marshall McCarthy, Darin Haddech, Norma Haddoch, Dennis Updegraff, Kipp Tkachyk, G.W. Schneider, Gene Schneider, Steve Benson, Rod Wilkerson, Alden Boreson, Bob Hanley, Pete Pultzier, Mel Allen Jim Gonser, Peter Elespury, Pete Wingert, Phil Meredith, Tim Severson, Mike Rauthe, Scott Hadwin, Michelle Hadwin, Jim Hadwin, Steve Swenson, Cami Ames, Debbie Jones, Julie Hall, Dave Graham, Tom Birk, Bob Nadvornick, and Dan Bufkin. We were also very honored to have Jacob Landis and his parents Jeannie and Jason, attend and help out.

See Tourney page 10



Courtesy photo

Sweet donation. The Darby Brownie Club spent two months selling cookies and then donated their profits to the Montana Hope Project.

Montana Highway Patrolman Michael "Rocky" Bailey of Hamilton is pictured with the Brownies.

Thank you girls!

Kleen King's continued kindness

Each fall Kleen King donates a portion of their duct cleaning sales to the Montana Hope Project. Kleen King donated \$905 from duct cleaning services performed in Helena, \$165 in Bozeman and \$495 in Great Falls.

A big thanks to Kleen King for their continued support through donations, television, radio and print ads. The media coverage has helped raise awareness of the Montana Hope Project in these communities.

How can you help?

The Montana Hope Project can use donations of:

Auction Items

- art work
- merchandise
- vacation packages
- event tickets
- golf course passes
- t-shirts, hats, travel mugs
- guided fishing and hunting trips



To donate contact:

Perry Brown (406) 227-9287

Barb Lobdell (406) 538-4673

The Montana Hope Project is a non-profit organization registered with the Secretary of State. It is a 501(C)(3) organization and follows all Federal guidelines to maintain its status.

Wondering what to do with your old license plates?

Turn them into your county treasurer's office when you pick up your new plates or take all those old plates gathering dust in your garage to your local Montana Highway Patrol Office.

The license plates are recycled and the Montana Hope Project receives a monetary donation.

Dear Montana Hope . . .

Thank You! Thank You!! Thank You!!! I love my new laptop computer. It's very, very fast and I have learned how to burn CD's. The software is really cool. I especially like the Age of Empires Gold Edition. The sound system rocks. Right now I'm listening to the sound track for Spirit while mom types.

Dad brought the laptop to Denver when he came in late April. I had just gotten out of the hospital. I am staying at an apartment called Brent's Place until I can go home which hopefully will be some time in the middle of June. I have to go to the clinic three times a week. They check my blood and make sure everything is going well. So far, I've only had to have two platelet transfusions.

My brother and sister came to visit for a few days. They really liked my laptop too, especially my sister because she wrote some letters on it, and I burned her a CD.

Thanks again. My laptop has really helped me pass the time while I am in Denver waiting to go home.

Sincerely,
Dylan Hjekvik



Courtesy photo Recipient Dylan Hjekvik with his new rockin' laptop computer, sound system and software in Denver. Dylan used the equipment to help pass the time while undergoing treatment.

2004 Upcoming Events

February 28 Bowl for Hope, Anaconda

April Logo Sales, Statewide

May 22 Golf Scramble, Helena

June 4,5,6 Annual Reunion, Essex

July 24 Ride For Hope 500

August 28 Fun Run, Anaconda

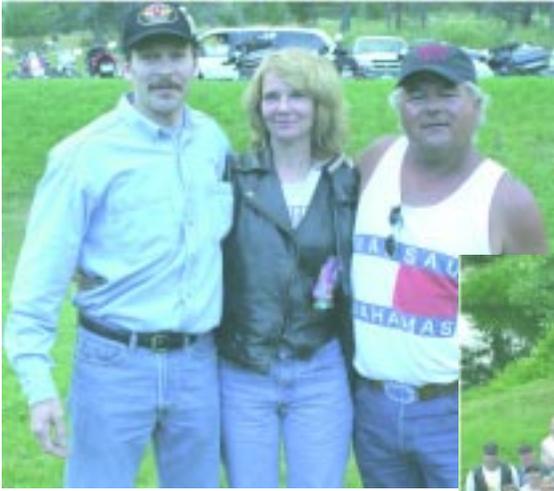
September 11 Memorial Motorcycle Ride, proceeds to benefit Hope Project

September 17 Dinner and Auction, Billings

September TBD Golf Tournament, Kalispell

The 2003 Children of Hope

CAMERON GUTIERREZ	Disney World	Lodge Grass
BRIANA MILLER	Disney Land	Helena
MIRANDA MCKINELY	Swim with Dolphins	Anaconda
CHRISTEN LANE	Disney cruise	Anaconda pending
ANDREW HANEY	Disney World	Great Falls
CHRISTIAN HANEY	Disney World	Great Falls pending
SABLE SHAFER	Disney World	Dillon
ETHAN GREGORY	Hawaii	Whitefish pending
JACOB LANDIS	Disney World	Columbia Falls
CHASE RIDESHORSE	Disney World	Lodge Grass (pending)
CAMERON BUTLER	Disney World	Clyde Park
RYLIE KAISER	Playhouse	Billings
KYLE MILLER	Disney World	Butte
DAVID KAMP	Playstation 2	Helena
DYLAN HJELVIK	Laptop/DVD	Melstone
CHASE AUGER	Disney World	Livingston (pending)
JESSICA AUGER	Disney World	Livingston (pending)
BRITTANY RILEY	Playhouse	Billings
MARIAH MAKI	Disney World	Missoula
CJ HARLAN	private bath	Deer Lodge (pending)
BRYAN WOLFF	Disney World	Missoula
RACHEL KANE	Disney World	Manhattan (pending)
RIKKI GILCHRIST	Disney World	Great Falls (pending)
WESLEY THOMAS	Disney World	Missoula (pending)
BRETT WALUND	Disney World	Anaconda (pending)
JOHN STEPHENS	Disney World	Missoula
ELLSIE GREEN	Disney World	Bozeman (pending)
DANIELLE FAGAN	San Diego Zoo	Thompson Falls
JULIANNA PEARSON	Disneyland Cruise	Lolo (pending)
BARRY SIMON	Disney World	Missoula
KEVIN KNUDSON	Hot Tub	Harlowton
TRISTAN KILLOY	Disney World	Anaconda (pending)



Photos by Dave Wojciechowski

Wes Matson (left) of Hamilton, MT was the second top pledge earner. He turned in \$6,500 and walked away with this year's ultimate prize—Caribbean trip for two. Debbie Smith (center), Bozeman, Mont. took third place by raising \$5,500. Royce Bird of Polson, Mont. was this year's top pledge earner. Royce raised \$7,050!



This year's Ride For Hope 500 was a record setter. There were 120 bikes and 165 participants that converged on Red Lodge this year. They raised more than \$70,000 which is a new record.

Tourney from page 9

Once again we had the honor and pleasure of having Jeff Fleming donate his bears as our trophies. Jeff has helped make this tournament something unique and the excitement is great when the participants see what he has donated year after year. Jeff has a great love for the children and supports the Montana Hope Project one hundred percent. Thank you Jeff.

I would also like to personally thank Tracey Finn and her mother, Sharron for donating their time to run our auction. This took a lot of work and time, and getting money out of tired golfers can be a challenge, but they did a great job.

There are three other people that I would like to thank personally for their time and efforts to help this tournament go. Thank you to Mary Forman for sending out applications and interest sheets to all the realtors via email and fax, and also Melinda Stivers. Melinda and I met through the Bigfork Rotary and she helped to collect prizes and auction items from those in the Rotary and the Bigfork area. Thank you so much for your help and kindness. Thank you to Royce Bird of Lake County for collecting donations and items from the Polson, Ronan, and St. Ignatius areas. Royce had just returned from the

Harley Davidson anniversary and took the time to get things for our tournament.

Thank you to Alice O'Donnell for collecting auction items from Anaconda. The Fairmont package was a hit as was the putter package. Also, a huge thank you goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Wirth of Bigfork for donating the Sprunger painting for our auction; and Tom Schmidt from the Mullan Station in Missoula for donating all the sports items for auction. These were all large and very generous donations that helped our auction go. And last but not least, a huge thank you to all our sponsors, for without them this tournament wouldn't be such success. I hope that as you make your way around this valley you will visit some of these places and be sure to say thank you for supporting the Montana Hope Project and our kids. Thank you to Rosario's Restaurant, West Coast Hotels, Grease

Monkey, Damon Designs, Crossroads Golf Course, Frontier Log Furniture, Blimpies, Susanne Cogar (Cogar's Coffee), Colter's Coffee, Center St. Quick Lube, Beth Morgenstern-Kouba (Edward Jones financial seminar), Papa Murphy's, Gift Gallery, Bayview Inn, Rio Cafe, Rancho Cafe, Polson Country Club, Kwataquck Resort, Pat & Joanne Tabor (Bigfork Soroptomist), Fairmont Hot Springs in Anaconda, and Buffalo Bob's.

I hope that everyone got mentioned in some way and no one was left out. Everyone had such a huge part in this tournament and is greatly appreciated. We had a lot of fun this year and are excited about next year. We hope to grow in numbers, money raised, laughter and friendship. Thank you so much for a wonderful tournament, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Check out our website at:

www.montanahope.org



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Published bi-annually by the Montana
Hope Project. The Montana Hope Project is
a non-profit organization registered with the
Secretary of State. It is a 501(C)(3) organi-
zation and follows all federal guidelines
to maintain its status.

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mation, updates and articles to the editor at:
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Courtesy photo

The Emily Dickinson Elementary School Girl Scouts donated \$444 to The Montana Hope Project. The money was from their cookie sales and was double what they earned last year. Montana Highway Patrol Officer Chris Rosenberg is pictured accepting the donation.

Hope Project Facts

90 cents of every dollar raised directly benefits Montana children.

The Montana Hope Project is NOT affiliated with any national organization.

The Montana Hope Project granted 19 wishes in 2002 at an average cost of a \$5,688 per wish.

The Montana Hope Project is funded entirely by your donations and local fund raising events. We do not share our mailing lists. We do not utilize direct mail or telephone solicitation in our fund-raising efforts.

The Montana Hope Project invites each recipient and their immediate family to an annual reunion held in Essex, on the edge of Glacier Park.

The Montana Hope Project has granted more than 203 wishes since 1984.

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