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Friends join forces to fight diabetes, leukemia

nThe Jake and Johnny Club's first fund-raiser on Sunday

APRIL 2, 2009

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By Cal Stone

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EDITOR

When Phil Goodman's grandson got leukemia, the Northville resident decided to do something about it and try to prevent it from happening to other children.

On Sunday, he and his friend John Hubbard are hosting a fund-raiser, Slam Dunk to Cure Kids, from 1-5 p.m. at 28600 W. 11 Mile Road.

The two friends formed The Jake and Johnny Club after Goodman's grandson, Jake, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and John's son, Johnny, was diagnosed with diabetes. The two formed The Jake and Johnny Club to generate funds for blood cancer research. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) has nominated Goodman for its 2009 Man of the Year.

"Jake is doing really well," Goodman said. "He is in the third and final year of his treatment, which is now an oral chemotherapy, although he gets bi-monthly spinal cord injections. By Dec. 10, he'll be through."

Although Jake had a couple of setbacks initially, he's been in remission since his initial chemotherapy treatments. He's been hospitalized twice and has had numerous emergency room visits, but doctors have been able to keep his blood cell levels where they want them.

"It's a very amazing process," said Goodman. "I call it better living through chemistry. Fifteen years ago, this would have been a death sentence."

Jake's mother is Goodman's daughter, Lisa Dunn, 36, of Alexandria, Va. She also has a daughter, Ellie, 3, and is expecting her third child in September.

A life-threatening illness is not new to Goodman. Thirteen years ago his wife, Molly, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. On the 10th anniversary of her survival, Goodman threw her a surprise birthday party - which raised \$10,000 for the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition.

"It was just a whole bunch of people I got together, sent out invites, and had dinner at Diamond Jim Brady's in Novi," said Goodman.

And after Hubbard's son fell ill, the two were on a mission.

"You live with these diseases, but once diagnosed, your life changes forever, especially with a child," said Goodman. "We said, 'Let's do something good.' And we came up with the name, The Jake and Johnny Club."



John Hubbard, left, of Northville Township, and Phil Goodman of Northville, co-founders of the Jake & Johnny Club, work the crowd at Hiller's Market in Northville on March 28. (Photo by Pam Fleming/NORTHVILLE RECORD)

LEARN MORE

The Leukemia Lymphoma Society/E, headquartered in White Plains, N.Y., with 68 chapters in the United States and Canada, is the world's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research and providing education and patient services. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Since its founding in 1949, LLS has invested more than \$550 million in research specifically targeting leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. Last year alone, LLS made 6.3 million contacts with patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals. For more information about blood cancer, visit [www.LLS.org](#) or call the LLS Information Resource Center (IRC), a call center staffed by master's level social workers, nurses and health educators who provide information, support and resources to patients and their families and caregivers. IRC information specialists are available at (800) 955-4572, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET.

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