

BETTERMENT

FOUNDATION

Winter 2003

PADDLE MAKES PERFECT ONCE AGAIN

Twice as many paddlers than the year before, twice as much money raised to support Hearts for Youth, and not a cloud in the sky. If this kind of success in 2002 is any indicator for our upcoming Paddle for Betterment, then we're in for an exciting trip down the St. Lawrence Seaway in July!

Over 70 participants of all ages from all over the country paddled to raise funds to purchase kayaks for Hearts for Youth, an organization that seeks to provide positive alternatives for the children of Alexandria Bay, NY.

In 2001, at the Inaugural Paddle for Betterment event, more than \$1,500 was raised to complete a playground for Hearts for Youth. With a gift of more than \$3,000 this past year, Betterment was able to purchase six new kayaks and a trailer to haul them! With this new equipment, Hearts for Youth is facilitating kayaking excursions for the children in the community. They learn to be good stewards of the river as they experience diverse ecological environments, enjoy an opportunity to relax with friends, and learn a lifelong recreational activity.

On **Saturday, July 19**, Betterment returns to Alexandria Bay for the 3rd Annual event - Paddle for Betterment Poker Race 2003. A Friday Happy Hour and Saturday Paddle Race and brunch are in store for all who join in a weekend to support the local community. For more detailed event information, contact Shannon at securley@yahoo.com or visit our website at www.bettermentfoundation.org.



Betterment supporters Carolyn Curley and Marie Talty are all smiles as they paddle their way to the finish!

Thanks to all those below who paddled down the St. Lawrence Seaway to support Hearts for Youth and all of the kids (some pictured at left) who benefit from their services!



OUR MISSION

When we first established the Betterment Foundation in April 2000, we knew that, more than anything, we wanted to help people that couldn't otherwise help themselves, and we wanted to help them immediately and directly. We also wanted to provide a vehicle for our friends and family to join with us so that together, our small dollars would add up to make a huge impact. Since the foundation's inception, we have helped hundreds of people by expanding our network of generous individuals like you through fundraising events and social gatherings. And with your help, we can continue to create the Betterment ripple effect in our communities.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brendan Curley
Jennifer Curley
Shannon Curley
Jody Graham
Erin Greenlee
Steve Pinkos

Alexandra (Knapp) Rodman
Andrew Rodman

CONTACT US

Check out our website for all upcoming event information, event photo albums and volunteer opportunities! To join the Betterment Team or register for an event, email: jen@bettermentfoundation.org!

THE BETTERMENT RIPPLE -- IN

GESU SCHOOL AND THE MILKIE FAMILY GET ONE BIG BETTERMENT HUG

"What a group." Three simple words shared by Kevin Smith-Fagan, Development Director of Gesu School, to summarize our 3rd Annual Betterment Golf Classic in Washington, DC.

And what a group it was! Over 200 people gathered on the beautiful September weekend for Friday's Bar Party at Annapolis Grille and Saturday's golf outing and dinner at Virginia Oaks Golf Course.

Outstanding participation, a successful raffle and the hard work of many volunteers resulted in \$12,000 to begin the Betterment Immediate Need Fund and support to two deserving recipients - Gesu School in Philadelphia and the Milkie Family of Cleveland.

Betterment donor and volunteer **Kiki Rainey** nominated Gesu School because of their outstanding programs for disadvantaged elementary school children. The Rainey family shares countless volunteer hours every year to help Gesu continue enhancing their community by affirming the value and talents of each child in it.



Betterment helped to support Gesu's YET program, an afterschool reading program that enables older students to tutor younger students who are struggling



**"WHAT
A
GROUP."**

Thanks to all of those who joined us at Friday night's bar party and Saturday's afternoon of golf! Special thanks to all of our volunteers who worked throughout both days to make our 3rd Annual Classic a success!



Gesu School student Nate Colbert happily displays the check with his principal Sr. Ellen Convey and volunteer Mrs. Mary Rainey, member of our Betterment Network.

with literacy. This program not only helps young children read and older students share their talents, but it also provides a safe, family environment for children to interact afterschool. Hat's off to the Rainey's and Gesu for all they are doing to support the kids!

Betterment Donor **Miranda (Knapp) Graham** shared the story of friend Dana Milkie's brother. As a young 39-year-old father of four, **Marc Milkie** contracted Wegeners Granulomatosis Disease, an autoimmune disease that has no known cause or cure. Last year, as a result of the disease, Marc suffered through an 8-week coma, several strokes, temporary paralysis of both sides of his body and the amputation of the lower half of both legs. Do you think any of that stopped him? Never.

He has a full-time job as a stay-at-home-dad (which includes the role of volunteer basketball coach for his daughter's team) and plans to return to work on a part-time basis in March! He continues to volunteer at his church and is looking forward to assisting in the charity golf outing for Leukemia that he and his brothers started 10 years ago in honor of their cousin.

Through determination and therapy, Marc is now walking with prosthetics and minimal assistance from canes, and he hopes to take a special drivers training class this spring. Betterment is helping Marc by paying for this class and equipping the family vehicles so that he can continue, as he has always so unselfishly done, sharing the gift of himself with his family and community. We wish you well, Marc!

The 1st Annual Dan Riley Memorial Golf Tournament

in Plattsburg, NY raised more than \$2,000 for Hospice of the North Country! What a true celebration of the life of Dan Riley, friend of Betterment board member **Jennifer Curley**! A perfect sunny day on the golf course with family and friends resulted in a valuable contribution to an organization that made it possible for Dan to spend his last days at home with his family. Join us this **August 16th for the 2nd Annual Tournament!** Your participation will help Hospice of the North Country continue its mission to improve the quality of life and preserve the dignity of terminally ill patients and their families. For more information please contact Michael Riley mjpriley@yahoo.com. Pictured here are Riley family members golfing with friends and volunteering with North Country Hospic volunteers.



MAKING WAVES, TOUCHING LIVES...

No groups of volunteers or tee times. No Saturday afternoon barbecue either. Just the help that was needed for two individuals in our Betterment Network.

Most recipients of Betterment funding receive support from one of the many fundraising events held in their honor. Because of the success of our events over the last three years and general gifts to our foundation, we were able to establish an immediate need fund for those instances when time is of the essence.

The Betterment Fund allows us the ability to help individuals and families who need immediate assistance with medical bills, house payments or other expenses during a difficult moment in life. There isn't always time for events or mass mailings, but there is always time to help, and this fund is making it possible because of support from people like you.

Meet the first two recipients of the Betterment Fund...

Jim Burns of Chicago, IL is a lifelong friend of Betterment Donor **Joe Marziani**. Joe nominated Jim for Betterment support because Jim's life had already created waves of goodness in his community. From playing Santa for needy children to mentoring financially challenged individuals and many more volunteer roles in between, Jim has worn every "helper" hat in his 33 years. Just five days before his second child's birth, Jim was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). With a gift of \$2,060 Betterment helped Jim and his young family by paying a month of their temporary housing costs while he undergoes treatment in Houston.

At the young age of 24, **Ricky Woofter** has already contributed a great deal to his Charleston, SC community and to our world because of his environmental work. As an environmental research specialist on red tides, Ricky is passionate about the environment and volunteers to share his love and talents with children. He maintains hiking trails and helps with weekend camping trips for high schoolers...he conducts chemistry magic shows for elementary and special needs children...he judges science fairs and coaches youth soccer...all with the beginning stages of Multiple Sclerosis. When diagnosed this past summer, he was hit with unexpected medical bills not covered by insurance. Because of this, **Alex Rodman**, Betterment Board member and friend of Ricky's fiance **Molly White**, nominated Ricky for Betterment support. To help Ricky and Molly remain active in their community during this difficult financial period, Betterment shared \$500 to help pay for some of their living expenses.

MEET THE JANKES AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Chuck Janke has been down many roads....three-sport athlete with honors in high school, scholarship basketball player with double major in college, volunteer for our country in Desert Storm, fourth grade teacher for the Defense Department in Japan. Between his educational and career paths, Chuck has always found time to make a difference. He coached youth basketball, raised money for an orphanage, and handled all the bookkeeping for his church.

Now, he, his wife Tomoko and their 3-year-old son Christopher have begun a journey that requires all that he has gathered along the way – the strength of an athlete, the wisdom of a scholar, the determination of a soldier, the patience of a teacher, and the generous help that he has always given to be returned. The Betterment Foundation is asking you to help return his generosity by assisting Chuck in battling the rapid, deteriorating effects of ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Betterment Board Member and lifelong friend of the Janke Family, **Erin Greenlee**, has nominated Chuck as the recipient for our next weekend event in Charlotte, NC. With the promise of the same pizzazz as our Charlotte event in 2001, we're looking forward to celebrating the Luck 'O' the Irish with you to support the Janke Family!
Join us....

BETTERMENT CHARLOTTE 2003 MARCH 14 - 15

Friday - Kickoff Party Uptown at RiRa Irish Pub
Saturday - Lunch, 18 holes of golf and a barbecue dinner at CT Myers Golf Course.

Discount Hotel Rooms at the Omni Charlotte!

For event tickets and information, contact Erin at
egreenlee@hotmail.com

YOU MADE THE DIFFERENCE!



THANK YOU to all of our 2002 Donors and especially those, highlighted below, whose gifts to the Betterment Foundation have totalled \$1,000+ (bolded names) and \$500 - 999 (*) since our inception in 2000!

Stacy Ale
Donna Allen
Grant Amsterdam
Jeff and Melanie Andrew
Susan Austin
Fay and Carol Babcock
James Bailey
Mark Baker
Susan Ballard
Ted and Renee Baroody
Allison Beach
Ronald and Marta Beach
Steve Beamer
Karen Berlane
Matt Berres
Bill and Jean Berry
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Michael, Elisabeth & Andrew Curley
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Tammy and Dani Hammond
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Lisa and Michael Hayes
Penny Heath
Jennifer Hebert
Dianne Herz
Shirley and Art Heuser
Lucas Hiitt
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Mary Ellen Holcomb
Howy and Dorothy Holmes

A SPECIAL THANKS from the **BETTERMENT FOUNDATION** to our **CORPORATE DONORS!**



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DONOR SPOTLIGHT ON... Allen Graham

Congratulations, Allen Graham, on your recent retirement from Phillip Morris Company (after 32 years!) Allen not only joined us at our 2001 Charlotte event, but also brought six of his Phillip Morris colleagues with him! Allen and his wife Sandy's financial support has been a tremendous boost for Betterment, and they have doubled it with his Phillip Morris matching



Allen with son Jody, a Betterment board member

gift! Thank you for all you do for us! We love you & wish you all the best!

Carolyn R. McLennan
 Joyce and Stan McLennan
 Ron and Nancy McLennan
 Joseph McNichols
 Mary Meager
 Joe and Barb Mercurio
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 Grayson Wolfe
 Jim and Jackie Yonkers
 Mark Yucha
 Judith Zink

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU...

A special thanks to **Andy Weaver** and **Heming Nelson** for the endless hours they share to design and maintain our database and website! You are such gifts!

The BETTERMENT FOUNDATION

- it's all smiles!



YOU could be smilin' too! There are many ways that people of all ages can join our Betterment Network and make a difference. Jump online to www.bettermentfoundation.org or use the enclosed envelope to...

- Give a tax-deductible monetary gift or gift of product or service.
- Double your gift through your company's employee/retiree matching gift program.
- Participate in an upcoming event (kayaking, golfing, gathering!)
- Volunteer for event activities.
- Share your talents/expertise with the board.
- Receive assistance in establishing your own community event.
- Meet great people and work together to help those in need!**

BE THERE, OR...

FRIDAY/SATURDAY, MARCH 14-15

Betterment Charlotte 2003 to support the Janke Family.
Contact Erin at ergreenlee@hotmail.com

FRIDAY/SATURDAY, JUNE 13/14

First Annual Betterment Oxford event coupled with Alumni Weekend festivities at Miami University.
Contact Andy at aprodman@yahoo.com

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Paddle for Betterment "Poker" Race and Picnic to support the community of Alexandria Bay, NY.
Contact Shannon at securley@yahoo.com

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Dan Riley Memorial Golf Tournament in Plattsburg, NY
Contact Michael at mjpriley@yahoo.com

FRIDAY/SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26-27

4th Annual Betterment Classic Golf Outing at Virginia Oaks Golf Course outside of Washington, DC.
Contact Jody at JGraham@AmericanGolf.com

Go to www.bettermentfoundation.org to check out all of the details on these fantastic upcoming events across the country! View pictures from previous events and read more about all of our Betterment recipients while you're there!

BE GENEROUS TO THE
BETTERMENT IMMEDIATE NEED FUND
WITH YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT!



2500 Q Street NW, Suite 644
Washington, DC 20007



Did you know that **Charlie's Angels** attend Betterment Foundation Events? Charlie always did know where to find the action, didn't he? Question is... do you?