



## Here is a brief overview of the latest developments of the Sweet Pea Foundation:



### Shopping for Christmas?

#### Support Sweet Pea & Shop AmazonSmile!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Sweet Pea Foundation every time you shop with no additional cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Sweet Pea Foundation! Just select the Sweet Pea Foundation as your charity to support. The Foundation has already received several contributions through this wonderful online opportunity.



### Memorial Children's Hospital Child Life Says Thank You!

Over the years we have supported the Child Life Program at Memorial Children's Hospital in South Bend, IN by donating numerous toys, arts and crafts, books and "Hugs" activity bags. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we have partnered with, and established an endowment for, Child Life to underwrite activities inside the pediatric unit for its patients. Here is a shortened version of a thank you letter we received in September from Child Life that we wanted to share.

*Dear Pete and Suzanne,*

*Thank you so much for the wonderful surprise of fun stuff for our pediatric patients today! The kids will get a lot of joy out of all the toys, books and stuffed Disney characters you donated. I really appreciate that you choose to give the Disney stuffed items that are safe for all ages of children. It is these little things that make such a huge difference in the quality of the donation.*

*Thank you for the gift of activity for our kids! We have been so happy with the way our patients and their families have enjoyed the magicians, the nature program from Parks & Recreation, the steel drum player, and learning origami.*

*Thank you again so much for all the wonderful things that you have done and are still doing for our pediatric patients and their families. The Sweet Pea Foundation and your family has been a real Blessing to us!*

Sincerely,  
Tracy Byler, CCLS  
Child Life Program Coordinator



### Growing "Seeds of Grace"!

Over the years, the Sweet Pea Foundation has earmarked a portion of all donations for its "Seeds of Grace" program with a goal to have multiple "Seeds" (or funds) that will pay for activities that help provide a distraction for sick children. The Foundation has one endowed fund already established to benefit The Ronald McDonald House of Indianapolis' Share-a-Night program. Recently, the Sweet Pea Foundation board members unanimously approved the establishment of two additional funds through the Community Foundation of Elkhart County (CFEC). The CFEC will manage the funds into perpetuity for the Sweet Pea Foundation. All money transferred to the endowed fund will be matched 25% by CFEC.

Here is a short description of the funds established with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County:

#### *Grace Elizabeth Letherman Sweet Pea Foundation Fund:*

A non-endowed fund established for anyone interested in making a donation through CFEC to support the mission of the Sweet Pea Foundation.

#### *Sweet Pea Foundation Child Life Fund:*

An endowed fund that will be directed to the Child Life Department at Memorial Children's Hospital in South Bend, Indiana. The money in this fund will be used to underwrite activities throughout the year in the pediatric unit. The programs will take place in the hospital playroom, as well as broadcasted to patients' rooms, making it available to everyone including those who are not able to leave their beds. Activities will include magic shows, painting on canvases, origami, storytellers and readers, musical performances, as well as others.

### 2016 Kickoff Classic is a Success

The Sweet Pea Foundation's 13th annual Kickoff Classic golf outing was a great success raising over \$7,500.00 with more than 70 participants. Congratulations to this year's winning foursome: Irv, B.J., Mike and Jeff Kloska. We want to give a special thanks to our sponsors that are listed on the back of this mailer and on our web site. Save the date! Next year's outing will be held on Friday, September 8—the eve of the Notre Dame vs. Georgia game.

### Sweet Pea Continues to Deliver Hugs!

The Sweet Pea Foundation continues to pack and deliver "Hugs" activity bags stuffed with books, arts & crafts, small toys and holiday items. To date, the Foundation has delivered over 2,285 Hugs. Here are a few comments we have received from parents and nurses about the Hugs:

*"My daughter was admitted to SJRMC last night and the gift pack has kept her busy all day, and kept her mind off of all her pain."*

*"Thank you for thinking of us once again and helping to bring the outside in to cheer up our patients."*

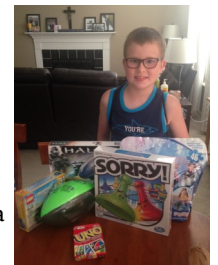
*"The children really do love their Hugs!"*



*The Kocovski family donated books and helped stuff summer-themed Hugs for the Sweet Pea Foundation!*

### Donations! Donations!

We would like to thank Michael Quirke, Robbie Seymore, Mary Kate Kocovski, the Lawrence children and the Hemmerling children for their donations of toys and books to the Sweet Pea Foundation. These wonderful kids, some of which opted to have their birthday party guests bring toys for the Sweet Pea Foundation instead of receiving presents for themselves, have brightened the day for many sick kids! Thank you!



*Michael Quirke collected toys for the Sweet Pea Foundation instead of receiving birthday gifts of his own!*



*2016 Kickoff Classic Winners!*