



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

## Girl Scouts Lend a Hand!

Brownie Troop #41314 and Daisy Troop #45289 from the Vernon Hills, Illinois area teamed up to help the Sweet Pea Foundation. Over 20 girls ages 6-12 helped stuff St. Patrick's Day Hugs earlier this year. The two troops filled 100 sling bags with books, arts and crafts and St. Patrick's Day decorations. The Hugs were later delivered to Laurie Children's Hospital in Chicago. Here is what Laurie Children's wrote after receiving the Sweet Pea Foundation Hugs: *I would like to express our sincere thanks for the Sweet Pea Foundation's amazing*



Together, Brownies and Daisies help stuff St. Patrick's Day Hugs!

*donation! We received the boxes with Hugs last week and cannot wait to give them out to patients the week of St. Patrick's Day! Your help in creating a better and more fun healing environment for children and families in our care at Laurie Children's is greatly appreciated!*



Brownie Troop #41314 and Daisy Troop #45289 hold up Hugs they just packed for Laurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, IL.

## Sweet Pea Joins Circle of Light!

A few weeks ago, the Sweet Pea Foundation received a letter from Susan King, President of Beacon Health Foundation, welcoming the Sweet Pea Foundation as a Circle of Light member. The Circle of Light program represents a community of donors who share an interest in supporting Beacon Health System's mission to enhance the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of the communities it serves. We will attend the inaugural Circle of Light Dinner at the end of June and the Foundation will be recognized on the donor walls of Elkhart General and Memorial Hospitals in Elkhart and South Bend, Indiana respectively.



## Ten Years of Birthday Gifts Donated!

We would like to thank Alex, Will and Lucy Hemmerling (Grace's cousins) for donating books to the Sweet Pea Foundation. For ten years, the Hemmerling kids have asked their birthday guests to donate books to the Foundation instead of bringing gifts to their annual pool party. Thank you for all the books you have donated to sick kids over the years!



The Hemmerling kids have donated books from their birthday party for over 10 years!

## Matching Gifts Double Your Donation!

The Foundation regularly receives donations that are matched dollar for dollar by the donor's company. This is a wonderful way to maximize your donation to the Sweet Pea Foundation. Check with your company to see if it offers matching gifts to charities.

## Sweet Pea Continues to Support Ronald McDonald House of Central Indiana

It has been 11 years since the Sweet Pea Foundation established an endowment for the Ronald McDonald House of Central Indiana. The Foundation continues to make an annual gift to the House on Limestone Street to help families offset the cost to stay in one of its guest rooms while their child is being cared for at Riley Hospital for Children. Families stay anywhere from one night to several weeks and come from Indiana, other states and around the world.

Ten years ago the Foundation became part of *The Cornerstone Society* which recognizes donors who have named Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana as a beneficiary. The Sweet Pea Foundation established a fund that helps families offset the nightly cost of staying at the house. We regularly receive handwritten notes from families thanking the Foundation for sponsoring their room and helping them stay close to their child at Riley Hospital. Here is a copy of a recent note we received:

*Thank you for allowing us to stay here. It was such a blessing to my family. We have a son in the NICU and by staying here it allowed my 2 year old to come and spend the weekend with us. Thank you for making that possible!*

*Mikey, Krista, Maizey & Hudson*  
2 Corinthians 12:9

## Hugs Help Sick Kids Smile!

Since 2002, the Sweet Pea Foundation has donated over 3,155 Hugs. *Hugs From Grace That Will Put a Smile on Your Face*<sup>SM</sup> are sling bags filled with books, crafts, toys and decorations. The bags are handed out to young patients by nurses and child life specialists to keep them busy while they are in the hospital recovering from an injury or illness. Hugs continue to be an important and rewarding part of the Foundation! We receive many thank you cards from patients and families like the one pictured to the left.

