



Across the Miles: The Boyer Family

Wisconsin's Alpha Pack would like to bring attention to a wonderful family living in Oregon that is currently asking for national help. They are Laura and Brian Boyer. Together they have three girls: Abigail (6), Tatum (4), and Sophia (3). Like any other family, their challenges are many, but due to Alpha-1, the mountain they must climb has become higher and more intimidating. But despite all odds, they are up to the test. They call themselves the Alpha Bits. And here's why. Both Tatum and Sophia are ZZ liver-affected Alphas. Sophia had a liver transplant in 2006 at Seattle Children's Hospital. Tatum is in stage 2 of liver failure. Laura and Brian make trips to Seattle, WA every six months for Sophia's rejection issues and to Portland, OR for Tatum's continuing liver tests and blood work. Time will tell as to whether or not Tatum will be facing the same climb up the transplant list as her younger sister, Sophia.



Alpha-1 may have brought the Boyer family hardship, but the strength they have gained is beyond measure. Through their website, Alpha Bits (www.alpha1bits.info), visitors can witness their courage. Here too, donations can be made to lend them a helping hand. No family asks to see one child become sick, let alone two. And whatever support is given—whether a kind word or a helping hand - the Boyer family is more than grateful for every single day. Their climb up the mountain of Alpha-1 will not stop. Every single step they take is, without a doubt, for the love of seeing their children smile through trial. Donations to the "Boyer Medical Fund" can be made personally at any Bank of America, Oregon Account # 485004954036. Thank you!

Liver Walk 2009: August 8th



Join Alpha Pack teams to promote Alpha-1 awareness at the American Liver Association's Liver Walk on August 8th at the lakeside's Veteran's Park, 1010 N Lincoln Memorial Dr. Milwaukee, WI 53202. Registration is free. Walkers, who sign up on an Alpha Pack team, will not need to raise funds. And if you prefer not to walk, volunteer under the main tent to give out information on Alpha-1. Food and entertainment will be provided. We have two teams so far, Lucky Livers and Alpha Pack. To sign up with Team Lucky Livers, go to <http://tinyurl.com/alkpfp>. To sign up on Team Alpha Pack, go to <http://tiny.cc/3XgxM>. Or call the Alpha Pack at 920-803-2668 to have us sign you up. Teams will receive one ALF walk T-shirt and one Alpha-1 awareness item from the Alpha Pack.

Dairyland Dare: August 15th

Beginning in Dodgeville, WI, this grueling ride winds its way through some of southern Wisconsin's toughest terrain. Over 800 riders came out last year and proved that it can be done. The Dairyland Dare is a bike trek event organized by the Southwest Wisconsin Community Advancement Corporation, a non-profit organization formed to benefit the many local community groups whose members volunteer in support of the event. In turn, they support these local organizations with a fair share of the event proceeds. Volunteers will earn proceeds from the event in support of their favorite community organization. The bounty is \$10 a head per hour, plus volunteers receive a free event t-shirt and grub. Thus if you are volunteer and wish to support the Alpha Pack, your efforts can go towards our organization. Visit www.dairylanddare.com to register. If you are riding for Alpha-1 awareness, contact Wisconsin's Alpha Pack at info@thealphapack.org or 920-803-2668 for ways to support your efforts.

Pick the Pack for We Care



Wisconsin's Alpha Pack is now listed as a charity through Pick 'n Save. If you use an Advantage Plus Savers Club Card, you can designate our organization through their We Care program. Each time you present your card at checkout, a donation from that grocery purchase is added to our account. Ask at your Pick 'n Save's service desk to fill out an application and add Wisconsin's Alpha Pack. Our We Care account number is 023225. To read about the We Care program, visit www.roundys.com.

April is National Donate Life Month



Phenomenal medical breakthroughs continue every day within the transplant field due to the dedication of transplant professionals and the generosity of donors and their families. National Donate Life Month recognizes and applauds all those who help save and enhance the lives of others through donation. Even though hundreds of thousands of people have provided the gift of life through a commitment to organ donation, there is still a tremendous need. More than 84,000 people are on the nation's organ transplant waiting list. On average, 16 patients die each day while awaiting an organ. One of the most important decisions you can make in honor of National Donate Life Month is to become a donor. Your decision will make a difference, as one donor can help more than fifty people. The first step, aside from signing a donor card or indicating organ donor on your driver's license, is to express your decision to be an organ donor with your family. To learn more about organ and tissue donation or to receive a donor card, visit www.donatelife.net.

Central Fields Region Mtg. Minutes

by Dawn Smith, Support Group Co-Leader

The next Central Fields Region meeting will be May 7, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. For details, contact CFR Co-Leader, Dawn Smith, at (715) 536-8145 or CFRcoleader@thealphapack.org.

Green Bay Region Mtg. Minutes

by Noreen James, President and Director of Operations

Green Bay Region's (GBR) March meeting in Green Bay welcomed Scott Weir, Financial Advisor for a Wisconsin financial planning service called Weir Financial. Scott covered the topic of Understanding the Stimulus Package. His descriptive presentation made it easy to understand the "why, how, and what next" of the government's stimulus plan. And due to the current economic whirlwind, Scott also answered questions regarding future financial decisions many of us are now facing. For financial planning help, contact Scott at 262-677-7660 or www.weirfinancial.com. Scott is also a volunteer board member and treasurer for the Alpha Pack. GBR's March meeting welcomed 7 people. Get well wishes went out to Ron Bernard (GBR's support group leader) who is currently recovering at home from lung surgery. CSL Behring, the manufacturer for Zemaira® www.zemaira.com hosted food and refreshments. Thank you to everyone who could attend that evening. The next meeting (weather permitting) will be an open forum on Tuesday, May 19th. The next meeting, an open forum will be on Tuesday, May 19th. For details, contact Ron Bernard at (920) 490-7811 or GBRleader@thealphapack.org.

Northern Lights Region Mtg. Minutes

by Judy Parker, Support Group Leader

The next Siren meeting will be "Latest COPD medications and oxygen equipment" and is planned for May 21, 2009. For details, contact Judy Parker at (715) 653-2666 or NLRleader@thealphapack.org.

Southern Shores Region Mtg. Minutes

by Noreen James, President and Director of Operations

Southern Shores Region (SSR) March meeting in Milwaukee welcomed Chris Christensen, Angel Flight Central (AFC). They are a spoke in the wheel of national nonprofit called Air Charity Network, www.aircharitynetwork.org. The entire organization serves people in need by arranging charitable flights for access to health care and for other humanitarian purposes. Angel Flight Central focuses on patients in the Midwest. Chris spoke on how pilots qualify to volunteer, the area they serve, and the process for patients to request help. To date, AFC volunteers and supporters throughout the Midwest have made possible over 10,000 flights "free of charge" covering 5 million miles. To learn more about Angel Flight Central, visit www.angelflightcentral.org or call 1-866-569-9464 extension 200. SSR's March meeting welcomed 16 people. Baxter, the manufacturer for Aralast® www.alpha1health.com, hosted food and refreshments. Thank you to everyone who could attend that evening. The next meeting (weather permitting) will be on Thursday, May 14th, with the topic: Understanding the Stimulus Package and Financial Decisions.

Association Membership Drive

The Alpha-1 Association's (www.alpha1.org) goal is to have everyone in the Alpha-1 community (including Alphas, their families and friends, health care professionals, and industry representatives) to become members or renew memberships in the Association. Absolutely no one is excluded from being a member and having a voice in the Alpha-1 Association.

If you would like to know the month your membership is up for renewal, please email: membership@alpha1.org. In order to continue receiving the Alpha-1 News quarterly publication, be sure you have an up-to-date membership. In these times of economic instability, please know that the membership fee can be waived due to financial hardship. Simply select "Waive" on the application form. Become a member and double the impact of your membership dollars. Talecris Biotherapeutics, through their generous support, has offered to match all membership fees dollar for dollar with a challenge grant up to the amount of \$25,000 to help support the mission of the Association. This challenge has been extended until April 20, 2009. The membership form can be downloaded at <http://www.alpha1.org/Resources/documents/MembershipApplication.pdf>.

Join the Alpha-1 Advocacy Alliance

Membership in the Alpha-1 Advocacy Alliance (www.alpha1advocacy.org) is open to all individuals. This includes the medical community, corporate structure, manufacturing corporations, as well as private organizations interested in the Alpha-1 patient. There are no dues/fees to access their services. Donations are accepted. Join here: <http://www.alpha1advocacy.org/membership.html>