



THE MISSY PROJECT Update

A journal published by The Missy Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing **Brain Aneurysm Disease (B.A.D.)** in children through education, outreach and early detection.

Volume V, Issue 1

September—Brain Aneurysm Awareness Week

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In conjunction with the Brain Aneurysm Foundation in Boston, MA, The Missy Project launched Brain Aneurysm Awareness Week in Austin, TX. Volunteers worked at Brackenridge Hospital to help raise awareness of Brain Aneurysm Disease. It was an excellent opportunity to share information about BAD as well as reiterate the issue to numerous health care professionals. Several of The Missy Project volunteers were available to answer questions, share personal stories and distribute information about the disease. Not only did we have a chance to bring awareness to this disease, but we also were able to identify five more candidates for our research screening pilot program.



The joint awareness program was a big success throughout much of the country. By utilizing our resources together, The Missy Project, in conjunction with the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, will continue to join forces in an effort to win the fight against this “silent killer.”

Screening Pilot Program

Directors Update:

Cerebrovascular Disease was responsible for more deaths in America in 2000. This is more than AIDS, Diabetes and Alzheimer’s Disease. Cerebrovascular Disease includes brain aneurysm disease and remains the third leading cause of death among individuals, of all ages, in the United States. Brain Aneurysm Disease affects one in seven people in the U.S. Despite this large number, there is no standardized, universal screening protocol to identify potential

patients with familial relationships to brain aneurysm disease victims. To address this alarming health issue, The Missy Project is conducting a **community screening research study** in collaboration with The Brain and Spine Center, Neurosciences at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin, Texas. This scientific research study will provide necessary data about the highest risk group— first-degree relatives (such as a sibling or child) of affected persons in an effort to prevent untimely deaths.

Families have lost generation after generation of loved ones to this disease and the hereditary issue has not been addressed.

Early detection will save lives. So why is it not being done?

Currently, there is no early detection screening protocol for those patients most at risk and misdiagnosis of the disease is occurring everyday. Our goal is to learn more and establish an early detection protocol which can be used worldwide. Prevention is

The Missy Project

is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization named after Missy Magel, a 12-year-old girl whose life was suddenly taken by a brain aneurysm rupture. For information, visit www.themissyproject.com.



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key to survival of BAD. The Missy Project is conducting a six-month research pilot program in partnership with the Brain and Spine Center at Seton Hospital which began in October 2005 to identify these at-risk patients.

The screening pilot program is designed to determine the efficacy of detection using Magnetic Resonance Angiogram (MRA) screening in family members of patients meeting inclusion criteria. Over the next six months, 25 patients will be screened and statistical analysis will be performed to determine efficacy of screening in this patient population. The goal of the pilot program is to provide definitive data to the medical community on the necessity of early detection and prevention. This would save lives by eliminating the number of misdiagnosed patients with the disease. It will also serve as a catalyst for a continued research study of the same nature that will screen 100 patients over a two-year time frame. The data from that study will be shared with the National Institutes of Health to enhance understanding of familiar relationships associated with Brain Aneurysm Disease.

This study is made possible with the generosity of all those who support The Missy Project, and grants from the Riepe Family Foundation and UBS Financial Services. Thank you!

Shop Till You Drop!

Cupidz Clozet is so generous to The Missy Project. There were two fundraisers this year which were very fun for those involved. A percent of the proceeds from the "Shop Till You Drop" events were donated to The Missy Project. These two events raised \$1500. Special Thanks to Robin Campbell for all her hard work for us and so many other charities.



Did You Know?

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

1. **Ask the individual to SMILE.**
2. **Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.**
3. **Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE.**

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately.

After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke, and the prevention brain damage.

6th Annual Golf Tournament

The Missy Project’s 6th Annual Golf Tournament raised **\$58,000!** The turnout was excellent and one could not have asked for more perfect weather on this day to play a round of golf. The course was not only full of golfers, but friends, family and those who wanted to make a difference. It was a great success.

There is so much hard work that also goes into this fundraiser. We are always humbled by the support of the community, and can’t begin to show adequate appreciation for those who help make this happen every year. Thank you to all the volunteers. Without each and every one of you, this event would not be possible.



Save the Date!

The 7th Annual Golf
Tournament will be held
on April 10, 2006.
Please mark the date!

Welcome to Our New Board of Directors:

Christine Doe — Christine graduated from Texas State University where she met her husband. Christine is a Human Resources professional and became a member of The Missy Project board in January 2005.

John Cordes — A Real Estate Broker, Securities Alarm Company Owner, and Custom Home Builder. John’s wife Sue Ellen suffered a fatal hemorrhagic aneurysm in 2004 while on vacation in the Virgin Islands. They have one beautiful daughter Claire.

Diane Pilat — Recently retired after 20 years as Sales Executive with Discovery Financial Services. Served on Austin Restaurant Associations Board and currently on the Advisory Board of The Crossings.

Thanks to our Contributors

Our thanks to those individuals and organizations that have given so much to help The Missy Project. Your contributions make anything possible!



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2005 GRANTS

- \$5000 Grant from Medico, Inc.
- \$5000 Grant from Louisiana Extended Care Centers
- \$5000 E. Glynn Bebee, Jr.
- \$15,000 Grant from the Riepe Foundation for Research Pilot Program
- \$10,000 UBS Financial Services

Playing for Missy

The Missy Project's "Playing for Missy" fundraiser was yet another success in an effort to raise awareness.

March 12, 2005 a poker tournament was held with the proceeds going to The Missy Project. That tournament raised **\$38,500!** The last man standing was awarded a seat at the World Series of Poker located in Las Vegas last July. Our grand prize winner was **Wayne Weiglet**. He and his wife, Tiffany, were such gracious winners. Wayne said he was going to Vegas to "Play for Missy." Hats were made for the winners of the poker tournaments only to be seen at the table in Vegas. Even though Wayne did not win the event, he and Tiffany had a great time and lasting memories.

Special thanks to **Wes Peoples** for providing a venue for the tournament, and all the volunteers that helped make the tournament a success:

Jessie Boka
The Bogart Family
Kimberly Collins
Sandra Coltrass
Christine and Kevin Doe
Bud and Mary Friedli
Amy Hartmann
Joyce Hellums
Niki Magel
Claire Peterson
Ralph Sharp
Stephanie Sherrod
Jessie Trofe
The TLU Sorority Girls –
who are always there for us...
Ken Wilson

An extraordinary effort was made by **Bud Friedli** to make this event happen. Thank you Bud for your tenacity.



A poker tournament was hosted by **Jake & Nancy Kevorkian** in Tampa, Florida on June 6th, 2005. The winner of that tournament was **Bircan Akan**. He beat 75 players to win the seat at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. This event was a great way to expose The Missy Project to a new group of friends, and raised around **\$27,000!** Special thanks to **Jake, Nancy, Morgan and Jake Kevorkian**, as well as **Bill Coy**, for their tireless efforts in helping us put on this event. Armed with a “Playing for Missy” hat, Bircan tried his luck at the World Series in Las Vegas. He said he had an experience of a lifetime.



New Nat'l Spokesperson

Wendy Werley has agreed to be The Missy Project's National Spokesperson. Wendy is a LPGA pro golfer from Harlingen, Texas and a true friend of The Missy Project.

Wendy is credited for teaching **Deepak Chopra** how to golf. She and her family came to meet everyone at the golf tournament and we look forward to working with her in the future.

Save the Date!

The 2nd Annual
Poker Tournament
will be held February 4th, 2006
at 3:00 p.m.

Location to be announced.

For more information
contact Bud Friedli at 512-845-1115

THE MISSY PROJECT

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Raising awareness of Brain Aneurysm Disease

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Get Creative with Contributions!

Here are some ways to be creative with charitable giving:

Special Occasions: *Why not consider honoring a special occasion such as a wedding or a birthday with a donation in the name of your special friend? It's a heartfelt gesture, and a great way to honor someone special. It's a tax deductible way to help The Missy Project.*

Remembrances: *When a loved one passes, people struggle with a way to do something for the family. The Missy Project regularly receives donations as memorials for those who have left us. The family as well as the donor will receive acknowledgement of their donation. Their special memorial donation will be listed in our Update.*

Corporate match programs: *Originally conceived in 1954 by General Electric Chairman Philip Reid, the idea of a company matching contributions made by its employees has become widely popular. By matching the funds employees make to non-profit organizations, companies give employees the chance to influence corporate giving practices. Interested? Check with your human resources department to find out if your company matches employee gifts made to charities. If so, fill out the appropriate form and send it to The Missy Project at the address above.*

Want more info on B.A.D.?

Visit: www.themissyproject.com

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Call: 512-257-9680

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