

Strengthen Our Community

Fall 2008

EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES' PHILANTHROPY NEWSLETTER



Edwards

FALL EVENTS

October ~ Orange County Food Drive

November ~ United Way Campaign

November 13 ~ The Edwards Lifesciences Fund Announces its 2008 Grantees

November 14 ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive

December ~ Hope for the Holidays

Throughout 2008, Edwards Lifesciences is celebrating our 50th anniversary of developing life-saving innovations for patients and as our company has grown, so too has our dedication to improving the quality of life around the world.

Today, Edwards is the global leader in the science of heart valves and hemodynamic monitoring. Working as trusted partners with physicians, patients and the communities we serve, we are committed to helping patients and making a difference.

It is my pleasure to share with you our fall 2008 Philanthropy Newsletter. Within this newsletter, we share examples of how our philanthropic efforts—either through grants made from The Edwards Lifesciences Fund or through our employee community participation programs—continue to make a difference in people's lives all around the world.

Thank you for joining our efforts to strengthen our community. We hope you enjoy these special stories as much as we do.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Mussallem

Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Edwards Lifesciences

The Edwards Lifesciences Fund Mission

The Edwards Lifesciences Fund supports advancements in knowledge and improvements in quality of life, focusing primarily upon cardiovascular disease and the communities where our employees live and work.

Goals and Objectives of The Edwards Lifesciences Fund

- Expand awareness of cardiovascular disease, its prevention and treatment
- Enhance support and access to care for under-served cardiovascular patients
- Support research and education to increase expertise and innovation in treating cardiovascular disease
- Establish trusted partnerships to further leverage impact
- Support opportunities for Edwards and our employees to contribute to our communities
- Operate consistently with the principles of Edwards Lifesciences' Credo

Helping & Healing

Camp Del Corazon



I met AJ when he walked through my classroom door on the first day of school. Little did I know this little boy who had a very sick heart would be the one who would steal mine. A year and a half later, he moved in with my husband and me, and a year after that, the adoption was finalized.

The most surprising part of our journey as AJ's parents has been the realization that having a child with heart disease is so much more than just the disease; it's a way of life and a way of thinking. While we gave him all the love we could, he still struggled with feelings of fear, frustration and low self-esteem, because he was different.

As AJ got older, we encouraged him to try new things and never give up on himself, however, our efforts weren't enough. That's when we began to look for help and learned about a special camp for children with heart disease: Camp Del Corazon.

We can't believe what a difference a week each year at Camp Del Corazon has made. Before AJ went to camp, he was nervous and scared, but when he returned, he was full of life and excited about the new friends he had made that also had heart disease. For the first time in his life, he felt as though he belonged and understood that there are children out there who are just like him.

Camp Del Corazon has provided our son with a way to help him deal with the many complicated emotions that come from having heart disease. It has also provided him with experiences he might never have been given. He's learned to do archery, climb on a rock wall, make a camp movie with Tom Arnold, record a camp song with Whiskey Falls and, most importantly, just be an ordinary kid attending a summer camp.

We will never be able to repay the many supporters of Camp Del Corazon, including The Edwards Lifesciences Fund, for the time, financial support and love they have given to AJ. We hope that they know what a difference they are making in the lives of our son and all the children who attend camp. Camp Del Corazon is truly a "camp of the heart." We thank you from the very bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,

Jeremy and Rochelle Rager, AJ's parents

Conemaugh Saves a Life

Funded by a grant from The Edwards Lifesciences Fund, Conemaugh Health System in Johnstown, Pa., provides diabetes and cardiovascular disease screenings free of charge to at-risk residents in the local community. Because diabetes and cardiovascular disease are at epidemic proportions in this region, identifying health risks and educating patients about these life-threatening issues in the earliest stages has proven to be incredibly effective.

Volunteering to help with this screening program, Josephine knew well the benefits of this opportunity. She was unaware of her own health risk until she was screened at this community event. In her own words, she "was at the right place, at the right time."



According to Josephine, she was one of the lucky ones. A heart attack survivor who had received a stent (a device to keep blood vessels open) placed several years ago, she thought her heart problems were solved. Little did she know that these screenings would be a life-saver for her! Without the screening that clearly identified a significant blockage in her carotid artery, her doctors told her she would most likely have had a stroke. “It was inevitable,” she says.

Josephine is just one of many success stories from Conemaugh’s diabetes and cardiovascular disease screenings. Since the initiation of the program, more than 1,200 patients have been screened for these life-threatening diseases.

International Children’s Heart Foundation



Ronnie is seven years old and lives near Santiago, Dominican Republic, with his parents and four siblings. He was born with tricuspid atresia—a serious heart condition that made activity difficult, turned his skin black from lack of oxygen in his blood and frequently caused him to lose consciousness.

When Ronnie was a baby, doctors told his parents that there was no cure for his condition, which was devastating for his family. Then his mother found Dr. Ramirez, a local cardiologist who told her there was hope for Ronnie through the International Children’s Foundation. Dr. Ramirez explained that life-saving surgeries could be performed free of charge through this organization—a blessing for them as they did not have the means for these costly procedures.

After Ronnie’s second heart surgery, he is finally able to walk without difficulty and his mother is hopeful that he will soon be able to run and start school with his friends.

Ronnie’s mother thanks the International Children’s Heart Foundation and all of its supporters, including The Edwards Lifesciences Fund, and says, “I would give my own heart to any of those who saved my son.”

International Hospital for Children



Alejandro was born in a rural region of Antigua, Guatemala, with a life-threatening heart defect. Due to the remote location of his home, Alejandro was not able to access a health care center for diagnosis or treatment.

With the support of a grant from The Edwards Lifesciences Fund, International Hospital for Children developed a new outreach program to give rural children in Guatemala access to the pediatric cardiac care they need to live and thrive. Through this program, Guatemalan pediatric cardiologists found Alejandro in his hometown and diagnosed his heart condition. At this clinic, Alejandro was referred to Guatemala City for life-saving open-heart surgery, which was funded by International Hospital for Children. Alejandro’s operation was a success and he now has every opportunity to live a full, productive life.

Since the beginning of this program in 2007, hundreds of children throughout Guatemala have been screened for heart conditions, and every month, several children like Alejandro receive the life-saving surgery they could not have accessed or afforded before.

Employee Involvement

Team Edwards Cardiac Cycle



Seven riders from Team Edwards Cardiac Cycle joined California State Senator Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana) at “The Health & Fitness Fair / River Trail Bike Ride,” held on August 9, 2008, in Santa Ana, Calif. This event was hosted by Senator Correa and co-sponsored by The Edwards Lifesciences Fund.

The purpose of the event was to promote healthy lifestyles and stress the importance of engaging in fun and safe physical activities. Led by Senator Correa, Team Edwards Cardiac Cycle joined more than 100 cyclists for a six mile ride along the Santa Ana River Trail. The event also included exhibitions featuring law enforcement, government agencies and local community-based organizations providing information and resources on health and safety issues.

American Heart Association Orange County Heart Walk



On Sunday, September 14, 2008, more than 100 Edwards employees, family members and friends showed their support for the American Heart Association Orange County Heart Walk by participating in the 5K walk in Irvine, Calif. Together, the group raised more than \$12,000 to help support the association’s heart healthy programs.

One of the team’s walkers, Jennifer Baer, was walking with a special purpose—for her three-year-old daughter, Brianna, who was born with a heart defect called Tetralogy of Fallot. Brianna had her first open-heart surgery at four weeks old and was not able to come home until a week later. Just six months later, she had to undergo a second surgery on her heart to repair a ventricular septal defect (a defect in the wall dividing the left and right ventricles of the heart) and pulmonary artery.



Jennifer and her family have been through many hurdles and they know there are many more to come as Brianna requires at least two more open-heart surgeries. But just seeing Brianna puts a smile on anyone’s face and you would never know the challenges she faces. Jennifer commented, “She is a beautiful, energetic, rambunctious little girl who loves to dance, sing and laugh. Thanks to today’s wonderful technology and knowledge, my little angel is here with us.”

Vital Link Orange County

The Edwards Lifesciences Fund supported Vital Link Orange County—an organization dedicated to creating the link between business and education to prepare high school students for the successful transition to meaningful employment.

Vital Link’s Career Exploration Programs creates a venue where more than 4,000 students are able to gain valuable knowledge regarding a variety of careers spanning 20 different industry sectors and make the connection to how they fit in the world of work. Professionals demonstrate their skills in a way that maximizes a

Increasing Awareness

student's understanding of the various careers in an industry, as well as how those different careers interact in the world of work. Career information is integrated into a demonstration as presenters step out of the action to describe their personal career path.



In addition to a grant supporting this program, on March 5, 2008, Edwards hosted a group of high school students at its corporate headquarters in Irvine, Calif., to help them explore future careers in the field of biomedical science and engineering. Students who expressed an interest in a career in the medical device field had the opportunity to tour the company's heart valve museum and manufacturing facilities, meet with some of Edwards' engineers, and learn what steps these employees took in high school and college to successfully pursue a career in the industry.

Alliance for Aging

Aortic stenosis is a condition that is primarily caused by calcification of the aortic heart valve and is developed with increasing age. Once patients become symptomatic, aortic stenosis can greatly impact a patient's quality of life. Worse yet, if left untreated, average survival is only two years. Despite the fact that aortic valve replacement surgery is associated with better survival and significant improvements in quality of life, aortic stenosis remains significantly under-diagnosed and under-treated in the U.S.

Studies have shown that this may, in large part, be due to patient and physician misconceptions

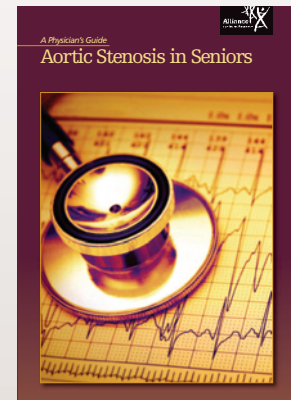
regarding the risks and benefits of aortic valve replacement surgery. Increased awareness and effective physician-patient communication is critical in dispelling these misconceptions and ensuring proper diagnosis and optimal treatment for all patients.

In order to determine and evaluate common misconceptions and barriers to effective communication and optimal treatment for aortic stenosis, the Alliance for Aging Research conducted an in-depth survey funded by The Edwards Lifesciences Fund. The survey was conceived in consultation with medical experts and polled 300 physicians (150 primary care doctors and 150 geriatricians) about aortic stenosis awareness and treatment. This research also aimed to uncover why the condition is under-treated and under-diagnosed by examining physicians' knowledge of aortic stenosis, how they address the condition with their patients and how they treat it.

The extensive information gathered by the survey was used to create a brochure to further educate physicians about aortic stenosis and was disseminated to general practitioners and geriatricians in five major metro areas in the U.S. The Alliance for Aging Research has also used the grant from The Edwards Lifesciences Fund to provide educational emails to physicians and an online video featuring an expert on aortic stenosis.

Share Your Stories

We want to hear your stories of how Edwards is helping you and your organization make a difference. Please email your stories and pictures to edwards_fund@edwards.com or via mail to The Edwards Lifesciences Fund, One Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92614.



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About Edwards Lifesciences Edwards Lifesciences is the global leader in the science of heart valves and hemodynamic monitoring. Headquartered in Irvine, Calif., Edwards treats advanced cardiovascular disease with its market-leading heart valve therapies, and critical care and vascular technologies. In 2008, Edwards celebrates 50 years of partnering with clinicians to develop life-saving innovations. The company's global brands, which are sold in approximately 100 countries, include CardioVations, Carpentier-Edwards, Cosgrove-Edwards, FloTrac, Fogarty, PERIMOUNT Magna and Swan-Ganz.

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