

I would like to make a **ONE-TIME DONATION TO THE JAMES FUND.**

\$40 \$50 \$75 \$100 other \$ _____

Enclosed please find my cheque/money order payable to Sick Kids Foundation – James Fund.

Please process my donation on my credit card
 VISA MC AMEX Enter credit card details below.

YES, I WANT TO HELP THE JAMES FUND!

I would like to make **MONTHLY DONATIONS TO THE JAMES FUND.**

\$15 \$18 \$25 other \$ _____
(MINIMUM OF \$10 FOR MONTHLY GIFTS)

Please withdraw my monthly donation from my chequing account.

I have enclosed a blank cheque marked “Void”, OR

Please process my donation on my credit card
 VISA MC AMEX Enter credit card details below.

IF YOU ARE MAKING A MONTHLY DONATION PLEASE READ AND SIGN:

A single tax receipt for each year’s total contributions will be sent at the beginning of the next calendar year. Monthly deductions will be processed on the 15th of each month.

I hereby authorize Sick Kids Foundation to make automatic withdrawals from my bank account or credit card as indicated. I understand that I may cancel this authorization at any time by notifying the Foundation.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiry date: _____ / _____

Signature: _____

SickKids
FOUNDATION

Please mail donations to:

James Birrell Neuroblastoma Research Fund

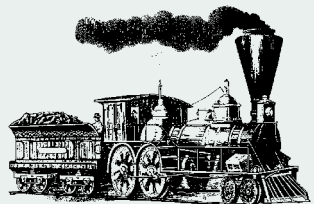
625 Whitaker Street #4
Peterborough, Ontario
CANADA K9H 7L5
diana.birrell@jamesfund.ca



RISA TORKIN

“As a graduate student, I spend most of my time in the lab working through biological and molecular questions, isolated from the devastating reality of neuroblastoma. The James Fund put a true context to my work. The knowledge that our research was of great interest to the Birrell family and their community renewed my energy and motivation to contribute to this often neglected field of research. I often considered a change in focus towards a more well funded disease that might make my career path a simpler one to follow. The James Fund has refocused my plans; James’ story, as conveyed by his family, has inspired and motivated me to continue to study neuroblastoma, and to pursue new partnerships and collaborations that will hopefully result in new knowledge and better therapies so that James’ dream might become reality.”

Risa Torkin, PhD.
Cancer Researcher, Cornell University
and Sick Kids Hospital



TOM HANKS HELPS THE JAMES FUND ONCE AGAIN

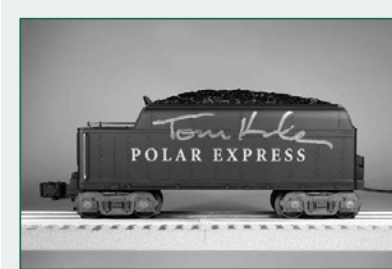


As a participant in Disney’s celebration of the 75th birthday of Mickey Mouse, actor Tom Hanks has designated The James Birrell Neuroblastoma Research Fund as his choice of charity. Tom’s “Space Mouse” is one of the 75, unique six-foot tall, 700-lb. Mickey Mouse statues unveiled on November 18, 2003 by Michael Eisner, Chairman and CEO of Walt Disney Company. Mr. Hanks chose the theme “Space Mouse,” a passion he and James shared for space ships.

“Space Mouse” will be on display in Disney’s Magic Kingdom before touring the U.S.A. The Birrell family considers this a wonderful tribute to James. Proceeds from an auction of “Space Mouse” at the tour’s end will go to the James Fund.

The Polar Express train is roaring into theatres and, hopefully, into the James Birrell Neuroblastoma Research Fund bank account.

Syd and Pam Birrell received a surprise when they learned about another fundraising endeavour headed by Tom Hanks. He stars in the animated Christmas movie, Polar Express, which is based on a children’s book of the same name. A Polar Express model train set, made by Lionel LLC, has been autographed by Mr. Hanks. Lionel arranged an eBay auction of the train, with the proceeds benefiting the James Fund at the request of Mr. Hanks.



Syd said he didn’t know this was being done but appreciates the thoughtfulness of the gesture. “Mr. Hanks was thinking about us.”



This is the third time Mr. Hanks has helped with a James Fundraiser. He also autographed a limited number of the CD “House in Heaven”, a piece commissioned by Syd’s choir the Peterborough Singers, composed by Grammy award-winning Paul Halley. The CD is available through www.JamesBirrell.ca.

THANK YOU...

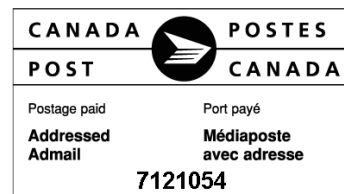
TOM HANKS, DISNEY AND LIONEL!

We thank all of you who have given so generously to The James Fund!
Unfortunately, due to space limitations we were able to feature only a few stories.

A special thanks to Lazer Graphics for their support of this newsletter.

James Birrell Neuroblastoma Research Fund

625 Whitaker Street #4
Peterborough, Ontario
CANADA K9H 7L5



THE JAMES BIRRELL NEUROBLASTOMA RESEARCH FUND



WITHIN SICK KIDS FOUNDATION

FROM JAMES’ DAD:



SYD BIRRELL

“I want to share with you just a few of the recent successes of The James Birrell Neuroblastoma Research Fund and I want to involve you and inspire you, but the bottom line is that I am asking you to support The James Fund. Elsewhere in this newsletter others more qualified than I will tell you about the extraordinary success of The Fund. “I’m always gonna be fighting cancer!” said James, and how right he was. If you would like to be a part of James’ continuing legacy, please consider how you can help. An automatic monthly donation is particularly powerful, as this helps planning of longer term projects. And I am very proud to report that The James Fund continues to pass along the full amount of every dollar raised to research, with no cut for overhead costs. I don’t think you can say that about many charities!”

My sincere thanks to you all,”

Syd Birrell

A WORD FROM OUR HONORARY PATRON...

“James Birrell was a good kid. He was a cheerful voice on the phone and a diligent penpal who was a big fan of Space ships and railroad trains. When neuroblastoma took James away, that word was new and ugly.

Now, before other families have to learn its meaning, there is a duty to raise money for neuroblastoma research and care. There is also honour to be found in being connected with the Research Fund bearing James’ name.”

Tom Hanks

Honorary Patron, James Birrell Neuroblastoma Research Fund



TOM HANKS

It was in October of 2000 that actor Tom Hanks phoned James, having heard of James’ fascination with the Apollo 13 story. A friendship with the Birrell family arose out of that conversation, and Mr. Hanks later graciously agreed to sign on as Honorary Patron of the James Fund.

“WHEN I HAVE TO MAKE THE CHOICE, IT WILL ALWAYS BE TO KEEP BATTLING CANCER. I AM NOT GIVING UP.” JAMES BIRRELL



THE JAMES FUN DAY AT HOME DEPOT

The community of Peterborough has been incredibly generous to The James Fund, just as they were supportive of James and his family throughout his illness. On Saturday June 5, 2004, The James Fund and some of its community partners took an opportunity to thank its supporters with a day of fun and games.

The James Fund has been thrilled to develop a close relationship with the local Home Depot store in Peterborough. A portion of Home Depot’s parking lot was set up as a free playground. At one end the kids had the chance to build a Home Depot Mickey Mouse craft project, just in time for Father’s Day. Right beside was a face painting station, and immediately behind was a fabulous magic show, complete with a woman sawn in half! Continuing with the theme of family fun there were stations for playing bean bag toss, shooting hoops with a kid-sized basketball, fishing for goodies, and even throwing Velcro darts.

The James Fun Day at Home Depot was intended to be a fun-raiser, and a friend-raiser, and a chance to say “thank you” to a community that has been so supportive. To our pleasant surprise, the James Fun Day turned out to be a fund raiser; \$1,500 was donated that day and the event triggered a further \$30,000 donation.

Thank you to all of the donors and volunteers for a day of fun with friends. We look forward to doing it again!

DECEMBER 2004

IMAGINE EVERY CHILD HEALTHY WE DO.

"The James Fund is an unprecedented example of how a community's compassion and support for one another can transform children's health and well-being – and thus change the future of our society. James lost his life to cancer, but his spirit has empowered an ever expanding group of supporters who are leading a charge to cure neuroblastoma, and many other forms of children's cancer. It's not a question of if they will be successful in their quest, but rather how quickly they can succeed – how soon will children be spared from this devastating cancer. We are so proud to be a partner with the James Fund and so grateful to Pam, Syd, Rebecca, Ben, Diana, the Peterborough community, and many others who know and feel James Birrell deep within their hearts."



Michael O'Mahoney President
Sick Kids Foundation, Toronto

"To say that the growth of The James Fund has been incredible would be a gross understatement. Through the tenacity and commitment of those close to James and the community at large, this fund has easily become one of the largest family funds at Sick Kids Foundation."

We have taken an unprecedented step at Sick Kids by hiring Diana Birrell to work full time on The James Fund. The dollars raised through her fundraising mandate will expand far beyond Peterborough as the research undertaken at Sick Kids has international impact. Diana and I are excited about the amazing growth opportunities of The James Fund. Not a day goes by that someone doesn't contact us about new ideas for The Fund. We look forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas."

Thank you from everyone at Sick Kids and most importantly the children. We are grateful for your commitment and kindness. Together we can make a difference!"

Seanna Millar Development Officer
Sick Kids Foundation, Toronto



Diana Birrell, (alias James' Auntie Diana, and Syd's sister) has arrived in Peterborough to help with the James Fund, taking on the role of Development Coordinator. Diana has been granted a leave of absence from Okanagan University College in BC. *"It has always been a goal of mine to work for a humanitarian cause. My nephew James' fight with cancer has changed my life, and made that goal very immediate and personal. I can't imagine doing anything more important than working for the James Fund."* We are very grateful to the Sick Kids Foundation for covering the full cost of this position, which allows us to continue to use all of every dollar raised for research.

Diana Birrell Development Coordinator
Sick Kids Foundation -The James Fund



**"WITH ALL THIS EXPERIMENTING
THEY'LL GET IT FIGURED OUT, AND THEN ALL THE KIDS
WITH NEUROBLASTOMA WILL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE."**

WORKING TOGETHER...

Congratulations and our sincere thanks to the White family and friends on the success of the third annual Jackson White Charity Beach Volleyball Tournament. More than \$20,000 has been raised and directed to neuroblastoma research through The James Fund.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the White family as their son Jackson enjoys remission from neuroblastoma.



POSY & JAMES
**ALL IT TAKES
IS A CLOWN**

For a long time, Posy the Clown has brought smiles and laughter to children in hospital at Sick Kids. James too had the pleasure of sharing her magic.

Shortly after he was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, four year old James lay unresponsive on his hospital bed, while his parents Syd and Pam, struggled to break through his pain and discomfort.

There was a knock on the door, and Posy the Clown quietly entered. For a moment, James looked at her, but then screwed his eyes tightly closed, falling back into darkness. Now Posy is a silent clown, but one with a treasure trove of toys to work magic. She pulled out a never-before-seen tool that seemed to be a cross between scissors, tongs and a mesh racket of some sort, and filled the air with bubbles. No sooner were the bubbles in the air than they were caught up and snatched from the air in Posy's scissor-tong-mesh-racket. James peeked, and then opened both eyes to the spectacle and wonder, and soon was catching those bubbles for himself. And then talking, and eating, and smiling, and living.

Posy recently won an award (see October's Today's Parent For Kids' Sake Award) for her extraordinary work with children, and she generously designated the \$3,000 prize to The James Fund.

"For me, James represents the many wonderful children I have met over the years – and the Birrell's represent equally wonderful families. Sadly, James is not the only friend of Posy's who has died after diagnosis of neuroblastoma. So, some dollars and publicity for the cause, and it's a good one!"

Posy the clown

WHY THE JAMES FUND?

YOUR JAMES FUND DONATION IN ACTION

The James Birrell Neuroblastoma Research Fund is a specific fund nestled within Sick Kids Foundation. Our status as what is called a "restricted fund" means that every dollar raised by The Fund proceeds directly to support research and investigation into new therapies and ultimately a cure for neuroblastoma. Our relationship with Sick Kids Foundation allows us immediate and direct access to the collection of researchers and research facilities at the

Sick Kids Hospital, one of the foremost centres for pediatric health research in the world, including but certainly not limited to pediatric cancer research.

The James Fund's success in raising awareness about neuroblastoma and in raising funds to support research into the disease has enhanced the Hospital's already well-earned global reputation as a magnet for expert and energetic investigation. The James Birrell Neuroblastoma Research Fund is proud to be able to invite researchers from the Hospital and related entities to submit research proposals related to neuroblastoma. All research proposals are submitted to

DR DAVID KAPLAN CANCER RESEARCHER AT WORK

"The James Fund has been crucial to advancing neuroblastoma research at Sick Kids. Eight exploratory grants have been funded to develop promising and novel therapies, and a new drug testing unit has been organized to test novel anti-cancer agents in animal models of neuroblastoma. This unit is presently testing a newly developed drug from a Canadian company, who has committed to entering the drug into a clinical trial if we obtain successful

results. This would represent the first drug designed specifically to treat neuroblastoma to enter the clinic.

The James Fund has had three major benefits for Sick Kids. It has provided funding to scientists and clinicians who "think outside of the box" by proposing new and innovative solutions to this devastating cancer. It has allowed Sick Kids to set up a drug development and testing unit that will discover drugs to treat not only neuroblastoma, but also all pediatric cancers. Finally, it has encouraged superb students and senior investigators working on adult cancers to now work in the children's cancer field. The result has

rigorous peer review including expert independent reviewers from the Hospital and University of Toronto. The grants are administered by the Grants Administration Office in the Sick Kids Research Institute.

The Fund is proud that leading researchers worldwide have decided to devote a portion of their professional energies and expertise into neuroblastoma therapies and into the nature of the disease itself. We are equally proud to be able to support their research, and are grateful to The Fund's past, present and future donors for making this promising research possible.

been an influx of excellent scientists to Sick Kids to work on neuroblastoma and other children's tumors. We at Sick Kids are very grateful to The James Fund and its donors."



Dr. David Kaplan Senior Scientist and
Head, Cancer Research Program
Sick Kids Hospital

TELL THE STORY...

"James was a happy little guy who made the best of all that he had to put up with. I really admired him. Everyone was so concerned about him but he was always full of surprises... he kept coming back. Syd and Pam deserve so much credit for the way they handled everything. James had so much emotional and practical wisdom, and I learned from him about hope, optimism, and how to fight back. Now I refuse to give in to negative thoughts and I contribute monthly to the James Birrell Neuroblastoma Research Fund as long as I can, to make sure James loss won't be forgotten. I really loved that little boy."

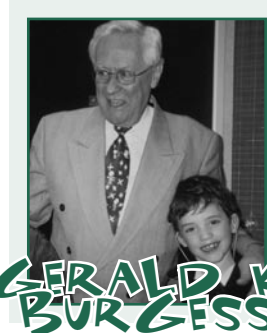


"I met young James through his parents Syd & Pam at Peterborough Singers. His faith and determination to win against neuroblastoma was exciting. I went to see him speed down the ramp in his home designed orange Soap Box racer. I helped extricate him from his pile up and was uplifted by his undaunted enthusiasm to carry on. His vision of the House in Heaven, which Jesus was building him, was a sheer triumph of uncontaminated faith.

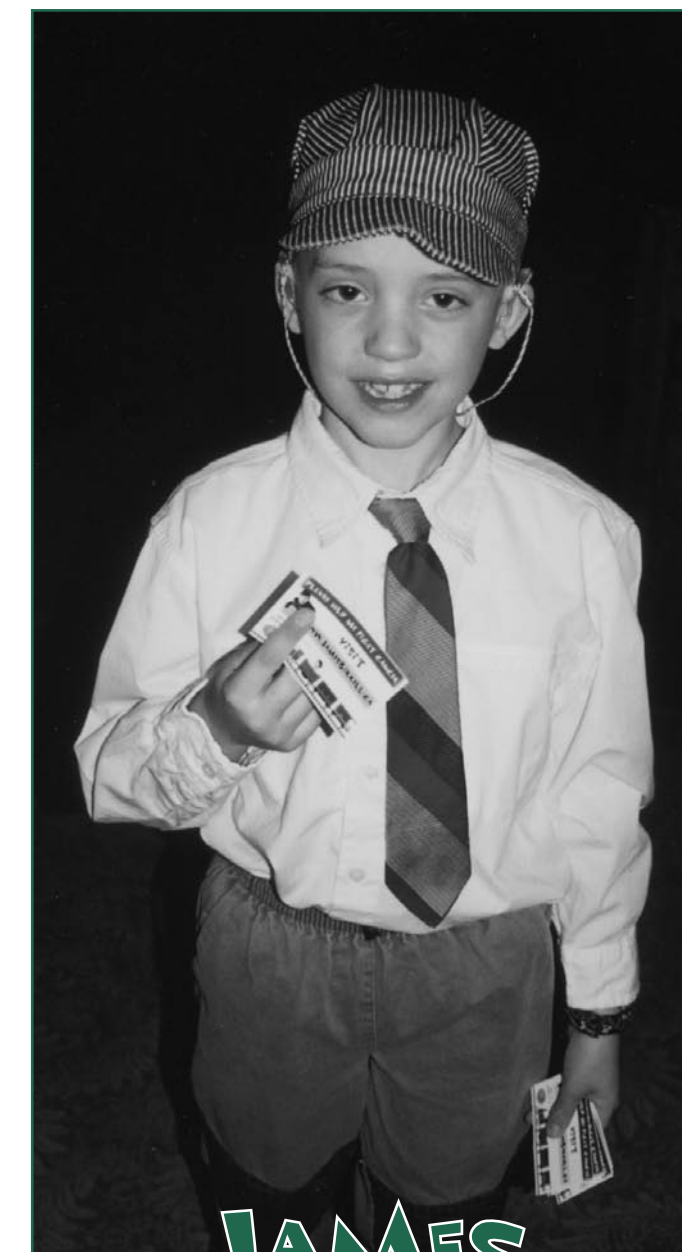
I have never been more motivated to support a cause. The Birrells have a tremendous gift of organized enthusiasm. I pray that all who read this will be moved to support the search for a cure."



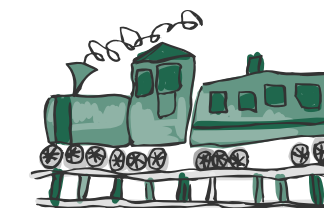
**BERYL
WHEELER**



**GERALD K.
BURGESS**



**JAMES
BIRRELL**



**"WHEN I HAVE TO MAKE THE
CHOICE, IT WILL ALWAYS BE
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I AM NOT GIVING UP."**