



**A Message from the President  
"We're Doing Big Things"**

Dear neuroblastoma families, supporters and friends:

Fundraising is critical to everything that we do at the CNCF. Without it, we wouldn't be able to support neuroblastoma research, pay for educational materials and outreach, and subsidize travel and lodging expenses for families struggling with medical bills who want to attend our annual medical conferences. Well, we're kicking fundraising into high gear in 2011 with a special evening of comedy, fun and prizes made possible by the folks at WGN AM radio, The IO Theater and the Chicago Blackhawks this Feb. 22. (Details on the event and ticket information is provided in this issue of the Hope Chest)

Neuroblastoma parents and friends, this event is being put on for you, so I hope that many of you will be able to join us and spread the word to your social network. Ticket sales benefit the CNCF and prices are affordable (just \$40) and attendees will be able to meet some of the Blackhawk players and WGN personalities. But the camaraderie and the opportunity to meet and socialize with other people who understand what it is like to struggle through a child's diagnosis and treatment is priceless.

Also in this issue, read about the "Mother of Neuroblastoma" Dr. Audrey Evans, who has dedicated so much of her life to learning about how neuroblastoma works and how to defeat it. Dr. Evans has touched so many lives in her 86 years and although she is no longer practicing, she continues to advocate for treatment plans that minimize the unfortunate side effects of chemotherapy and radiation. Dr. Evans is one of my favorite people and someone you should get to know.

A testament to the power of the human spirit is embodied in this issue's featured neuroblastoma mom, Laura Boyd. After living through the nightmare of having two children diagnosed with neuroblastoma and losing her son in 2004, Boyd has founded the Team Odyssey running team to compete in the Pittsburg marathon and to raise money for neuroblastoma research. Every weekend, Laura braves the cold and snow in Pennsylvania to train for the Pittsburgh Marathon in May, which will be Team Odyssey's first official fundraising effort. What's great about this fundraising tool is that it can be duplicated around the country, and I'm hoping that other CNCF families will form Team Odysseys in their areas to raise awareness and money for neuroblastoma.

I'm grateful to families like Laura and her husband, Kelly, who have remained committed to CNCF for those who continue to struggle with the disease. I also want to thank the corporate sponsors of the WGN/Blackhawks fundraiser: Galaxie Home Remodeling, the Village of Bedford Park, Shutterbox Entertainment and Mike Anderson Chevrolet of Chicago.

I hope to see you on Feb. 22!

Sincerely,  
Pat Tallungan