

The Perennial Path

Newsletter of the Brittany's Hope Foundation
Summer 2009



Cylo of the Lancaster Barnstormers proves that he can "get down" on the dance floor.

Walk of Love

Brittany's HOPE

What began as a rainy, chilly day turned into an afternoon filled with games, fun, and laughter.

The *Walk of Love* had always happened on beautiful spring days, but on the morning of May 3rd, 2009, the Walk of Love Committee rose to the challenge of bringing an outdoor event to an indoor gymnasium. They came up with a plan, while volunteers and staff went into action.

Moving the event indoors brought pleasant surprises: everyone could hear the music, and the children's games could continue throughout the event. Children could take a break, stop by the gym to play a game, then rejoin the Walk activities with their prize-filled goodie bags.

Walkers and supporters began the day by posing for photos, while the children played in the bounce tent and giant slide as soon as they were inflated.

After registration and the opening ceremony led by WGAL TV's Janelle Stelson, the *Walk of Love* began. Walkers enjoyed drinks, snacks, and candy as they circled the open hallway around the gym for an hour.

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Hope Children present at the Walk of Love, from left, Katie (2009), Ruslan (2006), Yamille (2009), Hannah (2007), and Jorge (2009) proudly display their Hope Child medals of honor.



At the end of the Walk, raffle prizes were awarded, and participants were treated to ice cream and frozen treats provided by Turkey Hill Dairy.

Together we've raised over \$32,000 and more donations continue to arrive daily. Thank you to everyone who attended or supported the Walk of Love!



The giant inflatable slide was a popular attraction!



Cylo and Ruslan, clowning around.



A group of enthusiastic Donegal High School students formed a team to participate.



The ice cream was great!



The kids loved getting their faces painted.



The games included a frisbee and foam noodle throw, mini-putt golf, Make the Rubber Duck Fly, a lollipop tree, and bean bag tossing. Everyone received prizes such as Mardi Gras beads, pinwheels, mini-frisbees, bouncy balls, koosh animals, and squeeze toys.



Thank you!

On behalf of Brittany's Hope staff, I want to express how grateful we are to everyone who supports the *Walk of Love* and Brittany's Hope Foundation.

Many thanks to the **walkers** who gather donors, and to the **donors** who send contributions. Your generosity blesses the lives of children worldwide.

We appreciate the **recipient families** who bring their children to events. They remind us of what our work is all about, and we're so glad to see them.

We value the **volunteers** whose work makes the events look easy, and also those who carry a load in the office. Their time and talents are gifts to the foundation.

Thank you to the Brittany's Hope **Board of Directors**, who act as both volunteers at events, and as trusted advisors at meetings.

We must praise our amazing **Walk of Love Committee**, whose members organized details and made phone calls, brainstormed ideas, donated time and money, and utilized their talents to make this event a success.



And finally, a special thanks to our **Britt's Kids and their siblings** whose happy faces and upbeat energy make the Walk so much fun! We love you!

The Walk of Love Goes Southern!

In honor of the two-year anniversary of their son Paul's arrival from China, Greg and Mary Louise Ogle recently hosted their own *Walk of Love* event.

Held in Delano Park in Decatur, Alabama, the Ogles invited friends, family, and local Brittany's Hope families to join them on the walking trail. The park has a playground specially built to be accessible to all children, regardless of their abilities, and a "splash pad".

After the Ogles' *Walk of Love*, they provided hot dogs and watermelon for the event participants.

A big thank you to the Ogle family and their supporters!

Keeping up with the Joneses

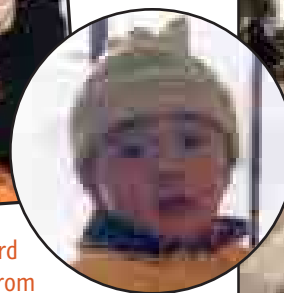
Marathon runners Elizabeth and Darin Jones traveled to Colombia with their family to pick up their new sons Miguel and Maurico. Two weeks after their return, they competed in the Hy-Vee Triathlon in Iowa to raise money for Brittany's Hope Foundation. You can read their blog, "*Another Kind of Marathon*" about their adoption adventure at <http://anotherkindofmarathon.blogspot.com/>



The Walk of Love Goes Worldwide!



The Cupp family (above) looks forward to bringing You Sheng (right) home from China. (far right) The Cupps in Argentina.



The Cupps, who are awaiting the arrival of their son You Sheng from China, recently held their own *Walk of Love* while in Buenos Aires, Argentina. They wore their *Walk of Love* t-shirts while walking through Buenos Aires in honor of the *Walk of Love* and children who wait for forever families. Many thanks to the Cupp family for walking to raise international adoption awareness!

Take Me Out To The Ballgame

Brittany's Hope Featured At Harrisburg Senators Game

On a warm sunny evening in April, the Harrisburg Senators baseball team welcomed Brittany's Hope Foundation into the spotlights.

Anastasia Hahnlen, who came home from Russia in 2006, threw out the first pitch of the season's opening game. The children of Brittany's Hope supporters were invited on the field to mingle with the players.

While the game was played, staff and board members handed out Brittany's Hope t-shirts and *Walk of Love* water bottles to the crowds near the concession stands. Everyone enjoyed eating ballpark food, cheering on the Senators, and meeting the team's mascots, "Rascal" and "Grrrounder". Thank you to all who attended to cheer on the children!



Brittany's Hope granted child Anastasia Hahnlen threw the first pitch of the game.



Children of Brittany's Hope supporters were escorted onto the field by the Senators' team.



We love baseball games! Join us on Sunday, August 30th at 2pm for more fun with the Senators!

Tickets are only \$5.00! Visit www.BrittanysHope.org in August for more information.

Join us in Vietnam!

Brittany's Hope is planning a service outreach trip to orphanages in Vietnam in summer 2010. Everyone is welcome to join us, and the travel costs are reasonable. For information, contact Nathaniel Abel, Humanitarian Aid Coordinator, at (717) 367-9614 or by e-mail at abeln@brittanyshope.org.



Jacob received a Brittany's Hope grant in 2001 and came home to his family in 2002.

Where are they now?



My name is Jacob Ross and I am 8 years old. I was adopted from Korea when I was 16 months old and have been blessed with loving parents.

I now live in Memphis, Tennessee after moving from Pennsylvania two years ago. My Dad wanted to move here to make his job easier being a FedEx pilot and so he could spend more time with me. I have an 18 year old sister who will go to college soon. She helps my mom watch me sometimes.

My favorite things to do are play baseball and soccer and I am on both teams. I also am on the swim team. My Dad and I just love to fish and try and fish almost every weekend.



We're Home!

Children Who Have Arrived Home Since January 2009



Connor
Russia



Benjamin
China



Nicholas
India



Henry
China



Christian
& Maria
Colombia



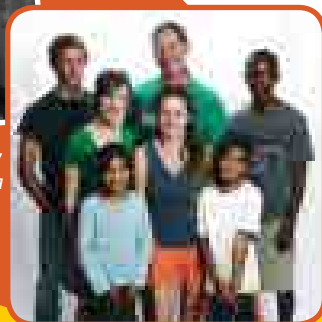
Jacob
Korea



Harrison
Mongolia



Getamesay
Ethiopia



Biruk & Hanna
Ethiopia



Mariah
China





In the summer of 2007, Katie Davis traveled to Buziika, Uganda to teach kindergarten at the Cnaan Children's Transit Center, part of Amazima Ministries International. As she walked the children home from class each day, she was shocked to see the number of children sitting idly on the side of the road or working in the fields. Katie learned that there were no public schools in the Buziika area. Due to the poverty there, most children cannot afford private schooling.

Katie began a child sponsorship program, matching orphaned children with sponsors in the US. The sponsorships pay for the children's education, school supplies, two hot meals a day, and minor medical care. Originally intending to help 40 children in need, Katie had signed up 150. By December 2008, the program had successfully sent all 150 children to school for a full year, and provided them with essentials.

Every Friday afternoon after school, 200 children in the program and nearby village come to Katie's home for fellowship, a hot dinner, baths, and Bible study. They sleep at Katie's rented house, covering the floors. In the morning, they are fed a hot breakfast and sent home re-energized.

In 2009, Katie and Amazima's goal was to raise support to send all 200 children to school. Amazed and inspired by Katie's dedication, Brittany's Hope is working to raise \$42,000 to help feed these children.

Donate to the Amazima Feeding Program at www.BrittanysHope.org or contact Nathaniel Abel, Humanitarian Aid Coordinator, at abeln@brittanyshope.org.

Brittany's Hope is working to raise \$42,000 for the Amazima Feeding Program



Britt's Buds

Featured Waiting Children

You can meet all of our waiting children by visiting us online at www.BrittanyHope.org.



Lindsay

This 9½ year old charming girl was found when she was five years old, and joined her foster family in July 2005. On admission she was found to be deaf in both ears. It's reported that her foster family is teaching her sign language. She is also reported to have some physical delays.

She is described as an active and carefree girl. She's reported to be independent in her daily tasks, such as washing, brushing her teeth, dressing herself, and even washing her clothes. She is especially close with her Grandma who she helps to get food and water, get dressed, and they go on walks together. She does well in school, and enjoys getting praise from her teachers.

This lovely and thoughtful girl is waiting for her forever family who has access to the resources that she needs. This is Lindsay's second Brittany's Hope grant.

REGION: East Asia

AGENCY: Holt International

CONTACT: Erin Mower

PHONE: 541-687-2202. ext. 150

GRANT: \$10,000.



Introducing our newest humanitarian program, the HOPE Project. An extension of the Sunflower Children Project, the HOPE (Helping Orphans by Providing Education) Project will grant funds to orphans to enable them to attain higher education or trade skills.

Zemenu, a young man in Ethiopia, wrote a letter of application to the HOPE Project to fund his training as a doctor.



Zemenu Deneke

My dream to be a physician has been with me since my early childhood. My mother, when she was not more than 15 years old, was married to my father who was a Christian. My mother's family was Muslim in religion. When she married, my mother adopted Christianity.

She moved with her husband to another village to start their new life. My father was a teacher and after some years they produce one child who was me. However, due to unknown reasons my father and my mother could not live together. I was no more than 3 years old by this time. My mother had no choice than to come back to her family's house, but my grandparents were not in a position to accept us. My mother and I lived 3 years in very harsh conditions. We had no food to eat or shelter to live in. We were just moving from someone's house to another's finding what we could to live.

This is the blueprints in my mind and this is my heartache. I feel I can do something to save these children.

When we were in such a condition my mother caught serious malaria. Very quickly, she died in the nearby hospital. I was the only one to care for her in the hospital. I was left where nowhere else to go. So, I spent the rest of my life at the hospital.

This was the time I began to have my dreams to be a doctor. I have met patients who were unable to get medicine or doctors. Many people have died from simple curable diseases. I have seen children dying of diarrhea. Small beautiful children and babies die in their mother's hand. I feel like this is a lost chance. If this baby could grow up, it could be one of the famous and influential persons in the world. Maybe we have already lost too many babies.

I have also seen young adults

dying of malaria and TB. We are losing these young and growing people to curable diseases. These people are the ones who can challenge Africa's poverty.

Thanks to God I am lucky to meet Brittany's Hope Foundation and I am able to go to school. I can say my life is highly connected with health organizations & patients. I am still working in one of the clinics of the catholic mission. After this all, it is not surprising that I dream to be a doctor. I need to save children, mothers and the elderly. I do not need to see extra death in Africa. Thanks to God, because of you I am ready to join my new school and my dream to be a doctor is going to come true.

Zemenu will be attending Hayat Medical College of Addis Ababa.

Medical Intervention for Asalafew

Brittany's Hope works with Dr. Rick Hodes to help a young man with spinal tuberculosis

In Ethiopia, there is one doctor for every 40,000 people and never enough medicine. In a nation with a per capita income of \$220, modern treatment is reserved largely for the rich. But at Mother Teresa's Mission in Addis Ababa, Rick Hodes, MD, devotes himself to healing the poor.

"I like helping people nobody else is interested in," says Hodes, 55, the senior attending physician at the mission. A native of Long Island who trained at Johns Hopkins University, he sees 20 adults and children a day. Many travel hundreds of miles from remote villages, sometimes in the backs of trucks, to his one-room clinic, where he stops at nothing to get them what they need.



Photography by Samantha Reinders/Redux

The clinic lacks a light box for viewing X-rays, so Hodes improvises by taking them outside and holding them up to the sun.

When Dr. Bradley Davidson, a physician on the board of Brittany's Hope Foundation happened to meet Rick Hodes on a flight, they discussed a young man Dr. Davidson had met a few days earlier.

Asalafew (pictured right), an Ethiopian orphan with spinal tuberculosis, needed surgery to correct the painful curvature caused by the disease. (Bradley Davidson's conversation with Rick Hodes is mentioned in the June 2008 issue of *The Perennial Path*.) His spine is so compacted and twisted that he stands a mere 4'10".



Brittany's Hope Foundation's medical intervention program has funded surgery for children, giving them the opportunity to lead a normal life after correcting heart deformities and clubfeet. Bradley Davidson believed that if Brittany's Hope could provide funding, Rick Hodes would perform the surgery.

Eight months later, Bradley Davidson returned to Ethiopia and took Asalafew to be evaluated by Dr. Hodes. After examining Asalafew and reviewing his x-rays, Hodes agreed to do the surgery.

Brittany's Hope will raise \$10,000 to correct Asalafew's spinal tuberculosis, and Dr. Hodes has opened his home to give Asalafew a place to rest and heal. At last count, Hodes had more than a dozen youths living in his home, and he has placed three more at boarding schools in Ohio and a cancer clinic in Washington.

A documentary about Rick Hodes and information about his work in Ethiopia and worldwide can be found at www.bewoket.com.

To help fund Asalafew's surgery or to donate to our medical intervention program, visit us online at www.BrittanysHope.org.

2009
**GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

Thursday, August 27, 2009 • 11:30am - 7pm
Crossgates Golf Club, Millersville, PA

Visit www.BrittanysHope.org
for more information

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