Announcements
★ The Thalassemia Support Foundation is proud to present its 1st Annual Thalassemia Educational Conference on April 1, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. This event will be held at the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA) in the Page Conference Room and lunch will be provided. Speakers include Thomas Coates, MD, Punam Malik, MD, and Susan Carson, PNP. Topics covered will include the new oral chelator, Exajel®, and gene therapy for Beta Thalassemia. For more information, please visit our Web site at www.helpthalas.org, or contact Bryce Imbler of CHLA at 323-669-5460.

★ Thalassemia Outreach has a new look! The logo was designed by Ernesto Ornelas, Children’s Hospital & Research Center Foundation Graphic Designer Associate.

We would like to sincerely thank our sponsors and donors who have made this party possible:
AssetMark Investment Services
Starlight/Starbright Children’s Foundation
Patricia Broman – Syzygy Consulting
Italian Catholic Federation
Acalanes Boys Varsity Basketball
Bay City Flower Company
Jelly Belly Candy Co.
Tower Records
Sonic Solutions
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IKEA
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Young Men’s Institute
Marina Bacchetti
Mary Sperrazzo
Charlene Kramer
Lin and Dan Arnold
Debbie Arnold
Ken Vargas
Hearts Leap Preschool
Reed Asay
Siboun Vongphrachanh
Sara Taylor
Huynh Hong Nguyen
Susan Winner
Carrie Scott and Dave Klimetz
Lori Moraca
Minh Tu Nguyen
Natalie McNab
LaCamia Ross
LaTatiana Green
Cimon Bell
Sara Taylor
Eun-Ha Pang
Amber Martinez
Iris & Gerald Washington

We would like to thank our OUTSTANDING volunteers for all of their hard work and time:
Lafayette Girl Scout Troop
Acalanes Boys Varsity Basketball
Berkeley High School
Oakland Tech
Staci and Olivia Jackson
John Gallagher and Erin
Kenyada Jones/Starbucks Coffee
Kat Vongphrachanh
Mary Lai
Bob Medeiros
Lisa Vongphrachanh
Melanie Clarke

A sincere thanks to other recent donors
Novartis Pharmaceuticals
Bob and Anne Levine
Paper Plus

Thanks to the following ICF branches who had us for recent visits:
ICF Branch 285 – Swinging Bingo Night
ICF Branch 191 – Branch Meeting and Book Drive

Approximately 200 patients, families and friends attended the thalassemia annual holiday party on December 19th. The party was held in “The Jungle,” which was set up in Children’s Hospital’s Outpatient Center. Everyone enjoyed an international buffet lunch, games provided by the Lafayette Girl Scouts, facepainting, Tahitian dancers and, of course, a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. A good time was had by all.

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Other Happenings...

Dr. Suthat Fucharoen - Dec. 2 - CHORI Little Theater
Suthat Fucharoen, MD, an internationally recognized scientist who specializes in thalassemia, iron overload and genetic modifiers of disease paid a special visit to Children's. Dr. Fucharoen gave a talk on “Searching for Disease Modifier Genes in Beta Thalassemia/HbW.” We would like to extend our sincere thanks for his time and for sharing his expertise with us.

Celebrating Life!
Dr. Vichinsky and the Thal Team would like to celebrate the milestones and successes in our patient’s lives. The following are some special happenings that took place in 2005.

Laurice Compagno marries Matt Levine!

Kareem Zamani passes his real-estate exam and obtains his license.

In Memoriam
In 2005 we sadly lost two of our dear friends. We would like to remember them…

Andrew Strickland
June 19, 1985 – June 20, 2005
“What can I say about Andrew except that he was a fun-loving guy, always there for you and me. Andrew and I had our ups and downs, but we still managed to get along perfectly. I will always remember him, especially when I hear Eminem’s song ‘When I’m Gone.’ The verse that will always remind me of him goes, ‘When I'm gone, just carry on. Don’t mourn rejoice, every time you hear my voice. Just know this, I'm looking down at you, smiling, so don’t feel no pain, just smile back.’

– Steven Srisavat

Jimmy Mai
February 25, 1985 – September, 7, 2005
Jimmy was one of the most real people I knew. He was true to himself and would always tell it like it was. I loved having long conversations with him. Jimmy was a kind spirit to everyone and a true friend. Even when he came to the hospital his friends would always visit him. I will never forget when he was in UCSF for a few weeks and he wanted to help the child life specialists with a project. He spent hours sorting thousands of fuse beads by color (they were all mixed-up). He did this so that when other kids did projects it would be easier and more fun for them. That was the kind of person that Jimmy was—he would give of himself no matter how tedious the task. Jimmy was also an artist—he could color and draw amazing things. Jimmy joined his friends at Children’s Hospital & Research Center Oakland for annual Desferal Camps and many other events. He was the life of the party! I will miss Jimmy, but he will always hold a special place in my heart.

– Laurice Levine

If you or your child would like to share a significant event with us, let us know. Please email LLevine@mail.cho.org.