



Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland
Thalassemia Outreach

PERSPECTIVES
NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA THALASSEMIA CENTER - SPRING 2006

**EVENTS
CALENDAR**

- March 20:** ICF Gilroy, Branch Visit
 - March 21:** ICF Larkspur, Branch Visit
 - March 24:** Teen Bowling Night (ages 12 and up), Albany, Calif.
 - April 4:** Cal State Stanislaus Health Fair, Stockton, Calif.
 - April 7:** Scandia Night (ages 6 to 11), Vallejo, Calif.
 - April 15:** Cambodian Health Fair, Stockton, Calif.
 - May 5 and 6:** Annual Blood Drive in honor of International Thalassemia Day; Outpatient Center Basement, Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland
 - May 12 to 14:** Thalassemia Action Group (TAG) Annual Conference, Las Vegas, Nev.
 - May 17:** Cal-State Hayward Health Fair, Hayward, Calif.
- For more information about upcoming events, please contact Toutu Vongphrachanh at 510-428-3885, ext. 4398, or Laurice Levine at 510-428-3885, ext. 5427.

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, Exjade®, and gene therapy for Beta Thalassemia. For more information, please visit our Web site at www.helpthals.org, or contact Bryce Imbler of CHLA at 323-669-5469.

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



**Holiday Party
Dec. 19, 2005**

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.



Santa and Mrs. Claus with a little helper.



Dr. Vichinsky with ICF members.

The Saefongs



Anita Guo and family.



Party-goers enjoy an international buffet.

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
- Hertz Big 4 Rents
- Bay City Flower Company
- Jelly Belly Candy Co.
- Tower Records
- Sonic Solutions
- Good Stuff Baking Co.
- IKEA
- Royal Robbin
- Sons of Sicily
- Young Men's Institute
- Marina Bacchetti
- Mary Sperrazzo
- Charlene Kramer
- Lin and Dan Arnold
- Debbie Arnold
- Ken Vargas
- Hearts Leap Preschool

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
- Kiat Vongphrachanh
- Mary Lai
- Bob Medeiros
- Matt Levine
- Lisa Vongphrachanh
- Melanie Clarke

- Reed Asay
- Siboun Vongphrachanh
- Sara Taylor
- Huythong Nguyen
- Susan Winner
- Carrie Scott and Dave Kilmetz
- Lori Moraca
- Minh Tu Nguyen
- Natalie McNab
- LaCamii Ross
- LaTatianna Green
- Cimon Bell
- Sara Taylor
- Eun-Ha Pang
- Amber Martinez
- Iris & Gerald Washington

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

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Northern California Thalassemia Center
Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland
747 52nd Street, Oakland, CA 94609

Address change requested



Perspectives Newsletter is produced by the thalassemia outreach coordinators Toutu Vongphrachanh and Laurice Levine and the Marketing Communications department at Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland. For questions regarding the newsletter or for more information on thalassemia, call 510-428-3885, ext. 4398, or visit www.thalassemia.com.

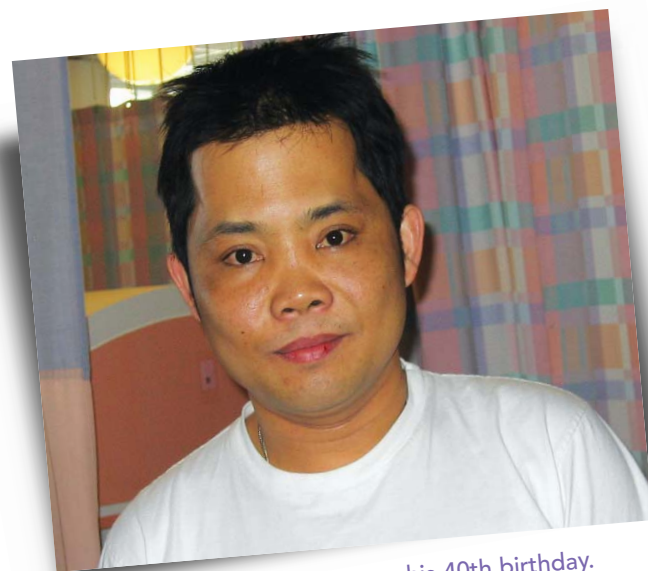
Other Happenings...

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.



Werayoot Harnyoot celebrates his 40th birthday.



Laurice Compagno marries Matt Levine!



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

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

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

