

Devon Nicole's House  
PO Box 901  
Londonderry NH 03053

**To:**

**DNH Critical Needs:**

- Donations at all levels
- Experienced Fund Raisers
- Prayers and ideas for finding a suitable home site in or near Boston MA
- Annual Endowments for on going operational costs to support DNH
- Help in rehabilitation of the home. (Architect, Contractors, etc. etc.)
- Members for Advisors to DNH to provide on going support and guidance to the Board of Trustees

**BE AWARE.. for your Children's sake!!**

Congenital Heart Defects (**CHD**) are the #1 cause of death from birth defects during the first year of life.

It is estimated that 1 million Americans have CHD and 35,000 babies are born with CHD each year.

The BEST way to battle CHD is to be informed!  
If you have a family history of heart disease or would like more information: Call 1-800-AHA-USA1  
Or log on to: [www.americanheart.org/children](http://www.americanheart.org/children)

# **Devon Nicole's House Donors**

(from March 2000- March 2001)

## **Executives**

Altid Enterprises  
Anonymous (1)  
Jim & Linda Blanton  
Philip Carver  
Ray & Barbara Carye  
Scott DeSantis (RE/MAX)  
Luisa's Italian Pizzeria - Derry  
Lundgren Chiropractic  
Cindy Mastropiero –  
(Longaberger Consultant)  
Jim & Mary Missert  
Paul & Carolyn Missert  
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Boston Children's Hospital  
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## **Patrons (cont.)**

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John & Melissa McKenna  
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## **Friends**

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Cracker Barrel  
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Hyde Realty  
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## **Friends (cont.)**

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James & Barbara Newkirk  
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Janet Rock & Frank Teague  
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Mary Singer  
Chuck & Bonnie Spaulding  
Spectrum Gymnastics Academy  
Stateline Ticket Agency  
Richard & Elizabeth Straub  
Therapeutic Concern  
Andrew & Beth Violette  
Evelyn Wittenberg

**Memorial  
donations were  
given to DNH in**



**loving  
memory  
of:**

Reva Blanton  
Ronald Girard  
Tyler, Brandon and  
Michael MacFarland  
Beatrice Metevier  
George Ralph  
Cole & Chloe Simpson

## **Gift levels**

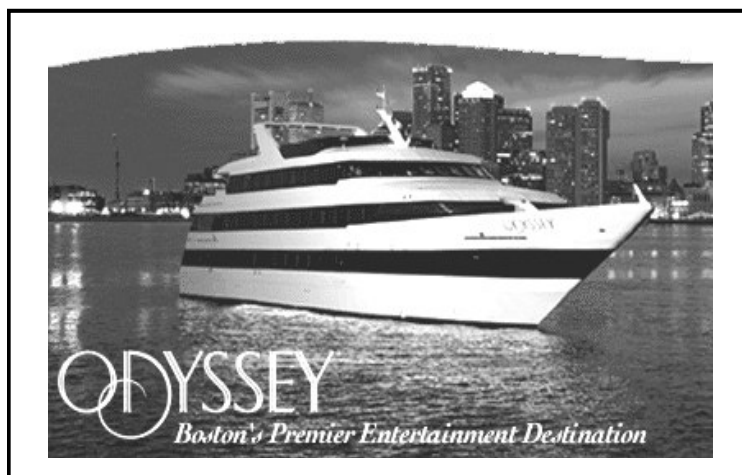
\_\_\_ Friends (\$1-\$99)  
\_\_\_ Associates (\$100-\$249)  
\_\_\_ Patrons (\$250-\$499)

\_\_\_ Benefactors (\$500-\$999)  
\_\_\_ Executives (above \$1000)

# *First Annual DNH Valentines Dinner Cruise*

*By Jennifer Pontzer*

On February 10, 2001, Devon Nicole's House set sail for the First Annual Valentines Dinner Cruise. It was a cold and wintry day in Boston, but hearts were warmed with love, enthusiasm and a dream, the dream of DNH. Over 200 people wine and dined on the Boston Harbor while riding on the Odyssey Cruise Ship. The DNH Party took up 2 of the 3 decks available that night! We enjoyed succulent fresh shrimp and oysters donated by North Coast Seafoods of Boston, along with other hot appetizers. The seafood was laid out on display by a gorgeous heart



shaped ice sculpture brought in by **Brookline Ice**. The chef's aboard the boat served up a 5 star dinner complete with various delectable desserts. Many enjoyed participating in our "Balloon Sale" where everyone who bought a balloon for \$10, \$25, or \$50 won a prize of equal or greater value, including dinner for two at **C.R. Sparks**, gift certificates for **Toys-R-Us**, **Home Depot**, **Atkinson Country Club**, and many other wonderful gifts. The biggest action event of the evening was the silent auction. Some items up for bid were a 32" Sony Color TV, hot air balloon rides, massages by **Being Balanced**, Celtics tickets from **Lundgren Chiropractic**, **Canobie Lake Park** packages, rare find Beanie Babies, and one lucky bidder took home a beautiful handmade rocking horse made especially by Devon Nicole's grandfather. The auction ended at 10:15pm, but had to be reopened due to enormous competition over one item. A one-week RCI time-share, donated by Paul and Carolyn Missert, was taken to the dance floor and auctioned off live!



The Valentine's event for DNH also drew on the hearts of the wonderful Odyssey staff. They were so moved by our cause they allowed us to auction off some **Captain's Time** driving the Odyssey herself! Scott DeSantis, a very benevolent contributor to Devon Nicole's House filling two tables on the cruise, outbid all others for the once in a life time chance to drive a luxury yacht on the open sea.

The evening took on additional meaning to Thomas and Deanna Missert and DNH Board Members who spent time with some guests that are parents of children who have suffered with congenital heart defects (CHD). To see the faces of these parents and hear their stories made the vision for a home like Devon Nicole's House all the more pressing. The need for this home with a heart is on going, very real and urgent.

Over all, more than **\$20,000** was raised to help make Devon Nicole's House a reality.

We would like to say a special thanks to the many people that helped and contributed to our largest and most successful fundraiser yet. This was a big step for DNH and we could not have done it without your steady hands and big hearts. Please join us next year, February 16<sup>th</sup> for our second Annual Dinner Cruise. Bring a friend or two and help us fill the boat!

# *Luisa's Pizza Party for Devon Nicole's House*

By Corinne Wood

Saturday, December 9, 2000 was a day filled with holiday cheer. From the hours of 11am-2pm Luisa's Italian Pizzeria at 121 W. Broadway in the Derry Plaza, Derry NH, donated 50 percent of their total sales to DNH. Owners Sarah and Arnie Zampi upon hearing the story of Devon Nicole's House knew they wanted to do something to help. So they came up with the idea of a Christmas pizza party where families could get involved. Filled with Christmas spirit, Luisa's Italian Pizzeria became a place where hundreds came together with the joy of giving. There was face painting and a door raffle with prizes donated by local business and families in Derry and many surrounding towns.



Even **Santa**, hearing about the merriment, showed up escorted by the Londonderry Police and the Londonderry Fire Department to see the children and pass out candy canes.

Thank you to everyone who made it such a joyful occasion. Sarah and Arnie Zampi, Luisa's employees, Pepsi, Robyn Suberi, Scott Soterion at Front Row Ticket Agency, Erica and Ryan Murphy, High Point Communications Group, Inc., Jennifer Kidwell, Cindy Masterpiero, The Spalding Family, Charlotte Pratte, Parent Chiropractic, The Mak Family, Janet McEachern, The Karlodies Family Furry Paws Cafe, Ruth Adams, Therapeutic Concerns, Hair Encounters, John and Melissa McKenna, The Taylor Family,, the parishioners of Londonderry Presbyterian Church, Emily's Wreath Factory at the Grey Goose, Franny Greenbery, Londonderry Police and Fire Departments, and of course Santa Claus!

Special thanks to ALTID Enterprises who upon hearing about the Christmas Party for DNH said they would match whatever Luisa's raised and then they gave even more.

Luisa's and the people that participated raised over \$3000 for DNH. Thank you to everyone who came and helped to make this party a big success. Join us on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Luisa's Pizza Party for DNH!

January flew by as we prepared for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual DNH Valentines Dinner Cruise on board the Odyssey. We had several newspapers (**Boston Globe, The Herald, Union Leader, Derry News, Tribune and others**) that picked up the DNH story as the date got closer. With the additional coverage from TV stations (**WNDS, WBZ channel 4, NECN, WMUR**) we saw our attendance for the cruise surge to over 200 people! Thanks again to everyone that helped. You are all cordially invited to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DNH Valentines Cruise February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2002!

After the Cruise in February, we had some hero's like David Lundgren and Cindy Mastropiero rise up to continue our momentum. Lundgren Chiropractic helped raise money by holding a simple raffle for a massage. They had a great response and raised over \$250. After a snow delay, Cindy Mastropiero hosted a Longerberger Basket Bingo party in a Hall donated by the Lions Club of Londonderry. The bingo party raised over \$1100! On the road to building a dream, every event helps.

DNH stepped out during February to do what we could to help groups trying to raise public awareness about Congenital Heart Defects (CHD). When little Devon donated 2 of her heart valves, we had no idea what CHD even was. We had a short and fast education and found out that approximately 35,000 babies are born with heart defects each year. CHD is the leading cause of death from birth defects during the first year of life. One of the principal ways to help these babies is simply by educating parents and doctors about Congenital Heart Defects. You can find out more about CHD at [www.americanheart.org/children](http://www.americanheart.org/children)

Our focus over the next year will continue to be on Phase I for Devon Nicole's House; fundraising and efforts to locate a suitable site for DNH. We are still looking for either corporate sponsors or larger Endowment/Founders level gifts. We have several leads on possible housing sites that we will follow through on, but ultimately, to get into the right site we need to build a stronger bank account. We need your continued support, help and prayers. If you are aware of anyone that may be able to help us make Devon Nicole's House a reality, please share our story. Get them to take a look at our website, or send us an email and we will contact them!

Finally, as this newsletter goes to print, two new members were voted in on our Board of Trustees. They are an awesome couple with lots of heart, energy and ideas. Deanna, I, and the rest of the Board, look forward to working with them.

We still think about Devon every day. We know that she is watching over our family and the people helping us with this project. We pray that you join us in helping DNH become a reality. Come with us and help the vision grow!

#### **INTRODUCING: Advisors/Associates to DNH:**

Erica Auciello Murphy    High point Communications,  
Public Relations

Dawn King                      Little Hearts

Fellow Board Members American Heart Association Housing Committee

Dr. Kathy Jenkins	Andrea Flynn
Santa Sasena	Janet Horgan
Alba Alvarez & Gerry Fernandez	Kathy Milligan

#### **Board of Trustees:**

Thomas Missert	Devon's Dad, President
Deanna Missert	Devon's Mom, VP & Treasurer
Ruth Adams	Senior Member, Board of Trustees
Jennifer Pontzer	Senior Member, Board of Trustees
Jeff Clark	Senior Member, Board of Trustees
David Wood	Senior Member, Board of Trustees
Corinne Wood	Senior Member, Board of Trustees
Denise Tarquinio	Senior Member, Board of Trustees

#### **New to the Board:**

Brian Simpson	Member of the Board of Trustees
Celeste Simpson	Member of the Board of Trustees

[tomm@devonshouse.org](mailto:tomm@devonshouse.org)  
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### **Special Thanks!!**

To Ruth Adams (Ga-Ga Ruth) for her love, dedication and time with the triplets and us.

To Maddy Mandelbaum for taking the time to listen.

To the parishioners of LPC that have continued to pray for us and for DNH.

To George and Elaine Wallace and Master Printers on New England for the GREAT job they did in printing up our brochures.

To Boston Business Printers for printing up the Odyssey Valentines Cruise invitations and programs. Your work is AWESOME.

To Sue Vivian for stepping up to re-design the DNH web site and keep it up to date for us.

To Cindy Mastropiero for hosting the Longerberger basket bingo night.

To Erica Murphy for all her help with PR and the press releases.

To David and Robin Lundgren and Lundgren Chiropractic for continued support.

To Lisa Dipillo and the Odyssey staff for the wonderful job they did in hosting our first BIG Boston fundraiser.

To those who helped with donations for the silent auction & balloon items for the Cruise.

To the people that have encouraged us with words, prayers, actions and donations. You know who you are. Thank you and God bless.

**While Deanna was pregnant with Devon she craved lemons. Lemon Trivia:** The Largest Commercially grown lemon on record was 8 lbs., 8 oz by C&D Knudsen, in Whittier CA! (Guinness Book of World Records, 1995).!





# Devon Nicole's House Newsletter

PO Box 901  
Londonderry NH 03053

<http://www.devonshouse.org>  
Spring 2001

*On July 30, 1999 a beautiful healthy baby girl named Devon Nicole came into this world. Five short days later she was called back to heaven. This may sound like the end of a story, but as it turns out, it is just the beginning of a journey....*

## Mission:

Devon Nicole's House is a Non-Profit Charity that is dedicated to establishing a home-away-from-home for families that have children either awaiting organ donations or that are in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at any of the Boston area Hospitals. We hope to relieve the parents of the financial worry of how to afford being close to their child during a difficult time

## Baby Steps *by Devon's Dad*

WOW! What a difference a few months can make. It seems like yesterday that we finished mailing out our first newsletter. The time has flown by and a lot has happened to help move us along. Let me try to bring you up to date...

Since November, we've had many people step up and offer their help, suggestions, and donations. In November and December we made several friends inside Boston City Hall. We are certain these friends will play a key role in helping DNH along and we look forward to working with them.

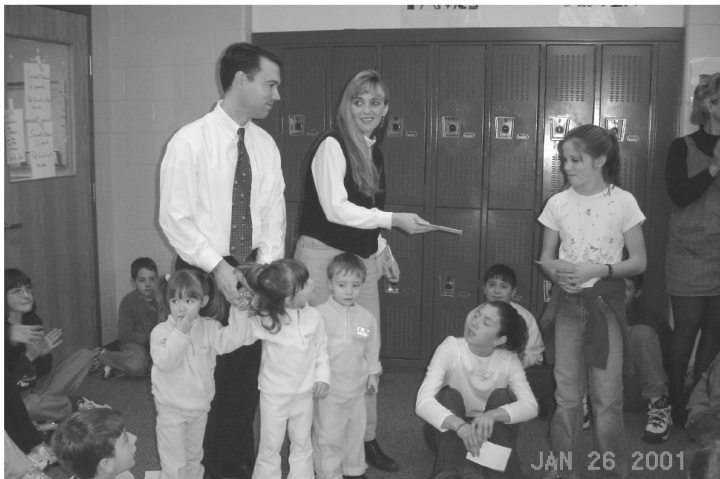
We have continued to build our close relationship with **Children's Hospital**, specifically the Cardiac Unit and their staff. They have provided constant support and really look forward to the day that DNH is open for business. Through the people we have met at Children's we have begun working in union with several other groups.

DNH is now working with a sub committee group of the **American Heart Association** that came into existence right around Devon's first birthday. The mission of this group is to meet the critical housing needs for parents that have kids undergoing treatment at the Cardiac Unit. Essentially, we had been working unknowingly towards the same goal. We are hoping that by combining our efforts we can shorten the time to when DNH becomes a reality.

We have gotten to know several people in an amazing group called **Little Hearts**. They are a group of parents that have children with heart problems. They represent the group of parents, ultimately, that would stay at DNH. They know first hand what it's like to sleep on a cot or in a chair or in their car, anywhere, so long as they can be close to their child during a critical time.

We are also developing a relationship with **The Gift of Life** organization that is part of the international Rotarians. This group is comprised of many business owners and community leaders. They may wind up being a critical link to the people that will actually help build/renovate or perhaps even find a site for Devon Nicole's House.

In December we had our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Luisa's Pizza Party for DNH. It was a great time! Thanks again to the Zampi's and team at Luisa's. Santa even managed to cut some time from his busy Christmas schedule. He wished us all the best in our efforts with Devon Nicole's House and promised to be back next year for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pizza Party. During the Holiday season, Londonderry Middle School's Twisters got into the giving spirit by selling books to help raise money for DNH. (See picture to left).



**Londonderry Twisters present DNH with a check for \$670.**

## Fundraising Events:

**May 6<sup>th</sup> Bogar Salon Cut-a-thon**

\* 11-5pm Sunday. Londonderry NH  
\* CALL for aptmt **(603) 434-2424**

**May Stampin Party**

**June 9<sup>th</sup> Garage Sale and Bake Sale**

\* Hosted by Derry Mom's Club  
\* Derry Wal-Mart Parking lot

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Luisa's Pizza Party**

**SANTA** will be back!

**February 16<sup>th</sup> 2002**

 **Valentines Dinner Cruise**

*For more information or to volunteer to help, check out our web site:*

<http://www.devonshouse.org>