

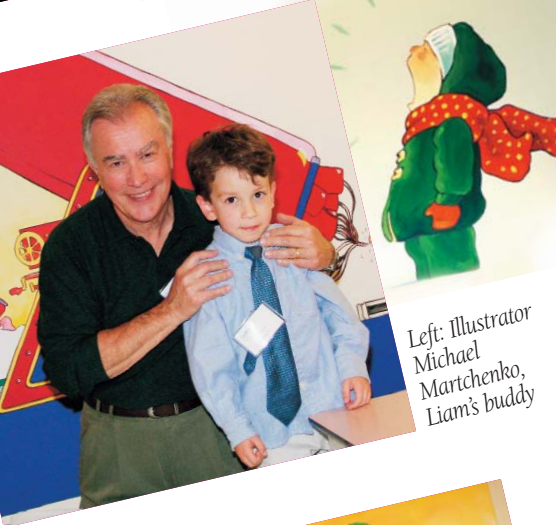
The Voice of Liam's Light

Newsletter

Supporting Research and Care for Pediatric Transplants



Above: My best friend Jeremy Ross who came with me at the unit opening



Left: Illustrator Michael Martchenko, Liam's buddy



Murals by Michael Martchenko in the Liam's Light Step Down unit

It's Official!

The Liam's Light Step Down Unit is now open



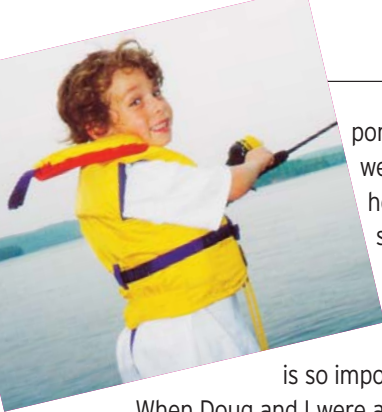
ON WED MAY 17TH, THE LIAM'S LIGHT STEP DOWN UNIT WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED ON 6A AT THE HOSPITAL FOR SICKKIDS IN TORONTO. WHAT A PROUD AND AMAZING JOURNEY THIS HAS BEEN FOR OUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS.

The Liam's Light unit is a beautiful space full of vivid bright drawings by the renowned children's illustrator Michael Martchenko (the illustrator of the Robert Munsch books). Liam was very involved in picking out his favorite images, as well as commissioning Michael to come up with some crazy squirrel's and a gorilla's arm to help decorate the space.

The unit holds 3 beds, as well as a nursing station, round the hour care, infusion chairs for parent's, as well as a library of books and videos. The paint was barely dry before the hospital was moving children into the room (in reality it was the next day).

The unit is for children who are waiting for a transplant or recovering from a transplant and are out of critical care but not well enough yet to be in their own room. We are thrilled to be able to support the amazing work of PAMOT (pediatric academic multiple organ transplant program), and will be continuing to support their work in the future.

Liam has had some health challenges this past year and has been hospitalized a few times. Once again, he always continues to amaze Doug and myself at his brilliant capacity to "take it all in". We are extremely humbled and proud at his strength of character and his quiet tolerance he



portrays when we are in the hospital. He still continues to smile and laugh and that is what is so important.

When Doug and I were at a Polycystic Kidney Disease conference in the United State's, a speaker suggested when raising a chronically ill child that parent's need to remember to "raise the child and not the illness". What a great statement we thought, and it has always stuck with us. We continue to strive to do so and allow Liam the normality of being a child, (even a sick one)a right that all children deserve.

So what has Liam been up to?

Liam is continuing to work on his swimming and he is very close to passing his Level 2 at Buckler Aquatics, and we couldn't be prouder! He is extremely excited to be playing on team "Juicy" as player #9

with the Beaches Soccer League. He is also an active student at The Art Garage in the beach and is always coming home with fabulous art projects.

Liam is still a fanatic about "Star Wars", and can act out any scene involving a light saber and Darth Vader! He spends countless hours playing with his Star Wars toys and loves to role play with them. Keep you're eyes open if you happen to be on Queen Street East, as he is the one in the Darth Vader costume with the painted Darth Maul face and the light saber...and it's not Halloween!

On June 23, 2006 Liam graduated from Senior Kindergarten at St. Dennis School. Although he has enjoyed the school, he has decided he wants to go to a smaller school and we are extremely excited that in September he will be embarking upon his journey in education with Kew Park Montessori School.

Liam is looking forward to the summer and all the fun that summer brings. In July he will be at tennis camp and golf camp. The last 2 weeks of

July he will be just hanging with his cousin Kysa at the cottage with Nani, Gampi, Aunti Lisa and Jamie, Mommy and Daddy and Kensey. For his 6th birthday in June Liam got his own cork rod and he is very excited to throw out the rod with daddy in the boat and catch a big fish!

So what do we do now that the step down unit has been built? Where do we go from here?

As many of you know the amount of time and energy it takes to continue to hold the "big" event every year is overwhelming! We could never have accomplished so much if it weren't for all of our supporters and the many volunteers that have made every event a memorable one and so successful!



2nd Annual Liam's Light Walkathon

**Sunday September 24th 2006
10 a.m. start, location to be determined.**

We have decided that we will continue to hold an annual Liam's Light Walkathon. All proceeds will continue to support the research and care of pediatric transplant's at The Hospital for SickKids PAMOT division.

We are still working on the details but generally the walk will be approx 5km (more details to follow), as well we will have refreshments and a small bbq at the end of the walk. There will be amazing prizes for the top 3 walker's who raise the most money in pledges. Bring you're kids, your bikes, you're wagon, rollerblades, or just yourself and come out to support such a great cause!

We are hoping to raise \$40,000 so we need as many walkers and pledges as possible!

If you would be interested in walking please contact Deborah or Doug Moore

by July 25th 2006 @ 416 690 6229 or email: dmoore@istar.ca If you get our answering machine please make sure that you leave a message with you're full name and phone number by July 25th so that we can get back in touch with you.

Once we have an idea on the number of walker's we will be in touch with those people and we will be providing more information regarding the walkathon.

You will also notice we have included with our newsletter a pledge sheet to help you get a head start! You can photocopy this to give you as many sheets that you feel that you will need for you're pledges. A more detailed walkers package will be mailed to each participant. Any donation over \$20.00 will receive a tax receipt from The Hospital for SickKids.

If you are unable to walk but wish to be involved, you can still get pledges and be involved as we have selected a designated walker on you're behalf...Liam. He will walk for all those who cannot, but

wish to participate. So please, call us by July 25, 2006 if you want to be involved!

We wish all of our friends, family, supporters, volunteers a very happy and safe summer! We are blessed to have such an amazing circle of friends who continue to support us in all capacities.

Happy Summer Breezes!

Love,
Deborah Doug and Liam Moore



Liam's Light first annual walkathon - 18 walkers proud and strong!