



Serving Families Since 1972

P.O. Box 3
Fairport, NY 14450
GRSBA.NY@gmail.com
www.GRSBA.org

GRSBA News & Notes

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Dec. 18:**
Board of Directors Meeting
- **Feb. 23**
Annual Valentine's Pool Party

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Member Spotlight	2
Upcoming Events	2
Kirch Corner	3
Bowling Party News	3
Family Picnic News	Back

Letter from the President

Holiday Greetings,

The GRSBA has grown in many ways this year. Several new members were elected to the Board of Directors, development of a web site and all of our regular annual events. Fundraising events have been successful and the newsletters have kept us all informed as to what is going on in the GRSBA family.

We have had record attendance at events and Board meetings. I am glad to see the growth of the Association, but most of all I am very pleased to see that we are reaching more people in the community and continuing to assist our members.

As the end of the year draws near and another season of thankfulness approaches, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who played a role in making 2013 an amazing year!

I am excited about what 2014 holds for the GRSBA and I look forward to seeing even more growth in our programming and community connections. I invite everyone to join us at events and Board meetings and share your ideas with us. I wish you all a very happy holiday season!

With sincere gratitude,
Doug Pease, President



United Way Donors

GRSBA would like to sincerely acknowledge this year's United Way donors who help make it possible for us to provide:

Scholarships, Family Out-reach, Financial Support, Social Events, as well as, Information & Referrals.

These are a few of the opportunities offered through our Chapter. Your support is appreciated more than you will ever know!

Jason M. Achille
Kevin & Marcia Biata
Jennifer E. Bocach
Jeffrey M. Borkowski
Nick Borkowski
Henra S. Briskin
Gregg & Linda Chalmers
Julie Christensen
Mark K. Contestable
John H. Dix
Amy L. Faes
Charles Herb
Kristin C. Marcott
Angela M. Marvin
Christopher & Deborah Oliver
Daniel C. Peer
Ricky Reyes
Mark R. Rissberger
Kevin J. Ryan
Richard & Virginia Schwartz
Renee M. Skrotzki
Ted S. Thompson
David J. Williams
(as well as other anonymous donors)



GRSBA Mission Statement

"We are a non-profit organization made up of individuals with Spina Bifida, their families and other community members who work together to promote the physical, emotional and social well-being of all people with Spina Bifida, through programs, events and services in the Greater Rochester N.Y. region, that provide outreach education and advocacy"

Spotlight on Jillian Borkowski

"GRSBA has been a wonderful support group."



Jillian Borkowski

My name is Jillian Borkowski. I am 27 years old and was born with Spina Bifida. I love being with my family and friends. I am very outgoing. I recently started clowning with Grease Paint Alley Clowns because they were the clowns that were at all of the Spina Bifida parties when I was growing up. I'm known as "Jilly Bean the Clown".

I am a happy, positive, faith-filled person that is surrounded by family and friends. My parents are Patricia and Jeff Borkowski. I have an older sister, Janelle, and a brother-in-law, Jason. I also have a younger brother, Nicholas, and a sister-in-law, Melissa. I have an adorable nephew, Carrick, who is 2 years old and a niece/nephew who is

due in April.

I have been involved in GRSBA ever since I was born on July 15, 1986 - 27 years! I found out about GRSBA through Jo Ann Armstrong and the Kirch Center at Golisano Children's Hospital. To date, I've had 23 surgeries! The GRSBA has been a wonderful support group. I am currently serving on the Board of Directors as one of the Adult Representatives.

The GRSBA Individual/Family Spotlight is a new feature of the newsletter aimed at helping GRSBA members get to know each other better.

Interested in being featured in an upcoming Spotlight? Contact Robin Smith via e-mail at rmsmith3025@gmail.com or via phone at (585) 944-8811.



Upcoming GRSBA Events!!!

Valentine's Pool Party - Save the Date!

Sunday, February 23, 2014
Perinton Community Center
(1350 Turk Hill Rd., Fairport)
1:00 - 5:00 PM

A \$5.00 donation per person will help cover the cost of this event (\$10.00 per family).

Please RSVP to Jo Ann Armstrong - 585-392-7182

Kirch Corner: NP Joins Strong Pediatric Urology Department

By: Lorna Patanella, RN

Hello everyone. I wanted to introduce you all to the newest member of the Strong Pediatric Urology group, Meredith Abbasi, NP. She was born and raised in Rochester and currently lives in Irondequoit with her husband. Meredith worked as an RN in the Pediatric Emergency Department before taking a Nurse Practitioner position with Pediatric Urology in July of this year. She sees a wide range of Pediatric Urology patients and works closely with Cheryl Kline PNP and Dr. William Hulbert with the evaluation and management of patients with spina bifida and neurogenic bladders. Eventually she will be taking over completely for Cheryl when she retires. In addition to office evaluations, she helps with CMGs (bladder studies), supplies and prescriptions. Cheryl Kline is currently working part time and plans to retire at some point but no date has been set. Cheryl and Meredith work closely with Dr. Hulbert who is the primary

urologist for patients with spina bifida. The other doctors in the pediatric urology team are Dr Rabinowitz, Dr Mevorach and Dr Cubillos. Dr Cubillos joined the team a few years ago and is fluent in Spanish and sign language.

Lorna Patanella is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and is the coordinator of the Spina Bifida Clinic at the Kirch Clinic at Golisano Children's Hospital.

For appointments, contact the Kirch Clinic at: 585-275-2986

Find GRSBA on Facebook!



Search:

Greater Rochester Spina Bifida Association

News from the Annual Bowling Party

By: Jillian Borkowski & Gerard Pritchard

On October 20th, 2013, the Greater Rochester Spina Bifida Association held it's Annual Bowling Party at Clover Lanes in Pittsford. The event was a great success! This year, we had 33 attendees which included many familiar faces. This year, we had the Greece Paint Alley Clowns who did face painting for the kids and kids at heart, as well as a raffle! The items included gift cards to TGI Fridays, OfficeMax, Wegmans, and Regal Cinemas, as well as, T-shirts, and stuffed animals. We should mention that some of our high scores were courtesy of the "bumpers" on each alley which gave everyone an equal advantage - even our "little kids". All who attended had a great time!

This year we wanted to spice things up a bit by including the raffle and the clowns. This was really well received by the families. And of course, the pizza and soda kept everyone full and happy as well! In addition to all this, we also had a cameraman from YNN in attendance to take some photographs of the event, as well as interview a few participants. When all was said and done, this turned out to be a hugely successful event for everyone involved, and next year's event will be even better!



GRSBA Family Picnic



In September, over 60 people came out to enjoy food, friends and fun at this year's annual GRSBA's picnic.

In spite of a little rain, people had a great afternoon meeting and connecting with other families.

Kids enjoyed face painting, games, trying out some great equipment from SportsNet, and the adults even had an opportunity to get a free massage!

We hope to see you next year!!

