Oakland woman persists in leukemia fight

BY RENA FULKA

BY ICAN FURA Mirella Panozzo makes her training runs through the streets of Birmingham's downtown dis-trict and sometimes on the out-door track at the city's Seaholm High School. I's not a passion for the sport that sends 'the petite Italian bedily endurance. She runs in patients like 4-year-old Mark Filippi of Cinton Township. As a member of the Leukemia patients like 4-year-old Mark Filippi of Cinton Township. As a member of the Leukemia par, Panozzo set a goal to raise \$4,000 in pledges as she runs the 26,202 in honor of her new fiend. Though the Bloomfield Town-

20.2-mile Honolutt Marathon on Dec. 12 in honor of her new friend. Though the Bloomfield Town-ship woman's heart remained receives and the second second second base failen desperately short. Between the piedges and her fund-raising block party, Panor-co has only tallied \$1,400. 'If I could get the money right new, I could do it, 'ehe said. But with the marathon only weeks away, the Oakland Coun-ty woman feels compelled to part of the best by the time the out of the best by the time the next marathon rolls sround in . Panorzo's desire to help others in crisis was sparked shortly on boulder condition of her own hat took seven months of physi-cal therapy to heal. 'For weeks, I equilate the shything by myself they minwage so storag he my bibuilting and arms.' she with the bay but incle so muon. Roholite the shything by myself they minwag and the Beaumont Roholite the shything by anyelf they minwag and the Beaumont Roholite the shything be anorable solid the halp but notice so many and the bay bay hour the shift parated.'

sident."

Shat was what made me is about others and feel that ally have to do something to

help," snid the Italian-born painter. "The experience is still in my mind because I was so long. I see this as a reaction to it. I want to tell myself that I'm fine. ... that I'm finally O.K." Loukemia became Panezzo's central focus in Aquate Wolandeer to attend a meeting in Royal out. The second state of the second thought his was crazy. The never said Panezzo, who become an avoid walker whon her illness left her unable to driva a cr. "But by the time I got home, I was con-vinced I could do it." ... That I does miles," said Panezzo, who become an avised to driva a cr. "But by the time I got home, I was con-vinced I could do it." ... That attempt to raise the bal-her unable to driva a cr. "But by the time I got home, I was con-vinced I could do it." ... That attempt to raise the bal-hed a block party at her home two weeks ago focturing a family fun walk, crab race, drawing but 78 gifts donated from area businesses, the Seaholm High the St. Regis Youth Group. ... The hore duest was Mark her forever," and Panez-to, who met Mark for the first in that afternoon. ... Now net Mark for the first in that afternoon. ... Now net Mark for the first in that afternoon. ... Now met Mark for the first in the time like to hove mig-and is in the cite I knovemiler at the of the Acute Lympho-cytic Leukemin last Novemiler at the difference of a solution of weekly chemotherapy tred-mets and home are the Novemiler at twe'd like to hove Mark is who are bicycling, walking or home an 'home or 24 individu-tion and home is solution was a solution and home is solution at twe'd like to hove Mark is twe'd like to hove direct and is in home or 24 individu-tion and home is bicycling, walking or home are bicycling, walking or ho



Helping others: Mirella Panozzo (left) hopes to help Mark Fillipi, age 4, in his fight against leukemia by running in the 26.2-mile Honolulu Marathon. A fund-raiser at her house was to arrange money for the trip. She is still short of her goal.

right now, not just going to the doctor." Mark readily climbed into Panozzo's lap as he related the thunk everyone who has con-a ture," added Panozzo. "If he thunk everyone who has con-thunk everyone who has con-a cure," added Panozzo. "If he cure is a second that though as he related that though was with the pamp-has sind Halloween decorations cure is a second for the second part of the pamp-thouse of the second part of the pamp-has sind Halloween decorations though was what I'm gonn be for Halloween decorations the block of Mark. "I As she persists in reaching her Panozzo's normal as the second part of the second part the sind for halloween decorations the fact of terminal finites, with the panoter' asked Mark. "I As she persists in reaching her Panozzo's law of the second part the fact of terminal finites, with the fact of the terminal finites, wi right new, not just going to the doctor." Mark rendily climhed into-Panozzoe lap us he related the fun he had as the guest of honor ht the block party. His fascine-tion, though, was with the pamp-kies und Halloween decorations lovingly placed around the hunne. "Guess what I'm gonan be for Halloween?" asked Mark. "It starts with a B! Yeah, Batman." As she persists in reaching her

in fight growing The following Birmingham businesses have offered con-tributions to Mirella Panoz-zo's loukomia fight: Adven-tures in Toys, Bella Donna Nail & Facial Boutique, Nail & Facial Boutique, Birmingham Computer, Bioomfield Optical Conter, Boston Market, Bradye Tav-ern, Collular, Inc., Dick ODowie, Gallie Office Supply Co., Gallery of Fine Oriental Rugs, Gracat Harvest Bread Co., Hallmark Wallpaper & Paints and Hansel and Gro-tel Shoes and Dancewear.

Helpers

Konnico Bashar Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Krogor, La Roche Artifacts Int, Inc., LESPRIT Interior Denign, Mary's Cookies & Works, Coleen Pozzuoli, Pro-Hardware-Neighborhood, Bardware-Neighborhood, Dr. Douglas L. Sweensy, Dr. Mouras, Specialty Leos, Dr. Douglas L. Sweensy, Sweet Dreams, Sydany Bogg, Sine Home-Made Candise, and Checolates, The Great, Arma Un, Training Effect of Birmingham Fitness & Golf, Birmingham Fitness & Golf, Bardware, Inc.

Premier Pet Supply in Bevorly Hills, Carl Storr Natural Shoulder Clothing, Roxie Salon and Tan Faster in Bioamfield Hills, Electri-cal Terminal Service and Ram's Horn in Royal Oak, D. Schmaltz & Co., PC, CPA in, Southfield, and California Pizza Kitchen, Inc., The Franklin Mint and Galar Hallmark in Troy.

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