

Raffle will help Farmington tot

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

a practice in Bingham Farms. "Matthew is very outgoing, mischievous. He's a real trooper. He's handled it well."

Twenty years ago, there was no effective treatment for the disease. Today, thanks to research, a five-year survival rate can be achieved by 73 percent of young patients with ALL, a cancer that attacks the blood forming tissues, bone marrow, lymph nodes and the spleen.

The Goldis wanted to support the search for a cure.

"We put together a (solicitation) letter with Matthew's picture on it and sent copies to friends, family and colleagues," Rob said.

"We've been very successful. We've raised close to \$13,000."

The couple is warmed by the support.

"Research has come so far, but there is still such a long way to go," said Laurie. "We're still losing 25 kids out of every 100 to leukemia."

The couple was further buoyed by the response of the owners of the Country Cupboard, a home furniture and accessories store at 16970 Middlebelt Rd. in Livonia.

He was the first CHM pediatric patient to have chemotherapy treatments at home.

"He's technically in remission, but we have to follow through the full course of treatment," said Rob Goldi, an attorney with

The Country Cupboard store in Livonia is sponsoring a mega Beanie Baby raffle with all proceeds to leukemia research in Matthew Goldi's name. The drawing is Dec. 15.

Co-owners Sharon Eccles and Sue Delfgau are sponsoring a mega-Beanie Baby raffle with all proceeds to leukemia research in Matthew's name.

"(His father) Rob has been our attorney for 15 years," said Sue Delfgau.

"The letter explaining about Matthew's illness made us sick. We know (Rob) before he was married or had children. We had to do something."

They saved Beanie Babies from several of their shipments and launched a raffle during their Christmas Open House last weekend.

For just \$1 per ticket, customers can buy a chance on five prizes. The grand prize is a wood tree decorated with 30 Beanie Babies, including some characters that have been retired.

Each Beanie Baby is cellphone wrapped. The babies are wired into the wood tree which rests on a wood stand.

The other four prizes are baskets of 10 Beanie Babies each. Those prizes each include at least one retired baby.

American Speedy Printing on Middlebelt Road printed raffle tickets free of charge.

Delfgau says she and her business partner hope to raise \$10,000 for leukemia research with the raffle.

"We decided to make the tickets affordable so customers can buy lots," she said.

"The drawing will be Monday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. and the winners need not be present. We'll have a customer pick the winning tickets."

The store is between Five Mile and Six Mile roads, next to A.R. Kramer.

Hours are Monday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

Call (248) 425-1990 for more information.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Babies galore! Matthew Goldi, 2, poses with the ever-popular Beanie Babies.

Toys needed for kids

Annual plans to make the holidays brighter this year for hundreds of families coping with the effects of leukemia are underway at the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan (CLF).

To help raise the toys needed, CLF is conducting its annual toy drive. CLF is asking civic groups, businesses and individuals around the state to collect toys for children in their area. The agency is hoping to gather over 3,000 donated new toys. Monetary donations are also welcome.

The holiday toys program provides toys to patients and their families. Children with

leukemia, lymphoma or other blood diseases can receive toys for themselves and their siblings. Adult patients can receive them for their children. For many families, this is the only Christmas they will have.

Donated toys are needed for children of all ages, from infants to teens. All must be new and not gift wrapped. Ideal toys for children in their area include books, arts & crafts items, hand-held video games, video, walkman tape players and cassette tapes, dolls, manicure kits, gift certificates, puzzles, playing cards and table games.

Call CLF toll-free at 1-800-825-2636.

Car raffle slated

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Oakland County is holding its limited ticket raffle sale.

The grand prize is a 1998 Corvette or \$30,000 cash.

Tickets are \$100 and only 1,200 tickets will be sold. Call 567-6440 for ticket information.

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