



THE CHILDREN'S IBD CENTER AT MOUNT SINAI

FALL 2007



Harriet & Norman Zuller

By Eliane Cristian

Harriet and Norman Zuller were an extraordinary couple. Together, they raised three children, enjoyed seven grandchildren and celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary in February 2007. Harriet was an esteemed English teacher who specialized in creative writing and poetry and Norman was a well known and deeply respected diamond jeweler on 47th Street. They were a beautiful couple but their life was not always easy.

Harriet was a young mother of two little children when she began to suffer severe abdominal pain. After five years of misdiagnoses, our father heard of a doctor at Mt. Sinai Hospital who he hoped could help his wife. There our mother was diagnosed with ileitis or Crohn's Disease by Dr. Burrill Crohn in 1961. After years of remission, she went on to have a third child and eventually went back to college to complete her teaching degree.

Through love, lifelong devotion and hard work our parents lived a life filled with family, friendships and meaning. Charity was always an integral part of their life and for years our parents donated to multiple causes.

Despite hospitalizations and surgeries, our parents remained hopeful and our mother was able to live a quality life. (Years later when first a child and then a grandchild were diagnosed with Crohn's disease they never faltered but tried to impart everlasting support to them and their families).

We are deeply grateful to the doctors and surgeons at Mount Sinai Hospital including Dr. Daniel Present, Dr. Irwin Gelernt and Dr. Stephen Gorfine for helping to keep our mother well for many years.

When our parents both passed away this year from cancer, we decided to honor them by donating funds for a Child Life specialist position in Pediatric GI. With the help of generous donations by dedicated family and friends, the Child Life program is able to begin offering emotional support and therapeutic activities to the many young people dealing with gastrointestinal disorders.

We are very proud to offer our help to these young people and to continue the legacy our parents left behind. A legacy of charity, courage, hope and strength.

Starting our 5th Season

The Children's IBD Center at Mount Sinai is busy preparing for our 5th year of operation. We continue to offer parent lectures, which are held at The Zone, 1184 5th Avenue, in the early evening. Our latest topic—Bone Health in IBD, was well received by parents and will be available on our web site www.IBDKids.com as are all of the previous lectures. Held at the same time as the lecture, IBD Chat, a support group for children with Crohn's or colitis and their siblings, also meets. Children who attend IBD Chat have an opportunity to create art for our office or the newsletter and discuss life with IBD. We are busy preparing for the ING New York City marathon on November 4th 2007, where Team IBDKids will be running to raise funds and awareness of pediatric IBD. To make a donation to Team IBDKids, please go to www.TeamIBDKids.kintera.org. We welcome you to attend our programs and to come out and cheer for Team IBDKids at the marathon.



Thoughtful Donation

By Clare Ceballos, P.N.P.

The Children's IBD Center at Mount Sinai can now offer a new program to children and teens admitted to the hospital. Through a generous donation made in honor of Harriet and Norman Zuller, the Child Life Department at Mount Sinai was able to initiate a program offering evening child life services to children hospitalized due to gastrointestinal illness, including Crohn's and colitis. Eliane Cristian, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Zuller, who is a Child Life Therapist, explains her thoughtful donation below.



Saalihah Akbar, Child Life Assistant working with hospitalized children with GI illnesses

The 2007 ING New York City Marathon

Kathy Hoffstadter-Thal, P.N.P.

This year Team IBDkids will again be running the ING NYC Marathon on Sunday, November 4th. We have 35 enthusiastic runners who all share a common goal - raising awareness for IBD and funds for research. Team IBDkids is diverse and includes doctors, researchers, medical students, neighbors/community members, friends and family and runners with IBD themselves. There is a husband and wife and a father and son duo (Dr. Benkov and his son Jordan).

We received close to 100 inquiries from people asking to run the Marathon to raise funds for the Children's IBD Center. It was not an easy task selecting those who we felt would best represent our cause. So, we asked a question- Can you tell us something about yourself and do you have any connections to IBD or to The Mount Sinai Hospital? We sifted through the responses until we found those who were best suited for our cause.

If you are interested in sponsoring a runner or making a general donation, you can do so by going to: www.TeamIBDKids.kintera.org Team IBDkids t-shirts are available for purchase at the Children's IBD Center by e-mailing a request to childrenibd@mssm.edu. We hope to see you on Marathon Day to cheer for Team IBDkids.



The Children's IBD Center & Camp Oasis

Kathy Hoffstadter-Thal, P.N.P.

From August 15th -19th, a group of 100 children with IBD, aged 8 to 18 packed their bags and headed for Camp Oasis in Elizaville, New York, sponsored by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. There were 50 children from New England and 50 children from the New York area. Some of the children were anxious coming to camp for the first time and others had been coming for several years and were eager to see old friends. But, they all had the same goal in mind-to spend the next five days amongst other children who like themselves, have either Crohn's or colitis.

Like the children, all of the bunk counselors also have IBD. It

was not too long ago that some of the counselors were campers at Camp Oasis. The children look up to the counselors and have many opportunities at camp to see them as positive role models and hear about their accomplishments despite their IBD.

Some of the daily activities included fishing, swimming, arts and crafts, yoga and tennis. Highlights of this years camp included a guest appearance by race car driver with IBD, color war, talent show which included many original skits including an IBD rap song and this year for the first time "Ask the Doctor" where kids were divided by age and allowed to ask one of the three doctors questions about IBD.

Most of all, what camp provides is the relationships and peer acceptance that these kids are exposed to in a place where they all shine despite their IBD. At camp, through friendships, challenges, accomplishments and the support of staff, the children realize that they can succeed in whatever they set out to do despite their IBD.

You Too can think of creative ways to support The Children's IBD Center with targeted grant money, donations to our existing programs and with your ideas and participation. Please contact us at childrenibd@mssm.edu to discuss your ideas and help support our work.

Internships Is your High School or College Age student looking for an internship?

Internships are available at the The Children's IBD Center.

Minimum 6-8 hours a week.

Contact 212-241-5415 or childrenibd@mssm.edu for more information.

We want to hear from you:

To contact us or to receive updated information about Center events, please contact us by:

E-MAIL: ChildrenIBD@mssm.edu

PHONE: 212-241-5415

WEB SITE: www.IBDKids.com

Address:

Children's IBD Center at Mount Sinai
5 East 98th Street
New York, NY 10029

Resources for Families:

www.IBDKids.com

www.CCFA.org

www.medlineplus.gov

Some suggestions from patients:

www.Crohnszone.com

www.dragonpack.com

www.healingwell.com

Please join for our next lecture:

12/4/07 at The Zone, 1184 5th Ave

The Children's IBD Center at Mount Sinai is funded solely through philanthropy. Please contact us if you are interested in making a contribution to support our Center or in learning about other ways that you can help.