



JOHN THEISSEN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Sometimes A Smile Is The Best Medicine

(516) 679-TOYS

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

WWW.JTCF.ORG



THANK YOU
*for your support
over the past
20 years*

**Long Island Press
Voted Best Local Charity on
Long Island**



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John Theissen Children's Foundation

Celebrating twenty years of helping children in need.

How it all started:

September 28, 1988 is a date that I will never forget. I learned that I had a large mass growing on my Pituitary Gland, which is located at the base of my brain. I arrived home to find my mother and aunt crying. They explained that the CAT scan that I had earlier that day revealed a large tumor. I asked how much longer I had to live. Little did I know that the news I received on September 28, 1988 would change my life and shape my future aspirations.

I was admitted to the hospital on December 8, 1988 to prepare for the impending surgery on the following day. A small girl wearing her pajamas and an infectious smile entered my room and introduced herself. The spunky seven-year-old named Tasha was there receiving treatments for her own illness. Later I learned that Tasha was often left at the hospital for weeks at a time without a single visit from a family member. The hospital staff became her family.

Tasha was a welcome presence in my hospital room throughout my stay there. Her good-natured innocence was uplifting. She did her best to make me smile and she checked in frequently to make certain that I was comfortable. The nurses were amused and revealed that during my surgery Tasha was concerned and insisted on frequent updates.

Days later, the pediatric patients and their families were being treated to a special holiday party wherein each child would receive a gift. Tasha was expecting to attend the event with her family but sadly, they did not fulfill their promise to her. Tasha's excitement turned into tears and disappointment. She was wearing the party dress the nurses purchased for her when she shared her unhappiness with us. I wanted badly to accompany her myself but I was still too weak. My mother offered to take her and Tasha was thrilled. She enjoyed the festive event. When Santa asked her to select a present, she stated, "I would like the teddy bear for my friend upstairs." I felt fortunate to be that friend.

Tasha was released from the hospital and I never saw her again. I admired her positive attitude and generous spirit. Her selfless act of kindness inspired a legacy of giving.

Here are some of our programs that benefit children year-round:

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

Since 1992, JTCF has distributed over 70,000 new toys each year to sick and underprivileged children in over 220 hospitals, agencies and child-care facilities, in addition to the many individual families that receive toys during our annual toy drive.

Grant Wishing, Gifts and Medical Expenses

JTCF grants wishes and arranges special experiences such as vacations, meet and greets and VIP experiences at sporting events, concerts and Broadway shows.

Gifts such as iPods, laptops, video game systems and other electronics are provided as well as gift cards.

Assistance with medical expenses including general medical costs, transportation costs, travel accommodations and funeral expenses have been provided.

Annual Back to School Program

The Back to School Program provides underprivileged children from low-income families, with all new clothes and school supplies. Children in Kindergarten through high school are provided with back to school clothes and school supplies for the school year. Each school year we help approximately 400 children.

Family Fun Center- Open 7 Days a Week

The Family Fun Center provides hours of fun for sick and underprivileged children and their siblings. The center has sixteen 32" flat screen televisions mounted on the walls and each one is equipped with an XBOX 360 or PlayStation 3 game system and a Wii game system. We have some high-tech video arcade games and an arts and crafts area with face painting, tattoo stations, and even a nail salon station. The children get to enjoy our Sweet Station, where children fill goodie bags with the most popular candies. We also provide the children with popcorn popped right in front of them in our popcorn cart. The children can choose from all kinds of frozen treats from our ice cream stand.

The Family Fun Center helps the children and their families focus on something other than their illnesses or their financial situation. The center is available for the children to celebrate their birthdays, end of treatment parties or any other occasion at no cost. The Family Fun Center is open seven days a week for the children to enjoy anytime at no cost, so they can feel like a regular kid.

BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Back to School Program will help underprivileged children from low-income families. Children in Kindergarten through high school will be provided with back to school clothes and school supplies for the school year. Each child will receive new clothes to wear including everything from socks and underwear to shirts, pants, and new shoes. The supplies will include but not be limited to backpacks, spiral notebooks, pencils and pens and other classroom necessities.

Back to school time can be difficult for many children whose families cannot afford new clothes or school supplies. Every child should have a chance to attend school and feel good about themselves. Studies have shown that many children do not attend the first day of school because they are too embarrassed that they do not have new supplies and clothing. New clothes and school supplies are all significant items for a child who would otherwise go without.

The children will be given a profile page to fill out which will include their name, age, sex, favorite color, clothing size, shoe size, what their preferences are as far as dresses or pants for girls and sportswear or plain clothes for boys. These children will be carefully selected through agencies and centers. The distribution will take place in late August or early September before their first day of school.

Through their heartfelt thank you letters, the children who have benefited from our donations in the past have made us realize the importance of this program. We are hoping to emphasize the importance of education and promote higher self esteem as the children begin their new school year. The children will begin the new school year well dressed and prepared with all the necessary supplies to be confident and successful.



2012 SAVE THE DATES

Please visit our website for more details www.jtcf.org

SMOKIN AT THE MAPLES

BBQ Championship
Manorville, NY August 4-5, 2012

11th ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

August 2012

GOLF OUTING

Thursday, September 27, 2012
The Hamlet at Wind Watch
Hauppauge, NY

5K RUN/WALK

Fall 2012, Levittown, NY

21st ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

November 12-December 23, 2012

HOLIDAY GALA

Thursday, December 6, 2012
Mulcahy's Wantagh, NY



SPONSOR A CHILD FOR
THE 2012
BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Your sponsorship will provide a child with a new, complete outfit including shoes, pants, shirts, jacket, underwear as well as a backpack filled with new school supplies.

When you sponsor a child, you may choose a boy or a girl as well as the grade level.

SPONSOR A CHILD FOR THE BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

- \$149: Provides a child with a new complete outfit including shoes, pants, shirts, jacket, underwear as well as a backpack filled with new school supplies

Preference: Boy Girl

Preference: Elementary School Middle School High School

Other Amount _____

Payment Method: (circle one) Check Visa MasterCard Amex

Card # _____ Exp. ____/____

Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Phone _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Mail or fax this completed form with payment to:

John Theissen Children Foundation

1881 Wantagh Avenue

Wantagh, New York 11793

- Or Call -

516-679-5098 • Fax 516-679-3338

2012
BACK TO SCHOOL
PROGRAM

Please donate new school supplies for
underprivileged children on Long Island.

Grades K-12

1881 WANTAGH AVENUE

WANTAGH

NOW THROUGH - AUGUST 27, 2012

***Please call before you drop off supplies to
make sure somebody is at the center.**

(516) 679-TOYS

www.jtcf.org

WE ARE COLLECTING:

**New Backpacks Spiral notebooks Marble notebooks Loose Leaf
Binders Crayons**

Markers Colored pencils Pencils Ballpoint pens Rulers

Pencil cases Scissors Glue Sticks

For further information please contact:

John Theissen Children's Foundation
516-679-5098 or 516-679-TOYS
Fax 516-679-3338

Monetary donations can be sent to:

John Theissen Children's Foundation
1881 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793

This donation is in honor of _____

This donation is in memory of _____

Please send acknowledgement of this donation to:

Please make checks payable to: JTCF

For Credit Card Payments:

Visa Mastercard American Express Discover

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 other _____

Card # _____ **Expiration Date** _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

**All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law
and will be acknowledged in writing by JTCF for IRS purposes.**

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