

# *Sean James Dolan Memorial Fund*

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February 2002

Happy New Year Everyone!

We Hope that you and yours had the Happiest and Healthiest of Holidays & New Year! I didn't realize how long it's been since the last Update. It's almost hard to believe that we're already two months into 2002! This year's Winter has been so mild (only about 4" of snow all year) Sean's crocuses have bloomed and his hyacinths are also starting to emerge. Now, besides hoping that there'll be more Peace, we're hoping the future will bring us enough rain to get out of the already-imposed drought emergency.

Hopefully between the Holidays, and those other special times, including the Superbowl (Made me feel Great coming from Mass!), Ground Hog Day, Mardi Gras and now the Olympics, you've all been able to enjoy many aluminum beverages, etc. and have even more can tabs! ;-) Have you also noticed how many more canned products now have pull tabs?

I made a special trip to the Bank on 31/Jan to get all of our donations, Birthday & Christmas gifts to Sean and other financial collections in for our official end-of-year SJDMF Camp Ronald McDonald "Campership" tally. We have now definitely received enough money to send at least 2 seriously-ill children to Camp for 2002 - Bringing our overall total to 8 kids in 4 years and are also able to cover at least one child to Camp each year through 2007!!! Of course, with about half of the year to go before Camp starts, we may get even luckier and be able to send 3 kids, like we did last year!

This year's aluminum can tab collection also continues to grow. We've got two 12-foot Church pews on the second floor of our garage. There are boxes and plastic containers stacked about 2-feet high, filled with tabs! Based on my previous experience, my "eyeball measurement" I figure that we've been able to "fill a trash can full of tabs" - probably at least 2 - 3 recycling buckets, which is well over 200 pounds! That Brings our Overall Total to Over One Half Ton of Tabs in 2.5 Years !!! We Can Hardly Believe It!!!

I'm also just about to open our 7<sup>th</sup> case of Ronald McDonald Tab House boxes. That means we distributed almost 1,500 Houses throughout the World! This includes Most of the United States, Canada, Europe and even as far as Israel! If you need more, just let me know - I still have 2 more unopened cases in the garage!

I've Got 2 stories to share with you regarding our tab campaign and Ronald McDonald House(s). The first story was told to me by my wife, about one of her coworkers, whose son (now 28 years old) was born with major physical and mental disabilities. As result, this family had to stay wherever they could (mostly halls & hotels), during his lengthy stay in the hospital in Philadelphia. That was just one year before the World's First Ronald McDonald House was created. She wished there had been a place like RMH when they could have used it. She has been collecting tabs for us for a while now. Last year, when her brother came to visit, he saw her RMH tab house box and heard that she was collecting tabs. When her brother visited over the recent holidays, he brought a whole bag of tabs for her to add to our collection! Thank You Very Much!

The second story was recently received from a coworker. I think he says it better than I:

After reading your request, I started collecting can tabs. Early last year while at industry meetings, I requested my colleagues to remove the tabs and give them to me. After explaining why, I had about 98% buy-in. Now I don't even ask, when I get back from break or such, I find tabs on my table. One lady, recently stopped attending the meetings and emailed a request for information on how she could

*An Angel With A Small Body, Giant Spirit*

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participate in her hometown in Illinois. I suggested that she look up RMcD House. She did and found that she could bring her tabs to the Chicago Children's Hospital. Her son is now collecting tabs from his car club.

It is a beautiful thing that you have done in your Son's memory. I share your loss, in that we too lost a son. He was 5 years of age. Craig would be 32 years old this year.

All too often many people take things like the health of their children for granted - until they get sick. Serious illnesses & injuries could happen to anyone's child. It's truly unfortunate that some children don't get to live into their adulthood - for whatever reason. It is a Wonderful feeling to know how much people have helped us to continue reaching from afar to help other families of sick children.

Thank You to help us Make a Difference in the lives of sick kids & their families. It is comforting to know that because of our son Sean Life for others has become a little brighter.

As always, on behalf of PRMH and SJD MF, Thanks To All of You and Everyone who helps you, for thinking of and helping us help the families of sick kids at Ronald McDonald Houses All Over. You Are All Truly Appreciated !!! ☺ ☺ We invite you to visit Sean's Web site at <http://www.fysd.com/Sean> and 'e-sign' his Guestbook!

We Hope that you and your families continue to have a wonderfully prosperous year !!! ☺

God Bless You All & Keep Those Tabs Coming ! ☺

Chuck Dolan  
SJD MF Administrator

*"A Hundred Years from Now . . .  
it will not matter what my bank account was,  
the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove . . .  
But the World Might Be Different Because I Was Important*

*In the Life of a Child . . . "*