

## Congratulations to our 2010 Scholarship Recipients

Each year the Hydrocephalus Association awards scholarships to young people with hydrocephalus who are pursuing post-high school education. This year, the scholarship committee had the honor of awarding a total of eight scholarships. These scholarships were funded by two Gerard Swartz Fudge Memorial Scholarship Funds, two Morris L. and Rebecca Ziskind Memorial Scholarship Funds, two Anthony Abbene Scholarship Funds, the Justin Scot Alston Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the Mario J. Tocco Hydrocephalus Foundation Scholarship Fund. HA is extremely proud to honor these future community leaders and their ability to overcome unimaginable obstacles to succeed and prosper in their education.



Hayley Sumner Crumley



Valerie D'Amato



Amber Milliken



Isaac Morales



Nathaniel Watt



Alexander Ross Nolan



Lindsey M. Winton



Michelle Slowey

**To read the full biographies of our 2010 Scholarship Awardees,  
Visit us on the web at [www.hydroassoc.org](http://www.hydroassoc.org)**

# Hydrocephalus Association Launches its Hydrocephalus Resource Library

We at the Hydrocephalus Association are proud to announce our new online Hydrocephalus Resource Library. For decades now, our hydrocephalus support professionals have been providing education, information, and support to those living with hydrocephalus, their families and loved ones, and professionals working in the field. We know well how many burning, unanswered questions there are regarding the complicating factors associated with hydrocephalus. So, to support you further, we now have created an online library, filled with expert advice, research findings and plain old good thinking. The Hydrocephalus Resource Library allows you to search as deeply as you wish for answers or advice for the many complex questions you may have — any time of day or night, weekday or holiday!



Have you been wondering about the effect of scuba diving on shunts; flying and increased intracranial pressure; distal end complications, including abdominal pseudo-cysts; the effects of electro-magnetic fields on programmable/adjustable shunt valves; slit ventricle syndrome; pregnancy and hydrocephalus; constipation and shunts? Are you looking for advice on what to do when your scans are “normal” but you are having classic shunt failure symptoms? Answers to many of these questions and more can now be found in our brand new resource library.

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010, we inaugurated the new online Hydrocephalus Resource Library. This is just the beginning! Our Resource Library is an evolving, digital resource for you, and much of what it contains has come from our many conversations with you, as well as from research publications. When you ask a question of the Hydrocephalus Resource Library and it doesn't provide an answer, the HA staff will add and update articles and other materials related to hydrocephalus. Please let us know what you think. As always, we appreciate any and all feedback you may have for us.

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## Teen Advocacy Program Launched for Hydrocephalus

The Hydrocephalus Association launched the Teens Take Charge initiative to engage teens in advocating for more research. The program will develop the next generation of activists fighting to find better treatments and ultimately a cure for hydrocephalus – a common brain condition affecting one million Americans.

“I am not hopeful for a cure,” says Harrison Silver, a 13 year-old New Yorker living with hydrocephalus, “I am DETERMINED.” Harrison wants to make a difference so while preparing for his Bar Mitzvah, he decided that advocacy was key. Advocacy plus money. So he is learning how to become a national spokesperson, and has designated the Hydrocephalus Association as the beneficiary of his Bar Mitzvah gifts.

A million Americans have hydrocephalus. It can strike anyone at any age. There is no cure, and the primary treatment—brain surgery to implant a shunt that drains cerebral spinal fluid—can be terribly ineffective, with disastrous results. Jenn Bechard, a young intern at HA, has had 91 brain surgeries over the last eight years. She wants teens to join her as she fights to get more federal dollars allocated for hydrocephalus research.



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(Teen Advocacy Program...cont. from page 2)

Laurene McKillop, CEO of the Hydrocephalus Association, has four children, and knows the power of youthful energy. “Kids are going to be a force for something, no matter what. So let’s harness that force and have them help us find better treatments and a cure. When you have a chronic illness, taking control of the situation is enormously helpful.”

By next June, the Hydrocephalus Association hopes to hold its first-ever Teen Advocacy workshop for young people in Washington, DC, at its soon-to-be-opened national office. Then, these newly-minted teen advocates will take Capitol Hill by storm. Interested parents and teens should visit the Association’s website at “Teens Take Charge” to sign up.

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## 11th National Conference Rocks Cleveland

By Laurene McKillop, Ph.D. HA CEO



Bright, warm sunshine greeted participants in the 11th National Conference on Hydrocephalus, as they walked for the cause on Sunday morning, June 20. It was a glorious end to a thrilling event. Where else can one have gone to see two brain surgeries performed live in two days? Over the coming week we’ll highlight some of the exciting moments and sessions of the conference right here on our blog.

The conference WALK culminated in Wade Oval, a grassy park surrounded by some of Cleveland’s most beautiful museums, as well as the Arboretum.

There, weary walkers rested and cooled off, while a group of young researchers, funded by the Hydrocephalus Association, described their exciting and groundbreaking research. Following that, a panel of individuals with hydrocephalus, mediated by Dr. Mike Williams, member of the Hydrocephalus Association Medical Advisory Board, described some of the challenges they face as part of everyday life: dozens of surgeries, difficulty finding appropriate care, and the stress borne of never knowing when a shunt may fail.

Showing great insight into the underlying character of those living with hydrocephalus, Dr. Williams concluded the session by asking participants what positive impact they could attribute to living with hydrocephalus. Their answers were stunning.



“I have learned patience,” said one.

“I take one day at a time and appreciate it,” remarked another.

“I have learned not to fear,” said a third.

### It Really Is Brain Surgery

There were so many fantastic sessions and activities during the 11th National Conference on Hydrocephalus. But one of the most impactful components of the conference was the opportunity to watch live surgeries to treat hydrocephalus.

The conference launched with a tutorial on the brain, how it functions, how hydrocephalus impacts it and how surgery helps to improve brain function. All the charts and graphs that we saw in that presentation came to life when Mark Luciano, MD, Co-director, Aging Brain Center, Section Head of Pediatric Neurosurgery Cleveland Clinic Foundation and member of the HA Medical Advisory Board allowed cameras into the operating room so conference participants, sitting in a lecture hall across the street, could see exactly what happens.

Dr. Luciano performed two surgeries on two different days of the conference — one was a shunt placement surgery and one was an Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy (ETV).

To view these videos, go to:  
[hydroassoc.org/education-support/11th-national-conference-on-hydrocephalus](http://hydroassoc.org/education-support/11th-national-conference-on-hydrocephalus)

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(11<sup>th</sup> National Conference...cont. from page 3)

All of these admirable individuals agreed that they would willingly take part in a clinical trial, not so much because they expect a cure for themselves, but because they want to help future generations.

It is a rare gift to know that your work matters. And it is equally rare to know that you are sitting among the finest of the human species, enjoying the sun on a lovely Sunday morning. Yet that's what each and every one of us got to share during our three days in Cleveland. I am grateful to you all.

## Support and Education

### Trust and Let Go

By Pip Marks, HA Director of Support and Education

The issue of transition is very close to my heart – it has been since the day my oldest child was born. My first questions to the docs after his birth were “Will he be able to live away from home one day? Will he be able to take care of himself? Will he be able to make decisions for himself?” I had endless questions about transition from living at home to independent living. And I am sure all parents who have children with special health care needs have asked similar questions. I believe transition starts at a very young age. It is a long term process that changes and adapts to a child's level of awareness, and the focus will and should change as they mature.



As parents, we need to foster opportunity beginning at a very young age to develop self confidence, self-esteem, the feeling of being valued by others, determination and a positive outlook. And of course, let's not forget about sense of humor! We must empower our children to WANT to take charge of their own lives, including their own health care. To paraphrase a comment I once read: “Pip, you may not want to hear this, but remember that this condition is not yours. It's your son's and until you give it back to him, he will never thrive. Give it back to him and he will thrive in many more ways than just having spina bifida and hydrocephalus.” And man –were they ever right!

There are four key elements of successful transition:

- Self-determination
- Family support
- Professional support
- Self advocacy

For this article I would like to focus on the first: Self-Determination – which is a person's ability to control his or her own destiny. It encourages the development of attitudes, skills and knowledge that will empower a person to control their own destiny as much as possible. It is an integral part of the transition process.

Children and teenagers with hydrocephalus have the right to – just as others do- be asked directly and repeatedly for their opinions and preferences, and to have the decisions that are made incorporate their views. They have the right to make

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*(Trust and Let Go cont. from page 4)*

mistakes, after all we learn so much from our mistakes. They have the right to be encouraged from a very young age to participate in decisions regarding their own destiny. We must not lower the level of expectations we might have for them, based on our own perceptions. There have been many times during my son's "growing up" years at home, where I have had to remind myself to Trust and Let Go, to Let Go and Trust.

It is critical we remember that with a successful transition for children towards adulthood we must teach them, and sometimes often have to remind them, that this journey to independence is not meant to be a solo flight; asking for help whenever they need it is a sign of strength and maturity.

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## National Memory Screening Day

By Karima Roumila, MPH, HA Community Programs Director

One of the symptoms of Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus (NPH) is memory difficulties. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) has initiated a National Memory Screening Day. According to AFA, this event was first introduced in November of 2003 and since then it became a national event that occurs every year. This year, the event will be held on November, 16<sup>th</sup>. Through collaborations with many organizations and healthcare professionals across the United States, many sites offer confidential memory screenings. The memory screenings do not constitute a diagnosis; however individuals with below-normal scores or those who still have concerns are encouraged to pursue further medical evaluation.

*Who should be tested? What are the warning signs of dementia?* According to AFA if you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, a memory screening might be beneficial to you.

- *Am I becoming more forgetful?*
- *Do I have trouble concentrating?*
- *Do I have difficulty performing familiar tasks?*
- *Do I have trouble recalling words or names in conversation?*
- *Do I sometimes forget where I am or where I am going?*
- *Have family or friends told me that I am repeating questions or saying the same thing over and over again?*
- *Am I misplacing things more often?*
- *Have I become lost when walking or driving?*
- *Have my family or friends noticed changes in my mood, behavior, personality, or desire to do things?*

Please go to <http://nationalmemoryscreening.org/index.php> on the web to find out about the warning signs of dementia.

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## You're Not Alone – National Support Networks are Reaching Out

By Jennifer Bechard, Support Group Liaison

Imagine how a 10 year old would feel lying in a hospital bed not knowing what is going on or where to turn to for support. With too many questions and not enough answers, a condition such as hydrocephalus can take an emotional and physical toll on any individual, especially a child. I found myself in this place when I was first diagnosed. Unfortunately, it wasn't until the age of 17 when I realized how many people have hydrocephalus. I felt and still feel uneasy knowing that others believe

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they are in this fight alone. In actuality, approximately one million Americans have to live with this condition every day.

Having CO-Chaired the annual Detroit Hydrocephalus WALK with my mother, Denise Bechard, for the past four years, I decided meeting once a year was not frequent enough. Hydrocephalus is a lifelong condition; therefore, a support network is needed for parents, young adults and elders year round. I knew I could not make the fear, terror or pain disappear for others, but I could share my experiences and form a network of support throughout Michigan.

The support program in Detroit took off rather quickly and the WALK expanded exponentially this past year. On August 7th, 2010 I underwent my 91st surgery due to shunt complications. Ironically, while I was heading into the operating room, 465 WALKers were taking steps to improve life in Westland, MI. Although it was heartbreaking having to miss such a meaningful event that we worked year round to accomplish, I now feel more determined than ever to make a change.

Even though the 4th Annual Hydrocephalus WALK was such a success, just helping individuals in the state of Michigan isn't enough anymore. I am yearning to reach out and find a way to ensure that no child grows up wondering if he or she is the only one with this neurological condition. My opportunity came in August, when I was offered a position as the Support Liaison with the Hydrocephalus Association. With my newfound presence in the HA, it was the perfect time to start making waves.

My vision is to strengthen our existing support groups and create an HA presence within each one. I am striving for change and my hope is to have at least one location in each state where children and adults, directly or indirectly affected, are able to gather not only for support but for awareness as well. The groups will set their own schedule, but I hope to encourage them to have bi-monthly meetings within each group, with each individual group having its own variations and special events. To help spread awareness and create research opportunities, support groups should involve local hospitals and medical personnel.

As a part of the Hydrocephalus Association staff, my goal will be to further expand our program nationwide. We will encourage all groups to work with state legislature to enable them to become advocates for our members. Additionally, we will train our own members to be advocates themselves. As an individual with this condition, I believe it is of the utmost importance to know what hydrocephalus entails.

Also, it is important to educate those who do not have the condition so we can make hydrocephalus a household term. Currently, you mention the word hydrocephalus and people look at you as if you are crazy. I have personally come across numerous medical professionals who are not familiar with the health condition. I find this appalling and completely unacceptable.

Hydrocephalus has been the biggest obstacle I have had to overcome in my young life. I never thought in my wildest dreams I would be where I am today but thanks to my family, friends and the Hydrocephalus Association I have begun making a difference. I've never been someone to back down from a challenge and I am willing and ready to take on life's next fight. I believe if we work together, as one, we can not only help each other manage the condition, but bring hydrocephalus to the forefront of public attention. The sky is the limit to what we can achieve and the advances we can materialize. I am ready to spread the word like wildfire! ARE YOU?



## Research Update

By Eleanor Young, HA Research Associate

As part of its mission to eliminate the challenges of hydrocephalus, the Hydrocephalus Association (HA) launched a Research Initiative in 2009 to fund grants to support worthy, innovative and relevant research. This Initiative aims to fund research that improves the quality of life for people living with hydrocephalus and finds ways to prevent or find a cure.

In 2009, the first year of this exciting new program, HA focused research funding on a Mentored Young Investigator Award (MYI) program. The MYI Award program has the dual purpose of funding promising research relevant to hydrocephalus while fostering the development of young researchers. This approach is intended to address the shortage of hydrocephalus-focused researchers while supporting seasoned investigators who serve as the mentors to the young investigators. The subject matter of the grants is not limited as one of our goals is to discover and support innovative thinking. HA accepted 16 applications for the first cycle of its MYI Awards.

Five projects were funded and are underway at institutions all around the country. Each of the five grants was funded for \$55,000 for an initial period of one year, with a second year of funding also at \$55,000 each. The projects funded spanned a variety of topics, including exploring the role the vascular system plays in hydrocephalus with an eye toward possible drug treatment, researching the timing of drainage procedures in infants with hydrocephalus, looking at the effect of certain drug treatments in chronic adult hydrocephalus, exploring whether there is a critical time during fetal brain development during which bleeding in the brain is more likely to cause hydrocephalus, and improving diagnosis techniques for normal pressure hydrocephalus.

For the 2010 cycle, the HA accepted 14 applications for the MYI award. The applications are currently under review by a panel of 20 distinguished experts. The applications include both clinical and bench science projects focused on a wide range of cutting edge topics in adult and pediatric hydrocephalus. Each application is evaluated by the HA Scientific and Medical Review Committee (SMRC) based upon the following criteria: Mentor and Training Environment; Likelihood that the Proposed Project will Advance Hydrocephalus Treatment/Cure; Scientific Merit of the Research Proposal; and Applicant Training and Career Potential. We expect to announce selections for the 2010 MYI awards in December of 2010.

### MAB Update

#### Dr. Joseph Madsen on Translational Research

If you want to understand better how basic scientific research produces better clinical outcomes, be sure to read Dr. Madsen's article, "A Very Narrow Bridge: Translational Research." Dr. Madsen is a member of the Hydrocephalus Association Medical Advisory Board and spoke on this topic at our recent 11<sup>th</sup> National Hydrocephalus Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

**To read the full text, please go to our website and search for Dr. Joseph Madsen**

Research into hydrocephalus is limited, primarily because of limited funding available to young researchers. Given that, it is extremely important that research produce results that improve the lives of people with hydrocephalus. Translational research, according to Dr. Madsen, requires mastery of two or more vocabularies, grammars, and cultures. It requires that the researcher see beyond his or her own discipline-specific training to possibilities beyond—to possibilities that may produce discoveries, which may in turn generate improvements in the lives of individuals.

# A Magical, Memorable Event

By David Moore, HA Director of Development

Puff the Magic Dragon would have been proud. On Sunday, October 24, legendary folk singer, and author of the aforementioned song, Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary) performed an intimate concert to benefit the Hydrocephalus Association's Research Initiative.

The concert was held at the stately and elegant residence of the Australian Ambassador in Washington, DC. The Ambassador and his wife generously donated the use of their home and provided hors d' oeuvres and beverages. The Ambassador's home was the perfect venue for the concert, allowing guests to be up close and personal to Peter Yarrow. Guests travelled from as far away as Southern Virginia to hear Peter perform his classic hits as well as more recent music written for children. As they arrived, each guest received a copy of Peter's illustrated book, "Puff the Magic Dragon." Each book was personally autographed by the singer.

After a few introductions, Dr. Michael Williams gave the crowd a brief overview of hydrocephalus and why research is critically essential. I have to say, I am always so impressed by Dr. Williams' presentations and the manner in which he can explain a concept as complex as hydrocephalus in terms that the average person can appreciate. Then came the moment everyone had been waiting for—Peter Yarrow's performance. And he did not disappoint. With adults seated in chairs and children sitting at Peter's feet, it almost felt as if he was performing just for you, in your own home. Throughout the afternoon, Peter, who willingly performed for free, strummed on his guitar, playing the songs that had brought him fame.

When he finished performing, Peter did not rush away. He stayed to take photos with everyone who made the request of him. He spent time talking to the children in the audience and personalizing the already autographed books everyone received. Afterward, a private reception was held. Those who had purchased reception tickets had the opportunity to spend a little more time with Peter. I don't think they were disappointed.

As the afternoon came to a close, concert guests left with a wonderful new memory and the Hydrocephalus Association took one more step toward funding meaningful research.

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## Where's My Membership Renewal?

If you have wondered why you haven't received a membership renewal letter this year, don't worry. We haven't forgotten you! We are just taking a new approach to what it means to be a member. In the past, we have asked you to "purchase" a membership when you received a membership renewal letter. But, given the financial constraints we are all facing, along with our desire to ensure that everyone has access to all of HA's resources, we are eliminating any cost associated with being a member.

From our perspective, anyone who needs the resources and assistance of the Hydrocephalus Association—particularly those of you living with the condition—is, and needs to be a member of the Hydrocephalus Association Family. The Hydrocephalus Association exists to serve you, and would not exist without you. So, what does this all mean to you? Essentially, nothing has changed. As a member of the HA Family, you still have all the benefits and privileges you received as a "paying" member.

However, while there will no longer be a membership "fee" for belonging to HA, we hope you will see the value of HA and

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*(Where's My Membership...cont. from page 8)*

consider continuing your support by making charitable donations to the Association. As a nonprofit, we depend on your support. We need your generosity to enable us to be a resource for you, advocate on your behalf and drive research that will eventually produce positive outcomes for all of us. We ALL want a better understanding hydrocephalus as well as improved treatments, and finally, a cure.

Through the end of the year, you may be receiving an appeal letter asking for your support. These letters are HA's efforts to raise the funds necessary to continue being your "go-to" resource. Your gifts through these appeals are critical to our ability to operate. Of course, as with all charitable giving, your participation is completely voluntarily and has no effect on your status as a member of the Hydrocephalus Association. But, we hope you will make the choice to support us with a donation.

## WALK and Other Events

### Thank you to 2010 Walk Chairs!

By Randi Corey, Director of Special Events

The Hydrocephalus Association would like to extend its most sincere thanks to all of its 2010 WALK Chairs! HA's 25 WALKS across the U.S. had more than 7,500 walkers raising over \$625,000! 6 of HA's Walk sites were new this year, including Londonderry (NH), Barrington (RI), Louisville (KY), Portland (OR), San Joaquin Valley (CA) and Minneapolis (MN)! Veteran sites included: Phoenix, (AZ), Detroit (MI), St. Louis (MO), Denver (CO), Salt Lake City (UT), Chicago (IL), Baltimore (MD), Cambridge/Boston (MA), Long Island (NY), Fresno (CA), Washington Township (NJ), San Francisco (CA), Milwaukee, (WI), Albuquerque (NM), Graham (NC), Austin/San Antonio (TX), Boca Raton (FL), Birmingham (AL) and Philadelphia (PA.)

HA WALKS are all 100% volunteer initiated and coordinated, which maximizes the funding available for HA's mission. This year's 25 WALKS represent countless volunteer hours and sacrifices made by WALK Chairs and volunteers -- we very much appreciate all that they do! Planning for the 2011 WALK is already underway and HA expects to add at least seven new WALKS to its program. If anyone is interested in starting a HA WALK in their community or in assisting with one of HA's existing WALKS please email HA at [info@hydroassoc.org](mailto:info@hydroassoc.org).

Our Walks are run on a volunteer basis. We would like to extend our profound gratitude to all of the WALK Chairs as a group, and individually:

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**Maggie Varland, Lara & Jane Andren** in Phoenix, AZ  
**Melissa Remillard & Laura Mick** in Londonderry, NH  
**Kim Ruiz-Chavez** in Tracy, CA  
**Jerrod & Tara Miller** in Portland, OR  
**Jennifer Bruce** in Louisville, KY  
**Denise & Jennifer Bechard** in Detroit, MI  
**Maggie O'Shaughnessy & Stephanie Vogt** in St. Louis, MO  
**Phyllis Rogers** in Denver, CO  
**Sarah Ann Whitbeck** in Salt Lake City, UT  
**Sherry Reising & Stacy Buckner** in Chicago, IL  
**Lisa Bremner** in Baltimore, MD  
**Jennifer Miles, Greg Tocco & Jennifer Martinage** in Cambridge, MA  
**Mia Padrone & Jackie Davidson** in Long Island, NY  
**Tara Bordhardt** in Minneapolis, MN  
**Kelly Fjelstrom & Cheryl Merrell** in Fresno, CA  
**Lisa Healy** in Washington Township, NJ  
**Angela Batterman** in Milwaukee, WI  
**Kathy Carillo** in Albuquerque, NM  
**Sheri Burdine** in Austin/San Antonio, TX  
**April Brantley** in Graham, NC  
**Josie Marks** in San Francisco, CA  
**Eileen Rogers** in Boca Raton, FL  
**Becca Cardin** in Birmingham, AL  
**Linda Levitsky & Jared Remster** in Philadelphia, PA  
**Linda Davis** in Barrington, RI

# WALK Logo Contest is Underway

Your graphic design could be featured on thousands of Hydrocephalus Association 2011 Walk materials (brochures, posters, T-shirts) distributed throughout the country! The Hydrocephalus Association is looking for creative people to help HA create a new Walk logo. Although the current HA Walk logo (below) has served us well, it's time for a change. We know that among HA's constituents there are some very creative people. Your submission could become HA's new 2011 Walk logo!\* If you, or someone you know, excels in the graphic arts – or art, in general — give it a try!!!

## **Competition Rules:**

- Whether the new Walk logo incorporates the Hydrocephalus Association standard logo is the designer's decision.
- All submissions must be original to designer/artist (no copyrighted materials, please!)
- Logo should be unique and identifiable.
- Logos should look sharp in color (2 colors maximum) or black and white. (PMS colors preferred)
- Logo should be scalable (remember how it will be used: in brochures, posters and T-shirts, etc.)
- Preferred electronic format is in Adobe Illustrator or any 'Vectored' format.
- Multiple submissions per artist or designer are permitted.
- Winning design will become sole property of the Hydrocephalus Association. Designer/artist will forfeit any and all rights to the logo. The winning designer or artist will not receive any compensation from the Hydrocephalus Association.
- The HA has changed its Walk "tagline" for 2011 from "Catch the Wave of Awareness" to "Step Up for a Cure"
- The decision of the judges is final.
- Please submit the artwork in two versions: full-color and black and white.

Mail to:  
The Hydrocephalus Association  
870 Market Street, Suite 705  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Attn: WALK Logo Contest

Or Email: [tom@hydroassoc.org](mailto:tom@hydroassoc.org)

***\*Upon selection, the new HA Walk logo will become the sole property of the Hydrocephalus Association. Designer/artist agrees to forfeit any and all ownership of his/her artwork. The winning designer/artist will not receive any cash compensation from the Hydrocephalus Association***



## Team HYDRO Takes a Bite out of Sharkfest

By Sarah Oxford, HA Regional Programs Manager

"Make sure to stay calm, have fun and focus on your target," advised a veteran Sharkfest swimmer as we approached Alcatraz, a historical landmark located in the legendary shark-infested San Francisco Bay. Over 800 swimmers anxiously stared out the ferry windows as water temperature (59°) and safety protocols were announced over a loud speaker. A sea of 101 orange swim caps, worn by Team Hydro, bobbed around the boat, clashing with the mandatory yellow worn by all other swimmers

Hydrocephalus motivated me to take the big plunge. Team Hydro swims to fundraise for the Kate Finlayson Research Grant. Kate is a girl around my age who has endured over 100 brain surgeries. Swimming in cold water with sharks seems trivial compared to her journey. She has inspired us and we want to fund research to help her and others living with hydrocephalus.

Team Hydro has raised \$73,000 to date, securing the 2011 Kate Finlayson Research Grant. The water was cold, but luckily the sharks stayed away and Team Hydro conquered Sharkfest. To learn more about Team Hydro go to [www.teamhydro.org](http://www.teamhydro.org).

## News and Notes

### HCRN Expands Network

In September, The Hydrocephalus Children's Research Network welcomed two new pediatric centers to their network, bringing their total up to seven and ensures that there is now an HCRN center in every time zone.

HCRN is an organization that creates a collaborative network for researchers in participating institutions. This allows cooperation and reduces redundancy.

In their first three years of operation, the efforts of the HCRN have reduced the rate of shunt infections in participating hospitals by 40 percent.

### WALK Tip of the Month

Randi Corey, HA Director of Special Events has put together a series of columns for the website that give helpful hints to WALK Chairs and potential WALK Chairs on how to make their events special.

To read the complete series, please visit us at [www.hydroassoc.org](http://www.hydroassoc.org) and search for 'Tip of the Month'.

To continue receiving a **paper copy** of Pathways, please fill out the information below and mail to:

**Hydrocephalus Association  
870 Market Street, Suite 705  
San Francisco, CA 94102**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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If you would like to receive our monthly email newsletter edition of Pathways, please send us your name and email address either by emailing us at

**[info@hydroassoc.org](mailto:info@hydroassoc.org)**

or by sending it to the mailing address above.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_



# 2010 DONATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person with hydrocephalus: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age at diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

His/her relationship to you:  Self  Child  Parent  Spouse  Other relative  Friend  Professional member

**Enclosed is my unrestricted donation of:**

\$30  \$50  \$100  Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Charge my:**  VISA  MasterCard  Discover

**Amount Charged \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Card No.** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. Date** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ **CVN #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Please remove my name from your mailing list.

*Please return this form with check, money order, or completed credit card information to:*

Hydrocephalus Association • 870 Market St. #705 • San Francisco, CA 94102

Tel. 415-732-7040 • Toll-Free 888-598-3789 • Fax 415-732-7044 • Email: info@hydroassoc.org