

HEY!
WHAT ABOUT ME?



Spring 2009

SuperSibs! Outreach e-News

Volume 1 Issue 2

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Reminder: *SuperSibs!* Grief Services

SuperSibs! continues to support siblings who are bereaved - **PLEASE remember to keep us updated if a patient dies.** We have a special Grief Support Package that is sent to each sibling in addition to continued bereavement mailings. [Click Here to learn more about SuperSibs! Grief Services](#)

Mission Moments:

We receive amazing letters, photos and artwork every day from *SuperSibs!* teens, children and their families. This is why we do what we do. Below are just a few precious selections from our April and May 2009 mail:

A Note from the National Director of Outreach & Education

Imagine for a moment being asked to walk through the dark forest with



no light to illuminate your way. Imagine how it feels to walk blindly, over bumps and into holes... being scratched by branches that you don't see, and bumping rocks that are in the way. That is what it can feel like for the approximately 18,000 children and teens EACH YEAR who are thrown into the pediatric cancer journey with their family.

Together - we can shine light on this dark path! We can create an environment of awareness and support for these vulnerable children and teens so they may navigate this journey with strength, courage and hope!

When a child is diagnosed with cancer - everyone in the family needs healing.

Since April 2003, *SuperSibs!* has worked to support nearly 17,000 children, teens and families - with over 300 NEW referrals coming in every month.

[Click Here to see the most recent outreach report for STATE breakdown of referral numbers](#)

We are so happy to be able to work in partnership with hospitals, clinics, support organizations, state and federal agencies and other not-for-profit partners to help families battling pediatric cancer.

Photo & Note from SuperSib Mom



Dear *SuperSibs!*,
 Thanks so much for the trophy. Alex loved it and was so proud of it. He deserved this and it couldn't have come at a better time. His brother Ryan and I just got home from a 53 day stay at the hospital while Ry got his bone marrow transplant. What you do for families is a wonderful thing.
 -Holly, SuperSib Mom

Sib Artwork



By SuperSib Maya, age 9



By SuperSib India, age 6



By SuperSib Diana, age 17

Photo & Note from

If ever there are tools, resources or information that you need to integrate more sibling support into what you do every day - please reach out anytime!

Sandi Ring, M.S., CCLS
 National Director of Outreach and Education

News & Updates

2009 Scholarship Recipients:

In April of 2009, *SuperSibs!* awarded ten \$1,000 *SuperSibs!* Achievement Scholarships and three \$5,000 *SuperSibs!* Manne Family Foundation Scholarships to graduating high school senior *SuperSibs!* in recognition of their ability to take a devastating life experience and turn it into a positive, strength-building experience for herself, as well as to create good in the lives of others.

SuperSibs! is honored to be able to help siblings feel valued, validated, heard, supported and delighted as recipients of the *SuperSibs!* and *SuperSibs!* Manne Family Foundation Scholarship Awards. [Click here for a list of our scholars.](#)

SuperSibs! on NBC:



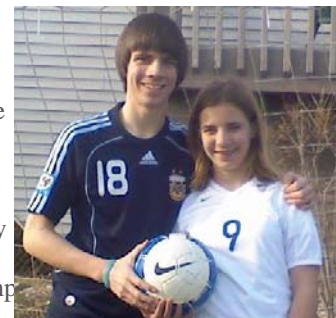
On Friday, April 10th *SuperSibs!* was featured on NBC 5 Chicago Morning News in honor of National

Sibling Day! We had a wonderful turn-out of *SuperSibs!* families and supporters and even got to participate in the 'Dance Friday' celebration. [Click here to view SuperSibs! rockin' the plaza at NBC](#)

Pictured Above: *SuperSibs!* Executive Director Melanie Goldish, SuperSib Spencer, NBC 5 Anchor Wayne Johnson, *SuperSibs!* Dean and Dana.

Mia's Hero:

SuperSib and future soccer star Cora Wessman was the featured Mia's Hero in the Mia Hamm Foundation's May 2009 Newsletter. Olymp



SuperSibs! Dad



SuperSibs! understands cancer kids are getting packages, cards, wishes, attention and a lot of fuss made over them. They know the brothers and sisters are part of the team and sacrifice of getting through cancer. I didn't think about these things until my girls got an individually addressed care packages from *SuperSibs!* with each of their names beautifully written on the front of it. Thanks *SuperSibs!*
-Jason, SuperSib Dad

Sibling Photos



Say Cheese!



SuperSib Amanda with brother Matthew



SuperSibs! on the red carpet!



Pretty in Pink!

and SuperSib Mia Hamm is widely recognized as the world's best all-around women's soccer player and is a member of *SuperSibs!* Honorary Board. [Click here to read Cora's story!](#)
Pictured right: *SuperSibs!* Logan and Cora loving soccer and sporting their *SuperSibs!* wristbands.

NJ Childhood Cancer Conference:

SuperSibs! presented a session at the New Jersey Office of Cancer Control and Prevention - Childhood Cancer Conference.



Pictured left to right: Sandi Ring, *SuperSibs!*, Dr. Peri Kamalakar, Medical Director of the Valerie Fund Children's Centers, Peg Knight, Executive Director, New Jersey Office of Cancer Control and Prevention

SuperSibs! Welcomes New Advisory Board Members:

SuperSibs! is pleased to announce the election of two new members to the *SuperSibs!* Advisory Board:

Joan Fedota, PhD is the Assistant Dean of National-Louis University and a leader in the National School Social Workers Association. Dr. Fedota is a key advocate to help *SuperSibs!* reach into the educator community to help ensure that siblings best supported in schools. Dr. Fedota lives in the Chicago area.

Michael Amylon, MD has been a longtime partner with *SuperSibs!* in his multiple roles as a practicing hematology/oncology/transplant physician at Lucille Packard Hospital in Stanford, CA. "Dr. Mike" is the champion and leader of Camp Okizu's outstanding sibling camping program in California, a researcher on sibling camping impact and is an active leader in the Children's Oncology Camping Association.

We are thrilled to have these two reputable experts as advisors to our organization! [Click here for a complete list of the SuperSibs! Board of Directors, Advisory Board and Honorary Board.](#)



SuperSib Jarrod with brother Joshua



"I love my SuperSib sister"

Photo & Note from SuperSib Mom

I've been sitting with the *SuperSibs!* website going through every single detail. The website is a reminder that there are many, many kids out there with cancer and many more siblings too. I am just impressed with what you are doing. Here is a photo of SuperSib Reo.

-Julia, SuperSib Mom.



Photos & Note from from a SuperSib

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you've done for my family and for the very meaningful gifts you've sent us. We love and appreciate everything from the trophies to the *SuperSibs!* shirts. I would like to say that my sister Alejandra is doing much better. Here are some photographs. Thanks again, SuperSib Daniel and family

My Sister's Keeper - National Release!



The film, *My Sister's Keeper*, based on Jodi Picoult's best selling novel is soon to be released in theaters and *SuperSibs!* is proud to be involved with film's promotion and release. The novel and film raise important issues about the sibling impact when a family is facing pediatric cancer. The film stars Cameron Diaz and Alec Baldwin with Abigail Breslin and Evan Ellingson playing the siblings.

While this movie may be to "close to home" and emotionally difficult for *SuperSibs!* families to view, it is an important film for YOU, our outreach partners and supporters, to view. *My Sister's Keeper* offers a unique look into the cancer impact on siblings, patients and their families.

"Although My Sister's Keeper is a fictional story, there are multitudes of real-life siblings whose lives are deeply affected by a brother or sister's cancer. SuperSibs! is a fantastic organization that offers support to this often-forgotten group, to help them navigate such a challenging life experience."
- Jodi Picoult, author of *My Sister's Keeper*

Warner Bros. and *SuperSibs!* teamed up



on advanced screenings of the film in 13 cities nationwide (before the national release on June 26th).

Feedback from Advanced Screening:

"Thank you so much to *SuperSibs!* for the passes for the movie. It was an emotional roller coaster of emotions to sit through, but it was good to see the journey of cancer through the perspective of the rest of the family in the movie. When you go through similar experiences - watching your child endure cancer - you can lose yourself in your role and not realize how it affects the siblings, father, and extended family. This movie gave you each perspective and it was good to see that. It made me think about my SuperSib son and what he has gone through watching his sister go through cancer. It was very emotional, but a wonderful movie! Thank you so much!"

Jill W - SuperSib Mom

If you are able to see *My Sister's Keeper*, we encourage you to share your thoughts and reactions with us regarding and related to the



SuperSibs! Daniel and Annel



SuperSib Annel with sis Alejandra

Contact Us:

SuperSibs!

5005 Newport Drive, Suite 502

Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Toll Free: 866-444-SIBS (7427)

Illinois: 847-705-7427

Fax: 847-776-7084

Email: info@supersibs.org

Website: http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102620984843&s=9871&e=001x-GVgta42slTo8mSTVxifgR5TWXnHrI_JNGoptCMREBnaBUdXi4fPPVpq-_Y6TeA5Lav5zixkkCDildjcQs9pIRdk0JiQYvxh1OguPL3IPTgjRXbWHXVAw==

sibling and total family healing journey. [Email comments to Amanda.](#)

[Click here to view the trailer of the film.](#)

NEW - Find a Sibling Summer Camp!

We get many calls asking us about sibling summer camps. Now *SuperSibs!* website makes it easier than ever for YOU to find a sibling summer camp in your home state! Our new "[Find A Sib Camp](#)" feature (pictured left)



includes a virtual map for you to simply click on your state for a list of the camps in your area with programs for brothers and sisters of kids with cancer. Have your child attend as a camper or a counselor! [Click here to check out the new "Find A Sib Camp!"](#)

SuperSibs! Music - Free Song Download

SuperSibs! is proud to introduce a new section of our website with free original music especially written for brothers and sisters of children with cancer. Music is so powerful to



help siblings heal. Our music pages will be updated overtime with inspirational songs for siblings and *SuperSibs!* supporters to listen to or download onto their computer or portable audio player free of charge.

[Click here to check out the new SuperSibs! music pages!](#)

Song Entries Wanted: **Calling Songwriters, Bands and Musicians**

SuperSibs! and *SuperSibs!* supporters are welcome to send us their original music for inclusion on our website, social media and promotional materials. This is great exposure for budding artists! If you have any questions on what we are looking for please email Amanda at agoetz@supersibs.org or call 847.705.7427 for more information. CD/DVD's can be sent to our headquarters at 5005 Newport Drive, Suite502,

Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008.

Team *SuperSibs!* 2009

Are you already registered for Rock 'n' Roll Chicago Half Marathon? Want to train and walk



or run with our incredible team? Join Team *SuperSibs!*... 65 members and growing!! \$500 fundraising minimum and the experience of a lifetime! Great Coaches and new friends.

Beginners and walkers welcome. Group training every Saturday. [Click here to JOIN NOW!](#)

Volunteer opportunities on race day are available. Help us encourage our participants along the course and be part of our official "*SuperSibs!* Cheer Squad". Or be the first to congratulate all the walkers and runners as they cross the finish line by handing out finisher medals!! Please contact Jennifer at jkrizmanich@supersibs.org by July 1st to sign up.

Out of state and unable to attend our Half Marathon in Chicago??

Want to raise support and awareness for *SuperSibs!*? Be part of Virtual Team *SuperSibs!* by participating in any race, any time, anywhere and still support *SuperSibs!*. Please [email Jennifer](#) at for more information.

A Tribute to Our Quiet Heroes



On Saturday, May 9, 2009, *SuperSibs!* hosted A Tribute to Our Quiet Heroes, Luncheon and Auction at the Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling, Illinois. This inspirational event honors mothers whose children have cancer - our *SuperSibs!* Moms. Over 200 attendees, including Quiet Hero mothers, special guests and *SuperSibs!* supporters enjoyed this event on Mother's Day weekend. Our goal is to replenish and renew these Quiet Hero moms, to help them sustain their families through this emotional journey. Thank you to all who made this remarkable and memorable day possible! [To view the 2009 video and photos from the day, CLICK HERE!](#)

Calendar of Events

06.26.09 - *My Sister's Keeper* released in theaters nationwide

07.18.09 - 07.19.09 - *SuperSibs!* Scholars Summit

07.30.09 - Team *SuperSibs!* on NBC 5 Chicago Morning News

08.02.09 - Team *SuperSibs!* at the Rock 'n' Roll Chicago Half Marathon

9/1/09 - Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month

10/8/09 - *CancerCare* Telephone Education Workshop for Educators!

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