

# Rady Childrens

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Hospital Auxiliary

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June 18, 2008

Mr. Jerry Griffin  
Officer G. Griffin Jr. Memorial Fund  
19350 Magnolia Grove Square Unit 209  
Leesburg, VA 20176

Dear Mr. Griffin:

Thank you so much for your contribution to the thirteenth annual **Celebration of Champions**! May 10, 2008 was truly a memorable day for our Champions and their families. To witness the courage, determination, and strength of these extraordinary children is an inspiration to us all. Their amazing spirit and fortitude was felt from one Champion to the next. The mother of one of our Champions expressed the day so well. She wrote:

*Today we attended an event called Celebration of Champions put on by Rady Children's Hospital. Claire was one of the cancer patients honored as a "champion" at the event. She carried a "torch" along the route before passing it to the next "champion". As we walked along with her she waved to the cheering crowd from her stroller like a celebrity...no, like a champion. The most touching part of the event came when families walked around the path paying tribute to their champions who lost their lives to cancer. Some carried pictures of their child, some wore t-shirts with pictures, and some held mementos of their children. I stood there with my 5 children knowing at that moment how blessed we are to have a chance to keep fighting this terrible disease. We still have a chance-in my mind it's more than a chance it's HOPE of a future with Claire.*

So many people helped in so many ways to make this event a reality once again. Maybe you held a child's hand as he ran his victory lap. Maybe you provided a necessary component of the day without asking anything in return but a smile of hope. Maybe you wished with all your heart that what you were doing would make a difference. Each of these things does make a difference in the lives of our Champions and our gratitude can never be adequately expressed to all who make Celebration of Champions happen year after year.

Three hundred and one children and their families participated in this extraordinary event and each child and family touched our lives in a special way. We can't thank you enough for your support and participation. We hope to share this wonderful experience with you again at the **2009 Celebration of Champions!**

With appreciation from the Celebration of Champions Co-Chairs,

Marilyn Cornwell

Jean Federici

Denise Holcombe

Patti Horan

*... because children are the future*