Inside this issue:
The OI Foundation board approved recommendations to fund two new Michael Geisman Research Fellowships and to provide second-year funding for both an additional research fellowship and a seed grant. The Children’s Brittle Bone Foundation will co-fund the three research fellowships.

More than 400 people are already registered for the 15th Biennial National Conference on OI!
Dear Friend,

As I write this, there are only 58 days left before the 15th Biennial National Conference on OI begins on July 20, 2006. We are thrilled that more than 400 people have already registered to attend!

This year we received 26 scholarship applications and our Scholarship committee had to make some tough decisions. They ultimately awarded 11 scholarships that will bring 31 people to the National Conference. We were grateful to receive funding from the Emmett R. Quady Foundation, the Kroger Golf event, the New Jersey Beefsteak event, and individual donors. Scholarships were awarded to families, single parents, and single adults. One family’s application essay shows how life-changing these scholarships can be:

Our child is full of hope and optimism. My wife and I have very little of either. We are wanting to attend the National Conference to gain sight of a brighter future for all of us, dealing with Type III OI. Every detail of our lives is ruled by our child’s condition. My wife and I work separate shifts, because no one else has the training and dedication to watch over our child. We see one another only 15 minutes each day. We are unable to seek positions above entry-level or any further education or professional career, since our responsibilities to protect our child dictate our available work hours and cause many call-in days from work. Everything we own is dirty and in disrepair, since we cannot step away from our child for any length of time for chores and maintenance. We have even taken on home-schooling our child. In essence, we are seeking education about our child's potential for independence and, also new strategies for living with OI that may increase our child's joy and improve our quality of life.

The National Conference will provide this family - and your family - with a place to learn about the potential for independence for people of all ages. It’s a place to relax a little, meet others who share your difficulties and can also share solutions, and find a way to bring balance into your life. Every parent struggles to balance the risk level they can live with and their child's need for independence. Talking to other parents can help you find a good balance for yourself.

Since the National Conference only happens every two years, the Foundation produces resource materials, and has staff and volunteers available, to answer questions every day. In fact, we answer more than 7,000 questions each year. Our website, www.oif.org, the Sunday night chat room, and books such as Growing Up with OI can help you connect with people who are living successfully with OI.

Planning for the National Conference keeps us extra busy even while the daily work of the Foundation continues. No matter how busy we are, answering question remains a priority for the Foundation's staff. For example, we recently received a call from a man in his 40s who had just had his annual physical exam. The doctor noted unusual bilirubin and alkaline phosphatase levels, but said "It's probably just your OI." We checked it out with some of our Medical Advisory Council members and discovered this isn't normal in OI, and is probably an indication of a liver problem. It's a good reminder to always ask "If I didn’t have OI, what would the normal course of treatment be?"

I look forward to seeing you at the 15th Biennial National Conference, or talking with you anytime.

Heller An Shapiro
Executive Director
Hello OI Community Friends,

I can hardly believe how time flies, but it is time for me to write my last letter to you as your President. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you for the past 3 years. We have an outstanding board and staff, and it has been a pleasure to work with such wonderful friends and colleagues. In three years, so much has happened! I am continually amazed by our community. Your spirit, energy and involvement in the work of the Foundation has been, and continues to be, spectacular. I am thankful to each of you who have given of yourself - your time, your energy, your donations, and all of the myriad of ways you have participated in the OI Foundation and our goals.

I began my involvement with the OI Foundation eleven years ago as a volunteer, and although I will no longer serve as your board chair, I will continue to volunteer. For those of you who are currently volunteering, or have in the past, thank you! Volunteers are the backbone of our Foundation, and without the hard work of each and every one of you, the organization would not exist. If you are thinking about volunteering, and have not yet done so, I encourage you to do so. There are many ways to volunteer including starting a networking group, serving as a support volunteer, or participating in fundraising events through our website, Bone China Tea, Walkathons, or a personal letter campaign to family and friends, just to name a few.

Change is essential to help organizations continue to grow, thrive and meet new challenges. As I pass the reigns to Ken Finkel, your new board chair, know that you will be in extremely capable hands. Ken has been an invaluable member on our board for the last 5 years, and has served in several capacities, including our finance committee chair. We are so lucky to have him take on this new role.

Finally, it is with great sadness but full understanding that we hear of Gemma Geisman, the founder of the OI Foundation, retiring from the Board of Directors. Her amazing commitment throughout these years has been tireless. 38 years of work is a commitment beyond what any of the rest of us can possibly imagine. Without her the OI Foundation would not exist. Her leadership and continued involvement enabled us to make great strides for people with OI.

Gemma’s work has impacted people with OI across the United States, and the world. She has touched the lives of so many individuals, their families and their communities through her efforts. I know that personally, there is a direct correlation between my high quality of life and her energy and spirit in assisting people with OI by starting the OI Foundation. It is inspiring to think of all the people who have benefited from her leadership, energy and dedication to the OI community and its mission.

To just say thank you will never do justice to honor her for all that she has done for the OI community. On behalf of the OI Board and Staff, I want to express the genuine gratitude in our hearts to Gemma.

Can you think of any of your talents, skills and abilities, and see how you might capitalize on these to continue to grow the work of the OI Foundation? If you have not yet volunteered in some way, my last challenge to you as President is to please take a moment to think about how you might contribute to our work. Contact the Foundation at bonelink@oif.org to learn how you can volunteer. Come on... you can do it and we need your help!

I hope to see you in Omaha this summer!

Take care,

Jamie D. Kendall
President, OI Foundation Board of Directors
OI Foundation to Team Up with Children’s Brittle Bone Foundation to Fund Research During FY07

Annual Research Appeal Will Reach Your Mailbox in June

The OI Foundation’s Board of Directors set a goal to raise $433,500 in funding for OI research during the 2007 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2006.

With your help, these dollars will promote data collection and analysis through the new OI Registry; support the development of standards of care for people with OI through the Linked Clinical Research Centers (LCRC) project; and advance basic research into treatments and a cure for OI. Separate articles in this issue of Breakthrough provide updates on the great progress made this year on the LCRC and OI Registry projects.

During its May 5, 2006 meeting, the Board approved recommendations by the Foundation’s Scientific Review Committee to support two new Michael Geisman Research Fellowships and to provide 2nd-year funding for both an additional research fellowship and a seed grant. The Children’s Brittle Bone Foundation (CBBF) in Chicago, IL, will co-fund the three research fellowships.

"Both CBBF and the OI Foundation have funded research into treatments and a cure for OI for many years." said OI Foundation Executive Director Heller An Shapiro. "CBBF has been a valued partner through their support of scientific meetings and creation of the Linked Clinical Research Center concept. We are thrilled to be joining forces yet again to coordinate our investment of research dollars. Together, we will maximize our ability to improve the lives of children and adults with OI."

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Vance Cheek Campaigns for Congress

Vance W. Cheek, Jr. of Johnson City, Tennessee was born with osteogenesis imperfecta Type III but that has not stopped him from reaching for and attaining his goals throughout life. Vance was born with two (2) fractured femurs, blue sclera, thin skin and a large head. Vance has sustained minor fractures during his lifetime - they number just around 45 at this point. A few days after he was born and diagnosed with OI, it was uncertain whether he was going to live. He not only survived, but today at the age of 38, he has launched a bid for the First Congressional District of Tennessee in the Republican Primary. According to Vance, "The most important part of running a Congressional Race is the journey, itself. I have met people from all walks of life who live right where I have lived all my life; yet, their life experiences are so very different at times from mine. Whether its differences on issues, lifestyle, hobbies or abilities, there is always something to learn on the campaign trail."

Campaigning is not a new experience for Vance. He served as Commissioner, Vice Mayor and Mayor of Johnson City, TN. He prepared for his political life by getting a bachelor's degree in political science and a Law degree. "I would encourage anyone to enter the political arena, regardless of one's level of abilities. Also, I would encourage parents to foster political interest at an early age by taking their children into the voting booth, perhaps meet an actual candidate or all the better, find one's candidate and get the entire family involved in the election. My parents did so and I've been interested in public service ever since."

"My campaign advice for any candidate with OI would be as follows: (1) Get in shape and stay in shape. Double up on vitamins and sleep; (2) Have an "advance team" search event spots to make certain the lay of the land is accommodating to your means of motion; (3) Always be on a level playing field. If the OI candidate can't get to the stage, no one speaks from the stage. If the candidate is very short, use cushions to give a level sightline to all the candidates; (4) The candidate must embrace all the differences and challenges that made the candidate who she is; however, no candidate ever wins playing the sympathy card solely; and (5) Develop a strong handshake. When one surrenders one's arm to another in greeting, it's best if the candidate is the one in control."

Vance travels the 12 counties of the First Congressional District meeting voters, participating in debates and becoming acquainted with party loyalists from every part of the district. He is welcomed warmly in every community he visits and is widely regarded as a top candidate in this race. "One thing my candidacy does is open people's eyes to the abilities of the disabled. On occasion, someone is obviously surprised when I wheel out from behind a table to take the podium. At times, they are curious about my life and how I got to being in the race in the first place. When a candidate has a disability, it is assumed automatically that the disabled candidate's platform is based completely on disability issues. I find voters to be very interested to learn that my common concerns are their common concerns."

Vance served on a number of nonprofit boards received several honors, including the Distinguished Leadership Award, presented in 2000 by the National Association for Community Leadership, recognizing his commitment for the making of more effective communities. Also in 2000, he was nominated as "Teacher of the Year" at the College of Business at East Tennessee State University. In 1998, Vance received the "Forty under Forty Award" from the Business Journal of the Tri-Cities, which recognized 40 rising young community leaders.

Vance married Jody Whittimore in 1997 and in July 2000 they were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Catie, who also has Type III OI. Vance passed his active lifestyle on to Catie who takes Suzuki violin lessons, ballet and jazz dance lessons and plays tee ball.

Even if you are not politically involved, Vance hopes "my campaign will give

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“Every gift makes a difference.”

-Heller An Shapiro, Executive Director
OI Foundation

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The Michael Geisman Research Fellowships selected for funding this year are:

1. A study by Dr. Roy Morello at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston that will find and characterize the specific cellular mutations that lead to the development of OI type VII, as well as the consequences of these changes in type I collagen during bone formation.

2. Research by Dr. Bradley Tinkle at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center designed to identify novel genes that cause forms of OI that do not involve mutations of type I collagen. This information may lead to new therapeutic strategies for treating people with these rare forms of OI.

3. The second year of a study by Dr. Michael Sohaskey at the University of California, Berkeley, that will characterize the effects of the absence of a new gene that may have some involvement in calcium transport (called Osteopotentia) on bone and bone cells in a mouse model.

In addition, the OI Foundation will provide continuation funding for a clinical seed grant awarded to Dr. Eric Orwoll at Oregon Health Sciences University. His research is looking into whether Forteo (a parathyroid hormone treatment) can be an effective treatment for adults with OI who have not benefited from bisphosphonate therapies.

“The OI community makes all of this research possible - the seed grants, research fellowships, the LCRC, and the OI Registry - through annual volunteer fundraising events and your generous giving to our annual research appeal letter,” Shapiro explained. “Thank you for your many thoughtful donations during our past campaigns, and please help as much as you can this year. Every gift makes a difference!”

A personal letter from the Foundation requesting your support for these critically needed projects will arrive in your mailboxes in June. With your contribution, doctors and researchers can continue to increase their understanding of the causes and mechanisms behind OI, leading to better care, more effective treatments, and potentially, a cure.

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you a reason to be interested in the process. I welcome everyone to follow Jody, Catie and me on www.vancecheek.com as we look optimistically to the future.”

Vance encourages everyone, "specifically young people, to never give up on their dreams. Regardless of how this race is decided (keep in mind that everything looks very good as of the time of my writing), I will believe always that simply being a candidate has allowed me to make a difference in other's lives. I know so because they tell me so. It is a great reward to be told that I've inspired someone or someone's loved one to tackle or retackle a dream once left to wither on the vine. Some may be offended by the comment ‘Well, if HE can do that, I can do this’ but I'm not offended at all. I take it as a compliment.”

Left to Right: Vance, Catie and Jody Cheek
Please Support Your Local OI Event

Volunteers raise awareness and funds for research, services & resources

Summer days are certainly not lazy for volunteers in the OI community who are busy planning OI-related events in your community. These activities not only generate revenues to support research, Information-on-Demand, new fact sheets and educational resources, and other services to families, but they also help to increase awareness of OI and how it affects you and the people you love.

Please place any local events on your calendar and join us, if you can. You can help these events succeed in a variety of ways - by participating, volunteering, finding a sponsor, or making a gift.

June 4, Cinnaminson, NJ – The Third Annual New Jersey Making Strides for OI 5K Walk-a-thon and Silent Auction will be held from noon - 5 p.m. at Cinnaminson Memorial Park. This family fun day features lots of activities for kids and adults, including a Giant Water Slide, Bounce Around, Balloon Maker, Face Paints, Chinese Auction, Silent Auction, Crafts & tons more!

Anyone bringing a minimum donation of $25 will receive a walk T-shirt. Other prizes will be awarded as well. *This year's event is dedicated to the memory of all of those we have lost to OI.* To learn how you can participate or to download a donation form, please visit [http://www.stridesforoi.com/](http://www.stridesforoi.com/), or contact Carol and Michael Goebel at ice0698@aol.com or (856) 786-3665.

June 17, Framingham, MA – The Rossi, Potorski and Wyman families will host the 2nd Annual Massachusetts Making Strides for OI at Bowditch Field in Framingham. Last year’s event drew approximately 300 people for a magic show, taekwondo demonstrations, a silent auction, food, and walking for a good cause. Contact Christine Rossi at c.rossi@verizon.net or (508) 620-0991 to find out how you can get involved.

June 23, Margate, NJ – *Summer Magic*, a casual wine tasting of more than 100 wines from the world’s classic wine growing regions--Napa, Bordeaux, Burgundy, Tuscany, Piedmont, Australia--will be held at I Love Lucy’s Beach Grille from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Admission will be $75 per person, and Sails Restaurant will provide light appetizers. This event is hosted by Vaughan and Margie Reale and Jerry Johnston.

For more information, please contact Downbeach Wine and Liquors at (609) 823-3838 or Margie Reale at (609) 823-9144 or margiereale@comcast.net.

June 25, Scranton, PA – Denise Silfee and Michael Cotton are organizing The Walk for Cierra, a walk-a-thon to benefit the OI Foundation. This event, created in memory of their infant daughter who passed away in July 2005, will be held from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Nay Aug Park in Scranton. To find out how you can walk, make a donation, or become a sponsor of this community event, call Michael or Denise at (570) 341-5520.

July 13, Wood Dale, IL – The 2nd Annual Riley’s Gathering Place Golf Outing will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Maple Meadows Golf Club. The event will begin with a 1:00 pm shotgun start, followed by a dinner reception at Riley’s Gathering Place from 6-9 p.m.

All proceeds from this unique and fun event go towards research and education to help find a cure for osteogenesis imperfecta (OI). Reservations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. The fee for the outing is $130/person. If you would like to participate or learn more, please contact Patrick Fromelt at (630) 244 9982.

July 24, Naperville, IL – The 8th Annual Miracle Michael Fund Charity Golf Outing will be held at the White Eagle Country Club, beginning at 1 p.m. The
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event will feature a shotgun four-person scramble, longest drive and hole-in-one contests, prizes for winning teams, a full lunch buffet, a cocktail party and dinner, live and silent auctions, and a raffle. Fees for the tournament are $275 per person or $1,100 per foursome. Guests may attend just the cocktail reception and dinner for $65.00 per person.

Proceeds benefit the OI Foundation. For more information or to register, please contact Beth Shultz at (630) 922-3363 or jbamshultz@aol.com, or visit www.miraclemichael.org.

August 8-9, Roanoke, VA – The Kroger Company will host its 20th Annual Golf Tournament at the Hanging Rock Golf Club on August 9. A pre-event auction and dinner will be held on August 8. New this year, guests will receive a souvenir Coca-Cola bottle commemorating the tournament’s 20th year.

For two decades, Kroger employees Norm Slocum, Art Jaklitsch, Gary Wyland, Pete Williams, former OI Foundation Board president Joe Antolini and others have organized this event. The event has raised well over $1 million for the Foundation since 1987.

August 11, St. Peter, MN – The Third Annual Bennett Clayton Foundation for Children with OI Golf and Charity Event will be held at the Shoreland Country Club, in St. Peter, MN. This event is open to everyone and features 18 holes of golf, children’s games, a hog roast/corn feed dinner, prizes, silent auction, and games for golfers, including Beat the Pro, former MLB All-Star Ron Coomer. The entry fee for the golf tournament is $100 per person, and the registration deadline to play golf is August 1, 2006.

For more information regarding this tournament, sponsorships, to attend as a non-golfer, or to volunteer, please contact the Bennett Clayton Foundation for Children with OI at BCFforOI@aol.com or 507-931-3454. Also, check out our website at www.BCFforOI.org for further information.

August 12, Margate, NJ – Please join us at the 4th Annual Bash by the Bay for a seafood dinner with music, dancing, an auction, and raffles, as well as hamburgers, hot dogs and soda for the kids! Throughout the day, we will be auctioning off sports memorabilia, gift baskets and door prizes. The ticket price is $35.00 per person, and children will be admitted free!

For more information, please contact Chery Sacchetti at (609) 823-7702 or CheryLemmerman@aol.com, or Tony Sacchetti at (609) 377-7895.

August 14, Ashburn, VA – The Belmont Country Club - site of an 18-hole Arnold Palmer signature golf course - will be the site of the First Annual OIF Metropolitan Area Golf Tournament. This will be a best ball-format tournament, with extra prizes at selected holes. Your entry fee includes refreshments and other goodies, as well as a 19th-hole reception with food, beverages, and silent auction items.

For additional details, contact Roger Bache at (301) 570-6039 or Karen Orejuela at (703) 377-4552.

September 9, Miami, OK – The 3rd Annual OI Charity Golf Tournament will be held at Peoria Ridge Golf Course, beginning at 9 a.m. This four-person scramble will feature a hole-in-one contest for a free car, courtesy of Turnpike Chrysler Dodge Jeep. There also will be closest to pin, longest drive and longest putt contests. The entry fee of $55.00 per person includes lunch. Proceeds benefit OI research.

To enter or for more information, contact Jim Everett during the day at (417) 623-3323, or Mike Berry after 5 p.m. at (918) 542-7647, (918) 542-0294, or soonerfans@yahoo.com.

For more information about summer events, or planning your own event, contact Stuart Tart at start@oif.org.
Oregon parents raise $6,400 at 3rd annual bowl-a-thon

Parents Jennifer and Brian Taylor held the 3rd Annual Baylee Taylor Memorial Bowl-a-thon, on April 26 in Roseburg, OR, raising approximately $6,400 for OI research and for the needs of OI families in their community.

The event is held in memory of Brian and Jennifer Taylor’s infant son, Baylee, who passed away in July 2003 from a severe form of OI.

“We are proud of the community and the support shown,” Jennifer said.

“Some people have attended all 3 years.”

Jennifer added that she and other family members heard “a lot of positive comments” on the auction that they held during the bowl-a-thon. Featured in the online version of The News-Review, the silent auction included autographed items from Josh Bidwell of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, a plane ride over Crater Lake, guided fishing trips, a Washougal MX weekend package, a gift certificate for Jerry’s Rogue Jets, and more.

Funds generated at the bowl-a-thon go to the Foundation for research into treatments and a cure for OI. A portion of the proceeds will be set aside for grants to local OI families and for a scholarship account to assist young people with OI when they reach college age.

The Foundation is grateful to the Taylors and their families for building awareness through this event and for their years of strong support!

For more information, contact Stuart Tart at start@oif.org.

Two Teens Hold OI Run for Research in Southern California

On April 27, Laura Wood and Kelsey Ogden held the OI Run for Research at their high school track in Poway, CA, and raised $1,700 to support OI research!

Approximately 40 people attended the event, which the students initiated as part of their senior project.

Participants were asked to raise a minimum of $15 in pledges and then invited to run or walk 3 miles on the school’s accessible track. The event included music, event T-shirts and smoothies, and prizes for the person who raised the most money and for the fastest runner.

We thank Laura and Kelsey for their hard work, the research funding they raised, and for educating their community about OI.

For more information, contact Stuart Tart at start@oif.org.

In Memoriam

Donald Whedon, MD, passed away May 4, 2006. Dr. Whedon had a 30 year career at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), researching metabolic bone diseases including OI, and calcium metabolism. For nearly 20 years (1962-1981) he was the Director of the National Institute of Arthritis, Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the NIH. From 1984-1990, he served as Shriners Hospitals’ first professional scientific medical research program manager. He also worked with NASA, especially Skylab, to assess changes in bone metabolism in astronauts.

Dr. Whedon served as member and chair of the OI Foundation’s Medical Advisory Council (MAC), and as a member of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. He participated in many of the International Scientific Conferences on OI. Dr. Whedon provided the OI Foundation with guidance regarding research project funding, organized scientific meetings, and recruited many valuable MAC members.

Dr. Whedon had a long, distinguished career in bone disease research, which included an interest in OI. He published close to 100 scientific articles and received numerous honors, including the Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal from NASA in 1974.

He contributed greatly to our knowledge of the bone and cartilage abnormalities in OI. We are grateful for his many contributions to the OI Foundation and to OI research.
New York Theater Event Raises More Than $29,000

*Spamalot proves a success as the 2nd Annual New York Theatre Event*

The OI Foundation’s 2nd Annual New York theater event on March 9 attracted 86 guests to see the hit Broadway musical, Monty Python’s *Spamalot*, raising more than $29,000 through donations and tickets sales!

"The shows that we have been able to see have been top-notch. Procuring hard-to-get tickets for the season’s hottest productions has been a real plus," said event volunteer Robin Wright. "More importantly, I believe there’s a pent-up demand for involvement in the OI Foundation throughout the tri-state area, and this event has filled that need."

Board member Jeffrey Stewart and his wife, Andrea, came up with the idea for the first event in 2005, featuring *Wicked*. This year they again spearheaded efforts to sell tickets and secure donations for this reception and theater event.

"We focused on the natural strengths of the New York City area and the Broadway event became an easy solution," Jeff Stewart explained.

Wright and Ellie Seepes also have contributed greatly to the event by volunteering their time to scout out reception locations, assemble gift bags and involve more people.

"I'm an OI parent ... and this is NYC!" explained Seepes. "This is a combination that fills me with enthusiasm, and I hope it can be expanded to include others in our OI/NYC community."

The evening began with a reception hosted by Ernst & Young at their Global Headquarters at Times Square. Reception guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, wine, and conversation, and they had the opportunity to participate in the live auction of a framed *Spamalot* poster, signed by the cast. Special thanks to auctioneer and ex-board member Robin Johnson, who conducted the auction with Monty Python quotes and surprise bidders. Former Board president William Schmidt won the bidding on this item.

Tom Murphy won a door prize drawing for an official *Spamalot* program book, CD, and cap.

"We have made the event a family affair," Jeff and Andrea said. "We sit down with our two children, and we each make lists of our friends and contacts to invite. We then prepare our own personal appeal letter that we insert into the OI Foundation invitation."

They added, "We find the strong participation and support from our friends quite remarkable, but we know they care about our son Michael, who has Type 1 OI."

Diana Williams, WABC News Anchor, attended the event. As a friend of the Stewarts, she said she has become keenly aware of the need to raise awareness about OI and the difficulties young people like Michael face when dealing with this disease. She added that she plans to be back next year.

*See SPAMALOT on page 11*
SPAMALOT from page 10

Seepes said that her goals in getting involved with this and future events are "raising much-needed funds for research and outreach by the OI Foundation and gaining recognition from the public of this devastating disease."

The Stewarts also have a big vision for the future of the event. "We are very fortunate that we are able to contribute to the mission of the OI Foundation and help in creating awareness of OI with fund-raising," they said. "Our goal for the event is to grow it into the OI Foundation's gala event with the broad participation of our members, the medical and professional community of New York City, and the pharmaceutical industry that is so concentrated in the New York City metropolitan area."

Wright offered some advice for people interested in holding a similar event for the Foundation in their own community. "It must be a desirable show, and you need to have a few people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and work for free," she said. "You can't be shy about asking for assistance from donors, sponsors, and volunteers. Also, utilize the OI Foundation office staff for suggestions and guidance. They're a tremendous source, and very vested in the process."

Plans are being made for the Third Annual Theater Event to be held in Fall 2006 or Spring 2007. We hope you will join us!

For more information, contact Stuart Tart at start@oif.org.

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Fine Wines, Strong Bones A Success

Senator Bob Dole (pictured here with OI Foundation board member Randy Graise) attended Fine Wines, Strong Bones in Washington, DC, on May 4, 2006, to accept an Unbreakable Spirit award for his lifetime of commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities. Other awardees honored with Unbreakable Spirit awards were Andrew Imparato, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD); Discovery Communications; and the cast and crew of ABC’s Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. Also new this year, nineteen ceramic Fragile Babies -- each one created by Patti Warashina and decorated by a different artist -- were auctioned. Approximately 215 people attended the Foundation’s annual wine tasting and auction gala, raising more than $28,000 in net revenues for the National Conference and the Foundation’s education and support programs. Look for more about this event in our Summer issue of Breakthrough.
Transition from Pediatric to Adult Care

Introduction
The teen years are a time of transition. This is especially true for young people with OI. Although formal "Transition Programs," are available for teens in many cities, this article points out how the process really starts before the teen years.

What are transition programs and why are they important?
Young adults with OI who have received all or most of their health care through a children's hospital are faced with many challenges when they no longer qualify for care through a pediatric facility. In recent years, the Shriners Hospitals and other children's hospitals that see children with life long medical conditions have begun offering programs to prepare young people and their families to make this transition.

What should you look for in a Transition to Adult Healthcare Program?
First, the program should be designed to help young people take responsibility for their own health care. This involves becoming knowledgeable about OI, being able to communicate confidently with physicians and being capable of making care decisions. Second, the program should provide tools to identify adult care resources before loosing eligibility for care in the pediatric facility. This involves finding OI specialists, primary care physicians, and working within insurance limits.

What skills are important to making a smooth transition?
- Having an age appropriate understanding of what OI is and the medical and life style issues involved.
- Being comfortable speaking directly to doctors and other health care professionals about OI and other health topics.
- Being able to explain symptoms, ask questions, and understand instructions.
- Knowing how to make medical appointments.
- Knowing what to do if an injury occurs.
- Knowing how to take medication.
- Knowing how to keep medical records.
- Knowing how to submit bills to an insurance company.
- Understanding the adult healthcare system and finding doctors in different specialties.

Besides handling medical appointments, are there other issues involved in the transition to adulthood?
- Preparing for employment
- Living as independently as possible
- Sexuality and relationships
- Finding and attending a college
- Being a self-advocate
- Finding transportation in the community
- Participating in community activities
- Developing adult-level recreation and leisure interests

Reprints of this article can be downloaded from www.oif.org.
When should a child start the Transition Process?

While most formal programs are aimed at young people of high school age, the real process happens gradually beginning in childhood. For example, preparing for adult employment begins with the process of learning responsibility by doing chores and helping at home. As the child grows, the next step may be doing neighborhood jobs and then in the teen years, having a part-time job. Often children and adolescents growing up with disabilities have fewer of these experiences than their peers, and therefore reach adulthood less prepared for employment. The challenge is to be aware of the need to develop work experience and to creatively find opportunities that suit the young person's abilities.

Similarly, developing satisfying adult relationships is a gradual process that begins with learning to make friends as preschoolers and having age-appropriate social experiences in school and throughout adolescence. Some of the activities that are developmentally appropriate for teaching independence to children who have OI (and their siblings) are listed below.

Are there any resources available to families who do not have access to a formal transition program?

Local community colleges, community hospitals, banks and school systems often offer courses on different transition to adulthood topics. Money management, cooking, and college and career exploration are popular. Some high school guidance departments maintain lists of these courses. Organizations that offer information helpful to families facing transition include the following.

Centers for Independent Living

Centers for Independent Living (CIL) are programs of services for individuals with disabilities that promote self-sufficiency, advocacy, and life opportunities. They are funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Education. The objectives and philosophy of CIL’s may vary from state to state, however, the overall goal is to empower people with disabilities to live as independently as possible and take responsibility for their lives. For more information: www.abledata.com or www.ILUSA.com.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Each state has a Department or Division of Vocational Rehabilitation that assists people with disabilities to prepare for employment and career goals. Any person with a disability may apply if he or she feels that the disability will interfere with work or career plans. One’s eligibility will depend on the disability and if it is considered an obstacle to employment. Services may include evaluation and guidance, skills testing, job development, placement, college assistance, and adaptive equipment. The National Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities can provide you with contact information in your state. 1-800-695-0285 or www.nichcy.org.

Post-secondary education

The HEATH Resource Center of George Washington University, Graduate School of Education and Human Development, is the national clearinghouse on postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities. Support from the U.S. Department of Education enables the clearinghouse to serve as an information exchange for educational support services, scholarships, policies, procedures, adaptations, and opportunities at American campuses, vocational-technical schools, and other postsecondary training entities. www.heath.gwu.edu.
INFO to Help You Manage Your Health

TRANSITION from page 13

How can young people locate health care providers in the adult system?

An important part of making a successful transition out of pediatric care is to locate new doctors and establish a relationship with the primary care physician and the orthopedist before there is an emergency.

There are three sources of information:

- Referrals from the pediatrician or pediatric specialist
- Guides from your insurance company
- Suggestions from other people, including the OI Foundation.

The young adult with OI may need to put together his/her own team of health care providers. Doctors to include on an adult's health care team include a primary care physician, orthopedist, endocrinologist, and, for women a gynecologist. Other specialists may be needed depending on the severity of the OI and on the person's other health needs.

Some pediatric specialists, including pediatric orthopedists, continue to treat their OI patients for specific OI related health problems, but usually not as a primary care physician.

There are a few OI clinics in different parts of the United States that offer services to adults with OI. Occasional visits to a specialty clinic is one way to manage OI during the adult years especially if there is good communication between the center and the hometown primary care physician. Insurance coverage may be an issue in some cases. The OI Foundation’s Clinic Directory and the Talking with Your Doctor fact sheets have additional information on this topic.

Workplace Giving Campaigns: A Great Opportunity to Support the OI Foundation

Involve your company in supporting the OI Foundation. It's easy! Here's how!

Workplace giving campaigns allow employees to give to charity through regular payroll deductions. Invite your co-workers to learn more about OI and consider designating the OI Foundation through your workplace giving plan.

The OI Foundation has flyers, educational materials, and speakers or prepared speeches available to help you.

By donating to the OI Foundation through your workplace giving campaign, you will help us to provide information and support services to thousands of people with OI, their family members and medical professionals each year. In addition, your gift will support cutting edge research towards treatments and a cure for OI.

Further, you can increase the impact of your gift by:

- Determining whether your employer has a program to match your gift; and
- Encouraging co-workers to give to the OI Foundation, too.

Here’s All You Need to Do

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) - Federal and military employees nationwide can give to the OI Foundation through the annual CFC campaign. We are a member of the Medical Research Charities federation, and our CFC number is 1728.

State and local charitable campaigns - Through our membership in the Neighbor to Nation federation, the OI Foundation has applied to participate in the 2006 state and local charitable campaigns in at least 12 states, and in future years, we will work to participate in more. You can designate your gift to the OI Foundation if you are a government employee in any of the following states: Arizona, California, Florida, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. Other states may soon be
Activities that Encourage Independence

Birth-3 years old
- Encourage your child to assist with activities
- Allow your child time to complete tasks
- Talk with your child about his/her OI

3-5 years old
- Teach your child about his/her special needs related to OI
- Encourage your child to participate in self-care
- Help your child to interact socially in various settings
- Assign household chores or responsibilities

6-12 years old
- Allow your child to relate his/her experiences and concerns about OI
- Help your child interact appropriately with healthcare providers
- Talk about career options, interests, and abilities
- Encourage your child to participate in organized activities that build social skills and confidence
- Allow your child to participate in making choices

13-18 years old
- Continue to assess your teen's knowledge and perception of OI and provide additional information as appropriate
- Encourage teens to gradually be responsible for making medical appointments and take responsibility for own healthcare decisions
- Discuss options for transitioning to adult healthcare
- Discuss sexuality, marriage, parenting. Assure that teens have an opportunity to discuss these topics with physicians, mentors with OI, and other teens
- Continue planning for postsecondary education, career, and independent living
- Talk about community transportation. Will the teen drive? Will they need adapted vehicles and/or public transportation?

19-21 years old
- Identify an adult healthcare provider
- Transfer medical records
- Determine financing and insurance options
- Continue transition to career and financial independence
- Plan for adult social, leisure, and recreational opportunities

This information was prepared by Caroline Anderson, PhD, Clinical Psychologist and the Care Coordination Department at Shriners Hospital for Children, Chicago. For more information, contact Mary Beth Huber at Mhuber@oif.org.

Visit www.oif.org/supportgroups to see if there’s a group forming near you!
Background:

In the Winter 2006 issue of Breakthrough, this column featured information on a recent Canadian study about children, fractures and low levels of vitamin D. The study matched Vitamin D levels found in each child’s blood to their weight.

In response to the study, Jay Shapiro, M.D., his nutritionist, Eileen McMahon of the Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, MD and Bruce Hollis, Ph.D., Director of Pediatric Nutritional Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina, are suggesting a new set of recommendations regarding Vitamin D intake for people with OI. Their proposal is based on a review of the literature, discussions with the senior investigator of the Canadian study, Dr. Adrian Jones (Department of Pediatric Gastroenterology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton) and other Vitamin D and OI experts.

What we know:

Vitamin D is necessary to help your body absorb calcium and make bone. Most of the Vitamin D in our bodies is made from sunlight absorbed through the skin but many people need Vitamin D supplements to get enough to stay healthy.

A blood test that measures 25(OH)D is the only way to tell if a person has adequate levels of Vitamin D. Researchers are recommending that blood levels for children and adults be increased from a previous level of 20 ng/ml to a level between 32 and 60 ng/ml. The Food and Nutrition Board, National Academy of Sciences is considering raising their recommendations for daily IU (International Unit) intake because the current recommendations are not high enough to keep blood levels of vitamin D above 32 ng/ml in most people.

Dr. Shapiro’s Suggestions:

A range of daily vitamin D intake of 13-18 IU/lb/day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>IU per day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50 lbs. (20 kg)</td>
<td>600-800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 lbs. (40 kg)</td>
<td>1100-1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110 lbs. (50 kg)</td>
<td>1200-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150 lbs (70 kg) and above</td>
<td>2000-2800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What you can do:

Read “Recommendations Regarding Vitamin D Intake in Osteogenesis Imperfecta” by Shapiro, McMahon and Hollis. (see below) Share it with your doctor. Discuss with your doctor whether you should have the blood test and whether you should take Vitamin D supplements.

If you and your doctor decide to increase your Vitamin D level, work with your doctor to monitor your blood vitamin D levels until stable values in the 32 ng/ml to 60 ng/ml range are achieved. If you start a program of increased vitamin D intake, have your blood re-tested after 2 months and then every 4 months until there is no change.

The amount of time you spend out of doors, plus the amount of vitamin D in your diet from food or supplements, will affect your test results.

Vitamin D supplements are available as either the D-2 form (ergocalciferol) or the D-3 form (cholecalciferol). Studies suggest that the D-3 form may be more effective in people. However, Vitamin D-3 is difficult to find commercially in the United States. Check with your pharmacist, primary care physician or with a health food store. Vitamin supplements are not regulated and the amount of Vitamin D can vary from pill to pill and bottle to bottle.

Locating the Recommendations:

"Recommendations Regarding Vitamin D Intake in Osteogenesis Imperfecta" is posted on the web site for the OI Clinic at the Kennedy Krieger Clinic www.osteogenesisisimperfecta.org under the heading “OI News.”
The Reed Family "Lives Strong" Through Research and OI Foundation Programs

The Reed Family Benefits from OI Research

Ten-year-old Jonathan Reed’s favorite pastime is playing baseball at recess. Also ranking at the top of his list are going to Cub Scout meetings, playing computer games, and having sleepovers with friends. This active fourth grader was born with several broken bones and immediately diagnosed with Type III OI. Over the past 10 years, he has had numerous fractures and surgeries, five in just the past six months; attended school, and participated in several research programs.

Although Jonathan’s bones are fragile, the Reed family (Jonathan, mom Theresa, and dad Rich) stays strong. They attribute their strength as a family to support from the OI community, their involvement in OI support groups, their participation in an OI Foundation Advisory Committee, and their commitment to OI research. “Being part of the OI community on all levels has given us the comfort and strength we need, and we know we are not alone,” said Theresa.

Research Gives Hope for Finding a Cure

Since infancy, Jonathan has been participating in research studies at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD. The Reeds believe that research is crucial to identifying the best treatments and one day finding a cure for OI. On a more personal level, research has been important to the Reeds in understanding OI. So, twice a year, they pack their bags for a six-hour trip from Worthington, Ohio, to the NIH.

Jonathan has participated in many studies, such as an ambulation (walking) and bracing protocol, a growth hormone protocol, and most recently, a pamidronate drug protocol.

For Theresa and Rich, the NIH has been a valuable resource. “They [NIH staff] are always available to answer our questions,” said Theresa. “And, their guidance has been instrumental in optimizing Jonathan’s activities. They are genuinely committed and knowledgeable of this disorder.”

See REED on page 18
For Jonathan, the treatments and therapies have helped him become stronger, more independent, and more focused in school. “They [NIH staff] help me do things that I couldn’t do before,” he said. “They help me a lot with exercise to get me stronger.”

When asked about his favorite part of the NIH visits, Jonathan replied that it is tough to choose just one. He really likes meeting other kids, and has made lasting friendships. He said that staying at the Children's Inn also has its perks. Each room comes equipped with a television, and there is a computer room and a game room filled with video games. The Children's Inn is a private, non-profit, family-centered residence for pediatric outpatients at NIH and their families.

**OI Foundation Support Groups and Advisory Committee Aid in Family Strength**

Involvement in an OI Foundation support group serves as another source of strength and community for the family. They began participating in the Ohio support group in 1995, when Jonathan was three weeks old, to connect with other families living with OI. The meetings enable them to share experiences and build friendships close to home. With help from the local community, the Reeds have helped host the Ohio group's annual holiday party.

"We get so much out of being involved in the OI cause," said Theresa. That is why she and Jonathan participated on the Foundation Advisory Committee that helped create *Jason's First Day!,* a children's picture book. Using Jonathan as the artist's model, the book tells the story of a child with OI's first day of school, highlighting similarities as well as differences between Jason and the rest of his class. It was written to help parents, educators, and students feel more comfortable when a child with OI is introduced to the classroom for the first time. This valuable resource is now available in public libraries across the nation.

So, what's next for the Reed family? Jonathan, like many 10-year-old boys, plans to enjoy his summer playing baseball, video games, and having sleepovers with his friends. Theresa and Rich intend to continue living strong through their ongoing commitment to OI research and OI Foundation programs.

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**White House Offers Internship Program**

The White House Internship Program offers an excellent opportunity to serve our President and explore public service. Exceptional candidates are encouraged to apply for this highly competitive program. In addition to normal office duties, interns attend weekly lectures, tours, and complete an intern service project. Interns may serve a term in the Fall, Spring or Summer. All candidates must be at least 18, hold U.S. Citizenship, and be enrolled in a college or university.

For additional information, go to [http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/wh-intern.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/wh-intern.html).

To apply, read, and complete the White House Intern Application. A strong application includes the following:

- sound academic credentials
- history of community involvement and leadership
- solid verbal/written communication skills
- demonstrated interest in public service

Completed application materials must be submitted to Karen Race, Deputy Director and Intern Coordinator in the office of White House Personnel, at intern_application@whitehouse.gov prior to **October 13, 2006**, for the Spring 2007 term - (January 9 to May 11, 2007). If you have questions you may contact Karen Race by phone, (202) 456-5979 or by e-mail, intern_application@whitehouse.gov.


**GEMMA from page 1**

challenges of OI. Just as a building is only as strong as its foundation, the OI Foundation is strong today because of its founders. Most importantly, as a parent of a child with OI, the Foundation was there for us when we didn't know what we were going to do."

Gemma helped organize the first medical conference for physicians and geneticists at Shriners Hospital in Chicago in 1972. She helped set up the Michael Geisman Memorial Research Fellowship Fund. She became the Foundation's first Executive Director (1981-1987). Gemma served on the Advisory Council and on the Nominating Committee for many years. She served on the Foundation's Board of Directors for 30 years, (1970-1981, 1987-2006) serving as second and first vice president, and as president (1977-1980) and was elected Lifetime Board Member in 1987 and Founding Director in 2004.

At their May 5, 2006 board meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously resolved to offer appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Gemma for her extraordinary years of dedicated service to the OI Foundation as our Founder (1968-2006).

Gemma helped the Foundation improve the quality of life for people with OI across the United States and around the world. The base she provided the OI Foundation is unbreakable. Gemma contributed more than anyone else to fulfillment of the Foundation’s mission. Simply stated, it is awesome and awe inspiring to think of the people who have benefited because of Gemma’s leadership, energy and dedication to the OI community and the mission of the OI Foundation. Board President Jamie Kendall agrees: “I know that as a person with OI, there is a direct correlation between my high quality of life and Gemma’s energy and spirit to assist people with OI by starting the OI Foundation.”

Without Gemma the OI Foundation would not exist. Her leadership and continued involvement in our work allowed the Foundation to make enormous strides for people with OI and she will continue to inspire the work of our board.

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**GIVING from page 14**

added to this list, so be sure to check the agency list on your state’s charitable campaign documents.

**United Way** - You may designate all or part of your United Way gift to the OI Foundation in most areas of the country. Simply write the OI Foundation's full name and address on your designation form.

You may find that some local United Ways only allow out-of-area designations to be made to other United Ways. In that case, we recommend that you designate your gift to the "United Way of Central Maryland for the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation" and then include our full mailing address.

Thank you for your support of the OI Foundation through your workplace giving campaign!

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**GET INVOLVED BY ...**

**JOINING A NETWORK OR SUPPORT GROUP**

Many network and support groups are planning spring or summer meetings. Check the Events Calendar at www.oif.org to find a meeting in your area, or contact the support or network group leader. For more information, contact Marie Maffey at mmaffey@oif.org.

**JOINING THE OI REGISTRY**

Join the OI Registry by visiting www.oosteogenesisimperfecta.org/oir or by visiting the Foundation’s website at www.oif.org.

If you don’t have Internet access, or have questions as you register, OI Registry staff based at the OI Clinic at the Kennedy-Krieger Institute are available to assist you. Call (443) 923-2703 to speak to someone at the registry office. Representatives from the registry office will also be available at the 15th National Conference on OI in Omaha, NE, to assist you in filling out the registry information.
Adults with OI and People concerned with Type I OI will have separate opportunities to ask questions to a panel of physicians. Also new this year will be separate Ask the Doctor sessions for teens with OI and their siblings. (Young people under age 18 will need parental permission to attend.)

A new feature will be Friday morning seminars. Managing OI for Parents and Managing OI for Adults will each be set up in a different ballroom at the hotel and feature short presentations from 6 different medical specialists. Here is the schedule.

Managing OI for Parents, Friday July 21, 9-11:30 a.m.
Orthopedics (Francois Fassier, MD),
Physical Activity & Exercise (Holly Cintas, PT, PhD),
Interdisciplinary Care (Francis Glorieux, OC, M.D., Ph.D.),
Psychology and Social Needs (Rose-Marie Chiasson, BSW)
Genetics (Joan Marini, MD, PhD),
Research Update (David Rowe, MD)

Managing OI for Adults with OI, Friday July 21, 9-11:30 a.m.
Overview of Adult Health Issues (Jay Shapiro, MD)
Orthopedics (Paul Sponseller, MD)
Osteoporosis & OI (Michael Whyte, MD)
Dental Issues (James Hartsfield Jr., DMD., PhD)
Genetics (Matt Warman, MD)
Research Update (Matt Warman, MD)

Back by popular demand is an expanded version of the Wellness Fair that debuted at the 2004 Dallas conference. A dozen organizations will be represented with displays, people and information on a wide range of topics. Look for this on Thursday morning.

At 10 a.m. on Thursday morning, orientation for first time attendees will be offered. Members of the OI Foundation Board of Directors and staff will answer questions about the conference program and suggest ways for getting the most out of the conference experience. At 11 a.m., David Rowe, MD will present OI the Basics. This talk is a good introduction to the medical topics covered in more detail during the rest of conference. The conference officially opens at 1:30 p.m. with the Key Note address by Lynn Gerber, MD, one of the authors of the OI Foundation’s exercise book, Children with OI: Strategies to Enhance Performance. The Key Note will address fitness for all ages.

Favorite events from previous conferences include fun receptions on Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon, the peer-to-peer sessions on Thursday evening, and 36 different small group sessions.

Saturday evening will wrap up the Conference with the Awards Dinner and Dance.

If you’re not able to attend this summer’s conference you can still benefit from the National Conference in several ways. Check out the reports in the daily journals that will be posted on the OI Foundation website (www.oif.org) each evening, July 20-22. After July 30, you can request a copy of the Conference Program Book from the OI Foundation. It contains a description of each session plus contact information for each speaker. Information from the conference sessions will be published in the OI Foundation’s newsletter, Breakthrough, and the web site during the year following the Conference.

The next National Conference on OI will be held in August 2008. The city will be announced at the Awards Dinner.
Teen Room Rocks

Teens that are registered for the National Conference are always welcome to attend any of the program sessions with their parents. For the rest of the time, a “Teen Room” is available. It is a comfortable place to hang out, watch movies, play games, listen to music and visit with other young people who have OI and their brothers and sisters. The Shaw family from Tennessee, with help from their own teenage children, is returning to manage the room and make sure that everyone has a good time.

Special speakers will visit the teen room. They will offer information on topics such as learning to drive, becoming your own best advocate, and makeup and skin care for young women. On Thursday evening there will be an opportunity to talk about friendship, dating and relationships.

“Teens with OI Ask the Doctor” and “Siblings Talk with the Doctor,” sessions will offer the chance to ask questions directly to a doctor in a small group setting. Dr. Deborah Wenkert from the Shriners Hospital for Children in St. Louis will be the doctor in the hot seat. Parent permission slips for these Ask-the-Doctor sessions will be included in the registration materials.

Zoo Night in Omaha

Lions, tigers, bears, exotic birds, snakes, sharks and apes. These are a few of the attractions at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha.

On Friday, July 21, this world famous attraction will be open for the private enjoyment of people attending the National Conference on OI. All of the major animal areas will be open. The most popular exhibit buildings are a short walk from the entrance. The exotic bird dome features a ramped walkway that allows you to stroll among the birds. The aquarium features a shark tank that visitors can walk through. Another popular exhibit features creatures that only come out in the dark. (Erika I remember that there was a level walkway. Please check the brochure to make sure that wheelchairs can do this exhibit.)

Zoo tickets cover a box dinner and admission to the zoo. Transportation for those with or without wheelchairs is available for a small fee. Parking at the zoo is free for those who will have a car in Omaha. See the conference registration brochure or the conference section of the OI Foundation web site (www.oif.org) to sign up.

BE FIT Opportunities

This summer’s National Conference will help everyone focus on fitness and exercise. Here are a few highlights:

- Dr. Lynn Gerber’s keynote speech will provide lots of fitness ideas.
- The director of the Therapeutic Aquatics program at the University of Washington will talk about swimming for kids and adults with OI.
- A panel of adults with OI will talk about their personal exercise programs.

Each morning will open with the chance to sample an exercise class. Yoga is scheduled for Friday.

Saturday morning will feature a new event at this summer’s national conference-- the Roll and Stroll for Fitness. A short course will be set up around the parking lot in front of the hotel. Participants will be able to walk or roll at their own pace. Each participant will be asked to estimate how long it will take them to complete the course. The people who finish the closest to their estimates will be declared winners in their category.

So join us at conference for an opportunity not only to stretch your minds, but also your body.
Connie Alsum
Gerrit & Marion Alsum
Peter Boes
Mr. Joel Anderson
Mr. Jeffrey Armitage
Mr. Mark Berman
Mr. Jonathan Preston Fisher
Ms. Michele Gamboa
Mr. & Mrs. David Gill
Ms. Cheryl Gill
Mr. & Mrs. David Gill
Mr. Bryant Hansen
Mr. Bryan Hayward
Mr. Michael Herrington
Ms. Victoria Lachance
Mr. David Starr
Mr. Brad Verke
Mrs. Elizabeth Willey
Ms. Denise Wilson
Connor Fulse
Mrs. Marlee Baker
Susman Family Foundation
Todd Freeman
C.W. & Linda Merriman
Cole Griffith
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brasher
Dan & Amanda Hartman
Ronald & Carole Pettus
Mr. & Mrs. S.B. Smith, III
Jason & Cayce Williams
Jude Groomes (1st Birthday)
North Carroll Middle School
Kathleen Kealy & Gerard Haggerty (Wedding)
Carl & Marilyn Boro
Jon Hinson
Jack & Diana Christiana
Larry & Nancy Cook
Stephen & Lois Ferrell
Dr. & Mrs. Guy M. Lewis
Robin & Tina Shoemaker
Robert & Donna Stephen
Mailie Holman
Gerard & Marie Hough
Ms. Margaret Lucas
Ms. Jocye Martin
Sacred Heart Academy
Jessie Lacy
Mr. Richard Alcantara
Mr. Larry Lacy
Mr. Rich Maki
Braxton Mabey (1st Birthday)
Mr. Michael Babincak, Ill
Kevin & Chantel Cohen
Ms. Sylvia Dubick
Michael & Danielle Farri
Shawn & Laura Fowler
Bruce & Erin Hawks
Larry & Marilyn Kay
Sean & Tina Mabey
Wayne & Yvonne Mabey
Kenneth & Charlene Mabey
Terry & Diann McCarthy
Richard Ramey & Randy Amerson
Mr. Michael Schiro
Ms. Nicole Schleier
Tom & Colleen Shea
Dan & Sharon Toon
Clay & Rhett Ursu
Terry Vandermaas
Kenneth & Terena Washington
Caleb Marston
Grady & Jewel Buchanan
Cody Melton
Chester & Norma Glidden
Kyle Miller
Jeff & Lisa Johnson
Lauren Miller (Sweet 16th Birthday)
Philip & Bess Shockey
Nathan Moore
Ms. Barbara Mayben
Mark & Kim McCall
Alan Motes
Terry & Becki Cagle
Diaz & Associates
Scott & Vickie Ferguson
Stan & Penny Foley
Johnnie & Carol Laman
The Mulcahy Family
Paul & Deane Shatz
Christopher Nolan
Mike & Jill Fileccia
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Phillips, Jr.
Matthew Phillips
Ray & Mary Ann Price
Dr. Theodore Safford, Jr.
Mr. Charles Weilbrenner
Liz Schmidt
Mrs. Marita Connolly Schmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Murphy
Pleasantdale Presbyterian Church
Michael Stewart
Mr. W. Dana LaForge
Betty Walker Stroud (Birthday)
Ms. Amber Renegar
Maggie Warner
Ms. Mary Jane Foster
Karen Whitmore
Ms. Linda Eckenrode
Addie Wisniewski
Volney & Kathleen M. Taylor
Richard Wright
Wesley Memorial U.M.W.
In memory of:

Charles E. Adams
Carol & Mary Ann Rispoli

Ramona Anderson
Mrs. Ardhith Bull & the Schnell Family
Clements Financial Services, Inc.
Paul & Marcia Hahn
Ms. Marjorie Hanifan
Milton & Diana Hansen
Herbert & Virginia Harp
Lyle & Jane Jerrett
Mrs. Patricia Kudart
Lowell & Allison Mather
Ms. Eileen Mount
Ms. Kaye O'Neal
Harry & Shirley Shatzer
Ms. Margaret Wilson

Guy H. Beals
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Beals

Frank Bernstein
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gojer

Megan J. Blackwood
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Blackwood

Paul Braconnier
Mrs. Cecile Mason

Justin C. Buscher
Bill & Barb Dahlkamp
Ms. Debbie Hall
John, Susan & Kevin Klemm
Greg & Valerie Klunick
Ms. Mary Kulek & Family
Scott & Julie Leavely
Tom & Sharon Lucchesi
Ernest & Arlene Minder
Gary & Kim Minder
Terry & Leigh Ann Minder
Mick & Pam Minder
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Ted, Judy & Nicholas Sunder
Marty & Denise Vespa
Tony & Dawna Weyant

Eunice Christensen
Randall & Deb Warner

Ashley Renee Cummings
Care Net Pregnancy Center
Gateway Booster Club
PanWest Past Exalted Ruler Association

Elise Deakins
Gerald & Dixie Hertel

Jenni DeLuccia
John & Patricia DeLuccia
Ms. Elizabeth Ryan
Mr. Pete Vladyka

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Mr. Donald Dillon
Ms. Aileen Potter

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Sean Alexander Garrison
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John C. Harris
Wilbur & Nancy Harris

Jeanette Hennessy
Jim & Chris Common
Melican Middle School’s Sunshine Fund
Mrs. Betty Sander

Robert Hughes
Ms. Susan Stackhouse

Millie Jessup
Mrs. Rosalind James

William E. Johnson
Mrs. Clara Bartholomee & Family
Mr. C. Hamilton Nunnally
Ms. Doris Mulbauer

Gordon Johnston
Vicki Collins, M.D.
David & Irene Daul & Family
Dale & Ellen Dehaan
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Kenneth & Carol Farnish
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Ms. Dorothy Johnston
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Glenn & Madeline Kinsman
Ms. Loretta Lass
Mrs. Peggy Marttila
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Willfrid & Annette Boucher
Ms. Jeannette Byrnes
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Richard & Barbara Cunningham
Ms. Donna Dibello
Gemini Valve, Inc.
Lambert Funeral Home, Inc.
Ms. Elizabeth Reaick
Kendall & Martha Snow
Mr. & Mrs. Norman St. Amand
Robert & Cecile Sullivan
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Wanda Ottinger
Gerald & Dixie Hertel

Barry O. Parker
Alton & Amy Adkins
Paul & Jennifer Crow
Employees at Navasota Valley
Port Terminal Railroad
Reid & Ann Williams

Sarah Perlis
Carolyn & August Spector

Nancy Poupart
Ms. Elizabeth Preston

IN MEMORY OF:

Gail Ann Sacchetti
Ms. Eleanor Crissman
John & Betty Dinella
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William & Eleanor Hilliard
Ms. Janet Koch
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Doug & Patricia Rhodes
Ms. Catherine Sargent
Robert & Lynn Sharrar
Donald & Margaret Virtue
Harry & Annmarie Watts
Frank & Mary Wick
Ray & Margery Young

Charles "Chuck" Sheehan
Mr. Archibald Smith

Michael Shultz
Michael and Nancy Marotta

Edmond Somekh
Ms. Odille Hansen

Moshi Somekh
Ms. Odille Hansen

Gracie Sonneborn
Donn & Mary Anne Davis

Timothy Richard Stedman
Jeffrey & Sharon Stedman

Gloria Thomas
Mrs. Patricia Plunkett

June Thompson
Michael & Sally Fayles
Marty, Judy & Olivia Kleinman
Ms. Debra Stasik
Mr. Mark Tormey
Paul & Lynn Wagner

Edna Tierney
Douglass & Terice Chapman
Ms. Beverly Sherman
Ms. Norma Tierney
Anthony & Ellen Tufaro

Dan Tisius
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Polakoff

Jack Wolf
Carlos & Iliana Olvera