



SBAGNO News

Spina Bifida Association of Greater New Orleans, Inc.
This newsletter is funded by proceeds from the Turkey Day Race.
Credentialed Member of the Spina Bifida Association of America

Spina Bifida
Association
of America

P.O. Box 1346 Kenner, La 70063
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Fall 2007 Edition

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
September 28th, 29th, 30th

Alligator Festival

West Bank Bridge Park
In Luling under 310 bridge

See page 5 for details

October 1st—October 31st

Adopt a Ghost Fundraiser

See page 7 for details

Sunday October 21, 2007 1st Annual SBAGNO Bowl-A-Thon

12:30 pm—2:30 pm

Colonial Bowling Lanes
6801 Jefferson Highway
Harahan

See insert for details

Thursday November 22, 2007

100th Annual Turkey Day Race

In City Park

See page 7 for details



OCTOBER IS

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

Spina bifida is a common life-long birth defect. Every day eight babies are born with a birth defect like Spina Bifida. No two people are affected with Spina Bifida in the same way. For many, Spina Bifida means full or partial paralysis and numerous physical, psychological, and educational challenges over the lifespan.

The Awareness Campaign focuses on informing communities across the country about what Spina Bifida is and how taking the B-vitamin folic acid everyday can help reduce the risk of Spina Bifida by up to 70 percent. With more than 70,000 Americans living with Spina Bifida, our overarching goal of the annual Awareness Campaign is to foster the acceptance, inclusion and well-being of people with Spina Bifida.

For more information or to download fact sheets, go to www.sbaa.org.

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Create A BUZZ! is a word of mouth campaign. Tell your friends, family, and co-workers about Spina Bifida and the B-vitamin, folic acid, the next time you see them. And ask them to tell someone too! Pass it on!



President's Update.....

by Al Hitt, III

The next few months are packed with great events that promise to be fun and will help us raise money too! During September, October and November SBAGNO is holding four different Fund Raising events. Our first is a food booth at the Alligator Festival in St. Charles Parish at the West Bank Bridge Park under Interstate 3-10. The Festival runs September 28th thru the 30th. We are in need of volunteers to help us with our food booth. Our Head Chef is Jon Johnston and he is looking for our members to volunteer for 3 hour shifts to help serve smoked brisket, smoked turkey and gumbo. Please contact Jon at jon@morrisonstomy.com or 504 737 5181.

Our second event is a month long event, our "Adopt a Ghost" program. Cindy Thomas is handling the Ghost adoptions. She is looking for Foster Parents that can help her place the adorable Ghost in schools, banks, and businesses for everyone to see. The hope is that for a small fee of only \$1.00 these ghosts will be adopted by some one special so we can raise awareness of Spina Bifida in the community and raise money to support our mission as well. We have set a goal of \$5000 for our first year. Please contact Cindy at thomasfly@cox.net for further information and to order your ghosts.

Our third event is our First Annual Bowl a thon. The event is being held at Colonial Bowl Center in Harahan, Louisiana on October 21st from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. We are going to bowl for 2 hours have fun and even give out door prizes!! There will be prizes for the Best Halloween Costume in adult and child age group. Can't bowl? ... Don't worry ... no one has to keep score. Teams can be a minimum of 4 to a maximum of 6 bowlers. Each bowler needs to raise at least \$50 to bowl. Simple ask 5 of your friends for \$10 and your have the minimum. Ask 10 of your friends or family members for \$10 and you have a \$100.00. Awards will be given out for the person and team that raise the most. Even if you don't want to bowl you can raise money and awareness about Spina Bifida. Come out, spend a couple of hours watching the event and have some fun. We have enclosed the brochure/ registration form with this newsletter. Simply fill out the registration part and mail it back to SBAGNO PO Box 1346 Kenner, LA 70063 by October 13th to secure a lane for your team. If you need more information, please email Al Hitt at alhitt@bellsouth.net or call 985-209-1554.

Our fourth event is the 100 Anniversary of the Turkey Day Race. This is a 5 mile run or walk event hosted by the New Orleans Athletic Club. This is an Historic Race that has benefited local charities since 1986. Spina Bifida of Greater New Orleans has been a benefactor for years. The race funds have helped cover the cost of Camp Friendship, our summer camp for kids with Spina Bifida. Special thanks goes to Ron Schulingkamp and the New Orleans Athletic Club for all their hard work each year. If you would like to enter the race go to www.turkeydayrace.com for registration. The race this year is being held on Thanksgiving morning November 22, 2007. We look forward to seeing you there.

SBAGNO is looking for individuals to help with our fund raising events. If you would like to get more involved with SBAGNO, email us at sbagnosbagnos.org or call 504 737 5181. All money raised will be use "to promote the prevention of Spina bifida and to support the needs of individuals with Spina bifida and related disorders".

Al Hitt, III

SBAGNO
Board of Directors

President:	Al Hitt III
Vice President:	Judith Otto
Treasurer:	Wendy Linebarger
Recording Sect'y	Julie Johnston
Board Members:	Cindy Barrios Debbie Blanchard Rita Graham Virginia Graham Ann Hitt Jon Johnston Ron Schulingkamp Brent Smith Margaret Smith Mary Zeringue
Admin./Outreach	
Assistant:	Julie Johnston
Camp Director:	Cindy Barrios
Newsletter Editor:	Judith Otto
Webmaster:	Al Hitt,III
	Coordinators:
Turkey Day Race:	Ron Schulingkamp
Slam-N-Jam	Cindy Barrios John Smitsted
Grant writing:	Sylvia Shally
Newsletter:	Judith Otto Julie Johnston
E-Mail:	Julie Johnston

With Heartfelt Sadness...
Remembering Faith Marie Cantrelle



Faith Marie Cantrelle passed away and entered heaven at the age of 27 at her home in New Braunfels, Texas on Tuesday September 18, 2007. Faith Marie was born in Metairie Louisiana on January 13, 1980 to her parents David and Blanche Cantrelle.

Faith Marie brought much joy and happiness to all who had the opportunity to know her. Her love for other people and her love for life made it a joy to be around her. Her favorite activities were going to Chucky Cheese, daycare, Spina Bifida camp and church with her family.

She will be lovingly remembered by her parents, Blanche and David Cantrelle, her brother Adam Cantrelle, her grandparents Gene Cantrelle, Patricia Mata, and Arthur Mata, her nephew "Lil" Adam Cantrelle as well as a multitude of other family and friends. Faith Marie's "Pee Paw", Gerald Cantrelle passed away July 16, 2000.

Visitation was held at the Leitz Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Memorial Blvd Metairie Louisiana on Friday September 21 from 6pm to 9pm and a "Celebration of her life" service was held on Saturday September 22 at 10 am with Charles Wale officiating. Burial followed at St Louis #3 Cemetery, 3421 Esplanade Ave New Orleans.

New Recommendations & Findings on Folic Acid's Benefits

Reporting on a new scientific statement published in the May 22 issue of the journal *Circulation*, an American Heart Association (AHA) statement endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) identifies four key recommendations for prospective mothers. One of these urges women of childbearing age to "take a multivitamin containing 400 micrograms (mcg) of folic acid or a folic acid supplement, "noting that "folic acid is critical to the normal growth and development of the fetus and appears to have a protective effect against the development of heart effects" and that "Data suggest intake of folic acid is particularly important prior to conception." Women of childbearing age have long been encouraged to get 400 mcg of folic acid daily in order to reduce the risk of neural tube birth defects, especially Spina bifida. And according to the Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN), recent scientific findings point toward folic acid's potential for benefits beyond reducing the risk of birth defects. For more on the AHA statement and new research on folic acid's effects, click here - http://www.crnusa.org/PR07_CRN_AHA-FOLIC060507.html

Camp Friendship 2007 ... There's No Place Like Home



This year's camp was a huge success! There truly is no place like home. Camp was attended by 38 individuals, 40 volunteers, and 4 babies. This year's activities included face painting, crafts, games, and swimming. We took a trip to Mardi Gras World and even went to Bayou Segnette State Park. The food was great and everyone worked very hard to make this camp a success.

We would like to extend a thank you to the numerous volunteers and contributors that made camp possible including but not limited to: Slam-n-Jam, Paradise Manor Community Club, Daily Volunteers, Randy Laumann/Cool Air, Nabisco, Frito-Lay, Browns Velvet, Fat Greg's Pizza, Paul and Darlene Elmer, Coca Cola, Hope Mazzeno, Baker Family, Gary Garrison/Garrison Digital, Kim Lawrence, Diaz Family, Knights of Columbus, Robert Barrios, Jim & Sylvia Shalley, Southern Scrap, Dennis & Bob Nolan, Piggly Wiggly, Winn Dixie, Dominos, Capdesboscq Catering, Mardi Gras World, Faye Graham, Julie Meyer, Karen Coogler, Jon Johnston, Les Kittrell Medical Supply, Al Hitt, Kerry Mitchell, Plum Street Snowballs, Shell Oil Credit Union/Keith Fontcueberta.

Camp would also not be possible with out the dedication and hard work of Ms. Cindy Barrios, Ms. Julie Johnston, Ms. Sue Hutto, Mr. Al Hitt, Ms. Ann Hitt, and Ms. Wendy Linebarger. Thank you for another year of fun!



All Star ...

Katie LeBlanc, 10, a fourth grader at Broadmoor Elementary School in Baton Rouge, auditioned for and was accepted into the 2007-08 Mid City Dance Project, Inc. Junior Company in Baton Rouge. As part of the Junior Company, she will be participating in the following performances in 2007-2008.

-Giraffes Can't Dance at the Louisiana Book Festival on November 3, 2007

-The Inner City Nutcracker on December 6-8.

-The Fading Line: a Commemoration of the 1953 Baton Rouge Bus Boycott on February 15-16

-Transformations, the premier of a brand new, original work on April 4-5

-Fest-For-All in early May

Katie participated in "The Inner City Nutcracker" last year but this is the first year they have had a Junior Company. Katie is the only member of the Junior Company who uses a wheelchair. She hopes everyone will get a chance to see her perform.

From her proud mom - Nancy LeBlanc

Rotary Club of St. Charles Parish

Alligator Festival

Westbank Bridge Park Under 3-10 Bridge



SBAGNO will have a food booth and will be selling smoked brisket, smoked turkey, and gumbo as a fundraiser and community awareness opportunity.

*Friday September 28 – 6 pm – 11 pm
Saturday September 29 – 11 am – 11 pm
Sunday September 30 – 11 am – 9 pm*

*We need help to man the booth in 3 hour time blocks.
Please contact Jon Johnston at jon@morrisonostomy.com to sign up to volunteer.*

Emergency Preparedness

Are you prepared for a severe public health emergency? Many people stock up on water, bread, and canned goods, but forget about their medication. Rx Response has developed a tool to help you prepare for your medication needs during a severe public health emergency.

[Print a Medication Wallet Card.](#) After you answer a few questions, this tool will help you to prepare fully for a severe public health emergency by generating a wallet-size card with vital information—including the medications you take regularly and any medication allergies you'll need to watch out for during a severe public health emergency. You should store a hard copy in a safe place, and perhaps send a copy to a trusted friend or relative outside your geographic area for use as a reference should the need arise.

Go to <http://www.rxresponse.org/web/guest/home2> for more information and to "Print a Medication Wallet Card."

Want to stay more informed Join a Spina Bifida eCommunity

Please select from the **ListServ options below:**

NEW! [SBA Occulta Listserv](#)

This listserv is a networking opportunity for the Spina Bifida Occulta community.

[Nursing and Healthcare Professional Council's \(NHPC\) Listserv](#)

The purpose of this list is to provide an online discussion resource for nurses, nursing students, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and other health care personnel who are routinely involved in the treatment and care of individuals with Spina bifida.

[SB Parents Listserv](#)

The SB Parents Listserv is for any parent of a child who has Spina bifida. Use the SB Parents list to exchange ideas, resources, debate, and have some great discussions.

[Youth and Adult Alliance \(YAA\) Listserv](#)

The YAA is a link for adults with spina bifida, young and old, to communicate with each other about a wide range of issues of common interest.

[YAA BLOG](#)

Link into the Spina Bifida Community. You'll meet fascinating people, learn about the latest treatments and research and find out about the most recent events that affect adults of all ages living and thriving with spina bifida. The YAA BLOG is updated regularly so visit often.



Having trouble with school issues?

Project PROMPT has been funded by a grant from the United States Department of Education since 1986 and is a program of Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans. We provide information and training to parents of children with disabilities and professionals on the rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (referred to as IDEA'97), and related federal and state laws.

Project PROMPT provides individual assistance and personal consultations to assist in securing the most appropriate educational program to meet the needs of your child

For further information or to request assistance, contact **Project PROMPT** 201 Evans Road, Building 1, Suite 100 Harahan, LA 70123 1-504-888-9111, 1-800-766-7736 (toll free).



SBAGNO

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**Spina Bifida Association of
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****A non-profit organization****

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