



# Christopher's Community

...assisting children who have muscular dystrophy in the Tampa Bay area

Dear friends,

Fall Into Margaritaville 2007 was a night to remember for many reasons. We shared great sadness at the loss of Jennifer Nolletti in a catastrophic accident just minutes prior to the event. Jennifer was a local art teacher whose mother, Rosemary is very special to Christopher's Community, and whose fiancé, Joe, is part of a band that was to perform for our guests. We experienced great shock and sadness as details of the accident unfolded that evening. We knew that the entry to Ruth Eckerd Hall and Mc Mullen Booth Road were blocked for much of the evening due to the accident, and therefore weren't sure how Fall Into Margaritaville would, or could, progress.

Despite the challenges of the night, there was an amazing show of support for Christopher's Community. Many waited in traffic for a long time trying to reach Ruth Eckerd Hall only to be turned away by officials mistakenly saying that the event was closed. To our surprise, numerous others parked their cars some distance away and walked to Ruth Eckerd Hall, some more than a mile, and some in the rain. Before we were able to regroup from news of the accident, we looked around us to find that the event had taken on a life of its own. Despite the tragic circumstances, and thanks to all of your love and support, Christopher's Community held it's 3rd annual event, raising more than \$22,000. This will go a long way toward the purchase of an accessible van for this years' very worthy recipients, Ryan and Jamie Coton.

Ryan and his mother Jamie spoke at the event, demonstrating what special people they are. In a note to Christopher's Community, Jamie said, "Our heart goes out to the families touched by this accident....Ryan and I realize that it took a lot of strength to continue on with the event given the tragedy....I felt loved and cared about beyond expectation." We are so excited at the opportunity to help this wonderful family. They have strengthened our commitment to our mission of assisting families in Tampa Bay who have children with muscular dystrophy

We cannot thank you enough for your tremendous support of Christopher's Community, Ryan and Jamie Coton, and Jennifer Nolletti's family We will be in touch again to let you know the date for Fall into Margaritaville 2008

Sincerely,

Christopher's Community

Tracie Wiechmann

Denise Menendez

Sue Moores

Coleen Kiley

Trish Johnson

Lori Robson

Deborah DeVito

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