



Duke Laptop Project

April 2006 - Foundation Obtains Support for Laptops

The Evansky Foundation recently reached an agreement with Duke University Children's Hospital for the Hospital to provide information technology support for the laptops that the Foundation recently donated to the pediatric blood and marrow transplant unit at Duke University. Karen Fedyszyn, a Foundation board member, was instrumental in obtaining the support. Previously, the computers were serviced by volunteers in their free time. Now, families using the computers will receive consistent support from trained IT professionals. This generous contribution from the IT support group has a value of more than \$10,000 per year!

January 2006 - Duke Laptop Donation



From left: Jane Schroeder - Duke Family Support, Jana Campbell - Hewlett-Packard, Bob Evansky - The Evansky Foundation, Mark Coen - Carotek, Dr. Suhag Parikh - Duke PBMT, and Barb Hoskins - The Evansky Foundation

After spending nearly two months on Duke University Children's Hospitals bone marrow transplant unit ("5200") with their son Jack, Bob and Sonya Evansky identified a need for laptops for each room. Using a laptop borrowed from a friend allowed them to communicate with friends and family, and provided a vital link to the outside world while Jack was isolated on the unit. Most families on the unit, however, didn't have a computer of their own. The Family Support Center on 5200 had two desk tops for use by patients and their families, but due to demand, the computers were not always available, plus they were located outside of the patient's room.

In an effort to meet this need, a partnership was forged between The Evansky Foundation and Hewlett-Packard (HP). The agreement provided laptops at a reduced cost for each of the 16 patient rooms on the pediatric bone marrow transplant ward, plus HP agreed to donate two extra machines. In addition, The Evansky Foundation donated one gently used laptop. Mark Coen, a former HP sales representative who is now with Carotek, facilitated the arrangement. The business laptops include a DVD/CD-RW combo drive along with wireless Internet capabilities. In addition, an HP color laser printer will be available for use by the patient families. The computers will be used by patients to watch movies, instant message friends back home, and surf child-friendly Internet sites. Parents and other caregivers can also use the laptops to maintain contact with friends and family, update CaringBridge web pages, and manage finances while they are away from home. The equipment was delivered to 5200 in mid-January 2006.

While at Duke, Barb Hoskins, a director of The Evanosky Foundation and K-9 educator, also met with local educators who work with student patients isolated on 5200. "It is our hope that we, The Evanosky Foundation and the Home Hospital Educators, will form a 'partnership' working together to best utilize these laptops to enhance and enrich the learning process for the children of 5200. Whether it be search for the most age-appropriate software, locating web-based learning programs, providing support for touchscreen technology, or supplying a fund for consumable items - most everything that needs to be touched by students - we want to help the Duke Hospital School Educators take these kids to an outstanding world of learning," Hoskins said. At this time, the hospital educators are creating a prioritized wish list of software and educational items that The Evanosky Foundation could donate and/or fund.

To read news stories about the event, visit:

- [Son's Lifesaving Transplant Inspires Dad to Donate Laptops to Duke](#)
- [Father Buys Computers for Duke Hospital Pediatric Unit](#)
- [Heartfelt Gift at Duke](#)
- [The Evanosky Foundation "Connects" With the Duke Team!](#)
- [Family, Hewlett-Packard Donate Computers to Duke Hospital](#)
- [Father Says Thank You With Laptops](#)