

Bthe OTHERS of MERCY

WELLNESS CAMPUS

Summer 2025 Newsletter

















Medicare's Highest Rating



Dear Friends,

For over a century, The Brothers of Mercy has stood as a beacon of compassion, faith, and excellence in care across Western New York.

Our legacy is grounded in the love of Christ and the mission of The Brothers of Mercy ... serving with empathy, purpose, and integrity. While our history is rich, our future is just as inspiring.

Over the past year, we have taken intentional time to reflect on who we are and how we want to "show up" for our residents, team members, families, and one another. Together with our founders,

By Jennifer Blackchief, COO

Board of Directors, leaders, and staff, we have carefully reviewed and refined our core values. These values are more than guiding principles; they are the heartbeat of our campus and the foundation of our every word, action, and intention.

I'm proud to share this renewed vision with you, rooted in our spiritual heritage and shaped by the voices of those who walk our halls each day. As we move forward into our second century of service, we are committed to weaving these values into every part of The Brothers of Mercy experience.

Our Core Values:

Compassion

Care for the whole person—body, mind and spirit, considering each person's hopes, needs and dreams.

Accountability

Be stewards of time, assets and resources.

Respect

Serve one another with kindness, dignity and fairness, understanding that every person is important and valued.

Integrity

Strive to do what is right, speak the truth and act with care and responsibility, even when it is hard.

Teamwork

Work together for and with each other; listen, help each other and share ideas.

These values are not just words... they're our promise. A promise to remain unwavering in our mission, compassionate in our care, and united in our purpose.

Thank you for being part of our community, and for walking with us as we continue our journey.

With gratitude,

Jennife Blackchief



We Want to Hear From You ~ Take the Employee Engagement Survey!

Dear Brothers of Mercy Team,

We're excited to launch our Employee Engagement Survey, and we want your voice to be heard. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and helps us understand what we're doing well and where we can improve to make our workplace even better. The survey takes only about 5 minutes to complete. Our goal is 80% participation (500 employees).

- Deadline to Complete: Friday, August 8
- Survey Link: You will receive the survey via a Paycom message sent to your email

This is your opportunity to share your thoughts on leadership, communication, culture, and overall job satisfaction. Your input will directly shape the actions we take to enhance our workplace experience.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

The Campus Apparel Store is Open Through Aug. 17!

We have opened <u>The Brothers of Mercy Apparel Store</u>. The store is open to team members, residents, families and anyone else who may be interested. We will have five pick- up locations on campus, making it convenient for everyone. The store will be open through August 17.

We have added several new items, along with kid sizes for certain items to support your "Back to School" needs!

Our partners at <u>Stuarts Sports</u> generously donate a small percentage of each sale to The Brother of Mercy Foundation.

Mental Health Counseling Available On Campus!

Alicia Kohlhagen is a licensed clinical social worker offering mental health counseling services both in person and virtually. She specializes in mood and anxiety disorders and she has experience providing trainings and support for healthcare workers as they navigate the challenges of caretaking. She accepts Aetna, Highmark, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Independent Health and Univera health insurances. You can call or text to schedule a free 15 minute phone consultation anytime to **716-344-0809 or email at aliciakohlhagenlcswr@gmail.com**





The Brothers of Mercy Presents Oktoberfest With 5K Run & Walk on Sept. 12 Early-Bird Registration Saves \$5 Through August 12!

The Brothers of Mercy is pleased to present its annual Oktoberfest event with 5K race and walk fundraiser for its Campus Foundation on Friday, Sept, 12 at 5:30 p.m. at 4520 Ransom Rd. in Clarence.

Oktoberfest also includes a 5K race and walk at 6:30 p.m. Runners, walkers and event attendees can register at BrothersofMercy.org. The running and walking fee is \$35 and includes a long-sleeve T-shirt for the first 300 people who sign up, food and one free beverage ticket. The party-only ticket is \$20 for food, one beverage and music. Online registration ends on Sept. 10 at 11:59 p.m.

The Polka Boyz, the house band at Hofbrauhaus Buffalo, will play music under the tent as eventgoers enjoy a German feast that features beer-basted bratwurst, German curried meatballs, sweet & sour red cabbage, German potato salad, Cavatappi pasta salad, Bavarian soft pretzel sticks with beer cheese dip, Sachertorte German Cookies and pumpkin cream puffs.

Hofbrauhaus premium ale and Dunkel dark lager will be served in the beer tent. There will be a basket raffle and all event proceeds will go towards The Campus Foundation to support compassionate care for patients and residents on The Brothers of Mercy Wellness Campus.

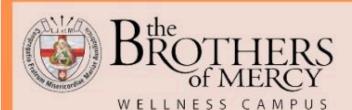
"It is always nice to kick off the fall season with our Oktoberfest," said Peter Eimer, Chief Executive Officer of The Brothers of Mercy. "We look forward to having runners, walkers and Oktoberfest enthusiasts of all ages experience our neighborhood course and enjoy authentic German food and music. We are grateful for our sponsors who make this great event possible, as it supports our Foundation's mission of sustaining compassionate care for all patients and residents on our Wellness Campus."

Oktoberfest is sponsored by Hofbrauhaus Buffalo, Clarence Wall & Ceiling, Gordon Food Services, Bristol Village and Picone Construction as well as our Campus Legacy Sponsors ACSI, Family Choice-Independent Health, Arista Real Estate, Joe basil Chevrolet, Buffalo Pharmacy, The Dave and Joan Rogers Family Foundation, Heiderman Mechanical and Hoffman Hanafin Insurance.

Packet pick-up for pre-registered runners will take place on Thursday, Sept 11 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Brothers of Mercy Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center at 10570 Bergtold Road in Clarence as well as race day from 4:30 - 6:15 p.m., when in-person registration is available. For more information, call 716-759-7622. The male and female winners will receive the Oktoberfest beer stein trophy and all age group winners for males and females will receive a medal.







Resident Discount!







stay for

Friday, Sept. 12, 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy authentic German food and Hofbrauhaus beers. All Campus residents receive a \$5 discount on admission. For \$15, you will enjoy a night of food, music, basket raffle and silent auction! Make checks payable for \$15 to The Brothers of Mercy and sign up at the front desk.

BrothersofMercy.org

Thank You to Our Sponsors!



























The Artist's Eye:

200 Years on the Erie Canal

A celebration of the Erie Canal in three parts at The Brothers of Mercy art gallery in Clarence, NY brothersofmercy.org/artgallery

The fall juried exhibit show commemorating the Erie Canal Bicentennial will be displayed **Sept. 5 - Dec. 31!**

The artists' reception and awards judging will be held Thursday, Sept. 25 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Montabaur Heights

May 1 through August 31, 2025

Dennis Stierer and Lee Williams - Photographing the Erie Canal

My images of the Erie Canal, portray the way light plays off metal, wood and water. The grand restoration of the famous Flight

of Five in Lockport, New York offers countless views for my capture. My photos provide a glimpse into the past where workers and travelers passed through these locks on adaily basis. Lee Williams

I was drawn instinctively to photograph, to learn as much as possible, not only the new canals, but the old sections, lost to overgrowth. I was destined to showcase the Spirit of the Ditch. This "Spirit" is what inspired me to create my images. Dennis Stierer





September 8 through December 31, 2025

Call for Work - The Creative Eye on the Erie Canal in all media



The Creative Eye exhibit will comprise juried work from regional artists in any two-dimensional media that they choose, i.e. painting, drawing, photography, printmakling, textiles, collage, mixed media, etc. It will complete a series of three presentations at The Gallery at Montabaur Heights celebrating the 2025 Bicentennial of the completion of the Canal. Artists are invited to employ their unique abilities to interpret their impressions of the Erie Canal — its history, recreation, stories, humor, family — in this case, whatever floats their boat.

The Brothers of Mercy Gallery at Montabaur Heights exhibits work of regional artists that enrich understanding of our surrounding culture, history, beauty, and creativity. The Gallery invites viewers to see the world through artists' eyes, to enjoy, empathize, rethink, understand, wonder. The Gallery honors both the creative energy of its artists and the impact of their work within the campus community and its visitors.



Our 24th Annual Caritas was held May 9!









Our Caritas Honorees!





Buffalo Medical Group

Alzheimer's Association of WNY



The Stamm Family



Terry Buchwald ~ June 18!











The Boys of Summer! ~ July 9!





Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center News:

Nursing Home Monthly Newsletter ~ Highlighting Exceptional Team Members in May:

Any team members who are recognized will be entered in that months drawing for a prize! Winners are chosen randomly from a bucket with each person's name on a slip of paper.

Congratulations MAY drawing winner: Estrella Mancia-Beckwith

MAY Team Highlights:

- Kelly Mackey Activities- you helped out by taking a resident down to get a haircut with no excuses! Thank you Kelly!
- Fallon Simpson, LPN thank you for taking all of 3W as the only nurse. This is a task that should not be asked but you did so anyway and with grace. All your hard work does not go unnoticed!
- Crystal Casper, LPN Thank you for staying past your shift to help Matt pass meds and for always being flexible.
 You are really appreciated!
- Shanita Garrett, CNA Thank you for always being flexible during shift change! You are an amazing C NA! Your hard work doesn't go unnoticed!
- David Woskowicz, LPN Thank you for all you did for our patient we sent out! Excellent job! We are lucky to have you and you are appreciated!
- Matt Leroy, LPN Thank you for taking 4E as the only nurse especially since it is not your regular unit! Your hard work did not go unnoticed!
- · Summer Carlson, LPN You work as a C NA whenever it's needed without complaints!
- · Tina Lewis, CNA Incredible care! Your compassion, attentiveness and professionalism does not go unnoticed!
- Karen Torma, LPN You took a float assignment like a rock star! You remained calm and stayed calm when you got back up to your original assignment! Way to go!
- Amie Bloyer, LPN You are a very intuitive and knowledgeable nurse. You advocate for all patients!
- Savannah Ivon, LPN You are always ready and willing to help! It's a pleasure to work with you!
- Florence Caruana, RN You are always available to help! You truly make a difference! You lead with patience, professionalism and care!
- Summer Carlson, LPN You did an amazing job placing an IV!
- Maggie Krauss, Unit Clerk You are so helpful with arranging MD appointments with the transportation, paperwork ready and calling family as needed with friendly reminders! Thank you!
- Linda Caldwell, CNA Thank you for taking care of my dad, watching over him and meeting his needs!
- Jolene Dyer, CNA Thank you for showing genuine caring and all you do to brighten up all of our days and visits!
- Estrella Mancia-Beckwith You are so efficiently detailed and kind with the care you provide! Thank you!
- Brittany Haslip, CNA You are always cheerful! You are so kind and caring! We need more people like you!
- Kelly Matuszewski, Housekeeping- Kelly does a great job! She deserves a raise as do the C NAs and Nurses!
- · Cheryl Evertt, CNA Thank you for sorting out the pillow issue and getting fresh linens!









- Kayshawn Wright, CNA Many compliments and thanks for your excellent care! Family called directly to say how awesome you are!
- Parfait Irakoze, CNA Kept a smile and cheerful attitude no matter what was happening around you!
 You helped me keep a positive attitude during my stay!
- Erica Smith, CNA Your smile and positive attitude made my stay at this facility a good one!
- Maverick McNeil, CNA Always a great attitude even when things are kind of "messy"!
- Regeene Martin, CNA You went above and beyond showing leadership!
- Crystal Casper, LPN You helped me clean out the multiple units that I had within 2 days!
- Dave Woskowicz, LPN Thank you for helping me clean out multiple rooms!
- · Garrett Marafino, Maintenance Thank you for fixing my Dad's wheelchair!
- Parrell Fulgham, CNA He's so positive, smiling all the time and very attentive!
- LaQuinn Harris, CNA Has a positive attitudes and went above and beyond to care for residents! You are amazing! Thank you for what you do!

Highlighting Exceptional Team Members in June Congratulations June drawing winner: Maverick McNeil!

- · Matthew Leroy, LPN Offered to stay and help when more staff was needed! Always willing!
- Jolene Dyer, CNA Thank you for showing genuine caring for my Dad. You are so appreciated for all you do!
- Ashley Curtis, LPN Thank you for taking time to go to the OT clinic to get equipment for a resident!
- Brittany Haslip, CNA You are always cheerful and up-beat! You are so kind and caring! Thank you!
- · Linda Caldwell, CNA You give TLC for my Dad, watch over him, and care for his needs! You are wonderful!
- Maggie Kraus, Unit Clerk Thank you for arranging my Dad's MD appointments, transportation, paperwork and friendly reminders!
- Estrella Mancia-Beckwith, CNA You are so efficient and detailed in all you do! Thank you for your kindness!
- · Ashley Blakeney, CNA As my new team player, you are great! Keep doing your good work!
- · Karen Torma, LPN You are a team player on every shift I work with you! Thank you for always helping out!
- · Ashley Curtis, LPN Many thanks for assisting whenever needed!
- · Brianna Langford, LPN You totally helped me out! You rock!
- · Taliyah Shabazz, CNA Rocking out the unit care! Thank you!
- Charisse Johnson, CNA Thank you for picking up a shift and helping other units as well as doing your own!
- Eugene Hicks, CNA An amazing team player! Always willing to help and great with patients and family! A valuable team member!
- Maverick McNeil, CNA You and your charge nurse assisted residents to bed after activities event! Thank you!
- · Amie Bloyer, LPN Thank you for assisting with care after the activities event! Great team player!
- Aaliyah Grant-Love, LPN You stayed over until 2:30am to help your co-worker! You are always willing to help others in any way you can!
- Brittany Lorenz, LPN You came in on your day off to work when we needed the help!
- · Athena Graham, LPN You stayed into the night to pass meds and care for patients! Thank you!
- Tamara Martin, CNA Great aide- does her job and more! Always makes sure the residents are happy!
- Charisse Johnson, CNA So good at her job! Helps out, picks up and always works hard!
- · Laura Larke, CNA Goes above and beyond to get assignments done no matter what!
- Sarah Wolff, CNA Thank you for being a team player and helping with getting assignments together!
- Emily Berchou, CNA Thank you for making our residents and their families feel great about being here!
- · Danielle Ozimek CNA Thank you for the great care you give to all of our residents! Team player!
- Sam Virgilio, CNA Worked together as a team to care for the unit! Thank you!
- Dante Caruana, CNA Team worked it to get the unit cared for! Thank you!
- · Madison Fix, Dietary- Thank you for dressing professionally in uniform even on these hot, humid days!

July Team Highlights Congratulations July Drawing Winner: Jolene Dyer

- Dante Carunana, CNA- EPIC performance on Sunday!!Thank you for all your hard work!
- Ashley Blakeney, CNA You were amazing on 2E on Sunday! Staff had many compliments on your work and how great you are to work with! Thank you!
- Charisse Johnson, CNA You came to help on others units on top of caring for your own group! Then you
 picked up the next night & helped make the night manageable!
- Katie Strohm, LPN Thank you for staying past your shift to help with evening med pass!
- Lindsay Pollina, LPN Thank you for staying past your shift to help with evening med pass!
- Susan Fellows, Housekeeping Thank you for shining up the med room and going the extra mile to keep the unit looking great!
- Ivory James, LPN Made me feel like she knew me for a long time even though it was my first time meeting her! She had my nursing care down perfectly!
- Shanita Garrett, CNA She wasn't even my aides, but she kept checking on me to see if I needed anything!
- Linda Caldwell, CNA An awesome aide! I didn't have to ask for anything. She just took great care of me!
- Hannah Collopy, CNA Thank you for always introducing yourself to residents and family! It means a lot to them to know who is taking care of them. You are an amazing and compassionate aide!
- Gloria Anyaogu, CNA You show your ability to overcome challenges consistently! You always have a
 positive attitude, are a great team player and show genuine compassion for the residents.
- Demeta Fields, CNA Thank you for making the new C NA feel welcomed!
- Alivia Brunea, Housekeeping Very helpful and shows concern for patient needs. Letting me know you care!
- Gabriella Capone, CNA Always concerned about me and asking if I need any help. Checks on me even if she's not my aide!
- Javonte Merriweather, CNA So sweet and always checking on me!
- Linda Caldwell, CNA Amazing aide! Makes sure my room is in perfect condition!
- Ben Spencer, RN Always pleasant and helpful!
- · Shemeka Anglin, CNA Always pleasant and helpful!
- Gloria Anyaogu, CNA Thank you for floating to 4west and being a team player!
- Jolene Dyer, CNA Thank you for being so kind to do extra showers for patients on 4W!
- Brittany Haslip, CNA Thank you for doing an extra shower for a patient! You're a great help!
- Brianna Kraysiak, Housekeeping; Crystal Casper, LPN; Lynn Barnett, Therapy; John Meyer, Therapy; Maverick McNeil, CNA; Katie Strohm, LPN; Estrella Mancia Beckwith, CNA; Debi Zawadzski, LPN; Maggie Krauss, Unit Clerk; Stephanie Gorman, CNA; Ava Green, LPN; Erin Saraf, LPN; Emma Jonathan, LPN; Alexis Bruning, LPN; Kathyrn Palermo, LPN; Ashley Velez, LPN; Leanne Dyrbala, LPN; Flo Caruana, RN; Casey Roggen, CNA; Shari Kersch, RN, DON; Jackie Benzin, Therapy; Becky Ervolina, LPN; Jasmine Williams, LPN; Erika Shuler, LPN; Brittany Lorenz, LPN; Cheryl Evertt, CNA; Laura Waite, CNA; Renee Lankford, CNA; Talia Shabazz, CNA; Alicia Garzo, LPN; Hannah Collopy, CNA; Deb Wick, LPN; Stephanie Kinter, CNA
- Jolene Dyer, CNA David Lawrence, CNA; Samantha Virgilio, CNA
- Brittany Lorenz, LPN; Jackie Mazzara, CNA; Tanya Hinton, LPN;
- Karen Wojcik, CNA; Gloria Anyaogu, CNA; Dante Caruana, CNA
- · Andrea Sheehan, Housekeeping; Eugene Hicks, CNA; Shelbi Jean Barbaritz, Activities
- Chase Bulmahn, Activities; Morgan Dies, Activities; Courtney Dressler, Activities
- Julie Kaczmarczyk, Activities; James Keller, Activities; Christina Kocol, Activities
- Kelly Mackey, Activities; Roksana Rafique, Activities; Joel Reed, Activities
- Ciara Seager, Activities; Valerie Sonnenfeld, Activities; Kristin Sorgi, Activities
- Justine Staebell, Activities; Lily Tucker, Activities
- A rehab patient called our supervisor to give praise for the "amazing care she received during her stay!
 Praise goes to the following team members:
- Stephanie Gorman CNA; Stephanie Hendrix, CNA; Parfaite Irakoze, CNA; Gabriella Capone, CNA; Tequila Douglass, CNA



Outpatient Therapy Clinic's Clients of the Month for May:

We are shining the spotlight on four incredible women who met as neighbors in Rock Oak Estates in Clarence, NY and quickly became friends. Now lovingly known around our clinic as 'The Tottenham Gals', these ladies not only support each other in life, but also in their therapy journeys. They're the self-proclaimed "Golden Girls 2.0"- a modern day quartet full of wit, warmth and wisdom, reminding us all that friendship and healing go hand in hand. We sat down to learn about their bond, their experiences, and what keeps them coming back to our clinic week after week. Susan Nieman (top left), Kathleen McCormick (top right), Janet Siano (bottom left), Louise Pawlow (bottom right)

How did you all meet?

Janet: I met Kathleen when we moved into Rock Oak at a meet and greet. We live in the same area, a few houses apart. I then met Sue, who was invited to one of my Christmas parties by another neighbor.

Louise: Janet was out gardening while I was walking and I looked to see only 1 car in her driveway so I figured she might live alone like I do. I got up the courage to ask if she wanted to go out to lunch sometime and she stopped what she was doing, ran in to get a pen and paper to take down my phone number.

Janet and Kathleen went on to start a pinochle group and eventually all 4 started to get together to play games, watch movies, etc. They have been a support system to each other through the highs and lows, including 2 of the ladies losing their spouses, navigating the pandemic and becoming 'single lady homeowners'.

They even trade information about their handymen!



What brought each of you to the therapy clinic?

Kathleen: I met you at the Clarence Senior Center. I spoke to you after the wellness talk to ask what you thought about prehab and I felt very prepared for surgery after coming for PT. I've been back a few times. Janet: Kathleen spoke so highly of her experience here but I went elsewhere for some therapy needs twice. After then talking to Louise about this outpatient clinic, I decided to try something different and came here. Louise: I came to one of your talks at the Akron Senior Center. The one on one therapy and the location were key for me when a therapy need arose.

Sue: I have driven Janet and Louise to therapy many times and the ladies have been trying to convince me to come here for some therapy as well.

What is your favorite part about coming to the clinic?

Louise: The massage on my neck was wonderful. I couldn't move my neck to drive here so Sue has helped me in times of need. The therapists were patient with all of my different needs. I love working with both therapists and getting to know them.

Kathleen: I feel more confident since starting therapy. I know I am getting stronger. The kindness of the staff... you all make me feel like family.

Janet: I was really pleased by the confirmation and understanding in regards to what I am going through. I felt comfortable sharing my patient portal messages to my doctor regarding my pain and felt that the therapist was supportive in advocating for myself.

What advice would you give to someone nervous about starting therapy?

Kathleen: Just try it!

Louise: Come in and meet the staff. You will be much more comfortable when you see the space and meet the people you would be working with.

Janet: Go to a community presentation and come to the clinic to check it out. Parking is easy! Sue: It's easier when you have a time, place and someone telling you exactly what to do.

Who knew the best kind of therapy would be finding a friend just down the street?



Outpatient Therapy Clinic's Client of the Month for July:

How did you hear about our clinic?

My children advised my wife and I to move to The Brothers of Mercy when it was time to leave our home. Part of the services offered on the Campus were the Outpatient Therapy Clinic. I was recently hospitalized and participated in therapy while there so this presented a great opportunity to continue my therapy while living at Montabaur Heights.

What made you choose The Brothers of Mercy for therapy? The convenience of location as well as the ride to appointments. The Outpatient Clinic is part of the package!

Have you ever needed therapy services in the past? If yes, how has your experience been different at this clinic?
Yes, I have and I went to a popular place near my house that has many locations. The personalization makes all the difference here. It allows for a client-therapist relationship to be fostered.

What advice would you give to someone who is unsure about starting a therapy program?

Commit to your objectives. You have to set goals for yourself when starting something new.

How would you sum up your overall impression of the clinic's atmosphere, the quality of therapy services you have received and the expertise of the staff?



Sacred Heart Home:

For this year's Leading Age Art Competition, three submissions from Sacred Hear were selected for the exhibit from 221 pieces and 47 locations! Congratulations to Lisa Healey as her piece was selected to be part of the 70 artworks that made up the traveling exhibit! Gallery Awards are pieces that were chosen to hang in the public areas of Leading Age offices through the year.

- · Alexandra Sarach, Resident
- · Raymond F Milkowski, Staff
- Lisa Healey Staff, Show

Sacred Heart Home has had a fun summer thus far! On July 3, a high school musical group called Harmony Heats performed for residents. On July 4, they hosted an ice cream social that was very well attended!

We have been blessed with some great weather, the residents have been outside and the courtyards are in full bloom.



















Montabaur Heights News:

Chirping birds, gentle breezes, blue skies, and sunshine—it's "summertime and the living is easy" at Montabaur Heights. Residents can be found outdoors taking leisurely strolls, admiring campus gardens, and/or attending an array of entertainment offerings. June events included "Music Bingo," a fun-filled activity that had attendees singing along with familiar tunes while winning exciting prizes.

Residents were then treated to a delicious 4th of July buffet complete with corn on the cob and watermelon. Crafting opportunities, an ice cream excursion, and friendly evening "bench chats" have made for a busy but enjoyable season. It's said every summer has a story—at Montabaur Heights it's been a pleasant and memorable one!





Trier Woods News:

We say goodbye to the end of an era – the Era of Jan Eaton. She was a dedicated member of The Brothers of Mercy family for 41 years as the Office Manager for the Senior Apartments/Trier Woods.

Jan "outstayed" 6 administrators and, at times, served as the Acting Administrator. She has been the driving force behind the Apartments with her knowledge of all things "Brothers", her professionalism, compassion, creativity, and her ability to hold the office, the residents, the team and the administrator together!

She was my mentor, she was my friend, and she will always be my family. The residents and the Team miss her presence, but revel in the knowledge that she is enjoying her time with Pete, their classic car and long drives, and her two kitties. She will always be a part of The Brothers' Family! - Mary Baty



Garrett Marafino is ready for the shot



.. and he makes a great save!



Thank you to everyone who supported Garrett and donated to the 11-day Power Play to fight cancer!



