

# MANY INVOLVED RAISING MONEY TO SUPPORT SCLERODERMA RESEARCH AND PATIENT PROGRAMS

The year 2007 was another successful fundraising year for SFNE, because of the efforts and generosity of many volunteers, donors and supporters.



SFNE President Marie Coyle, (r), presents letter pledging \$100,000 to the 2007 Scleroderma Foundation's National Research Program to CEO Frannie Waldron.

## How successful?

In addition to providing a wide range of people with information about scleroderma, underwriting the exceptional work of the Chapter's seven support groups and covering all of the Chapter's expenses, SFNE is able to pledge at least **\$100,000** to the National Foundation, specifically for its Research Program to find the cause of and cure for scleroderma.

For the years 2006 and 2007, SFNE is providing the National Scleroderma Research Program with a combined total of at least **\$250,000** - a quarter of a million dollars! In presenting the 2007 letter pledging at least **\$100,000** to Foundation CEO Frannie Waldron, SFNE President Marie Coyle also noted, "Following the closing of our books and completion of our certified audit in 2008, we may be able to increase this amount. This pledge is evidence of our firm belief in the Foundation's Research Program, the excellence of its review process, and the knowledge that these funds will be used most effectively to benefit those affected by scleroderma."

Events small and large do raise money, but, equally as important, they raise awareness about scleroderma. They provide family members, friends, neighbors, business associates and the general public with a way to actively take part in supporting efforts to help individuals with the disease and to find the cure for scleroderma.

If you or someone you know has an idea for an event and would like to explore its possibilities, please call the SFNE office toll-free at **1-888-525-0568**.

## "FITNESS FOR YOU" GOLF TOURNAMENT



President and CEO of "Fitness For You" Elaine Schwager, center, presents a **\$30,000** check from her North Andover, MA, health center's Invitational Golf Tournament To Cure Scleroderma to SFNE President Marie Coyle (second left) to underwrite the Chapter's work. With them and accompanied by Pivo, the center's mascot, (sitting under check) are, (l-r): SFNE Asst. Treasurer Walter Coyle, "Fitness For You" staff member and Invitational organizer Ashley Brooke Morgan, and SFNE Executive Director Tom Curran. Elaine, who is also an SFNE Board Member, and her staff organized the 2007 tournament, which was their second annual event to increase awareness about scleroderma and raise funds for programs. By year's end, planning had already begun for their 2008 tournament.

## NORTH SHORE WALK SETS RECORDS

The Third Annual North Shore Walk had a record number of walkers when it stepped off in Topsfield (MA) Center under sunny skies on September 16.

As of December 31, the Walk raised a record **\$54,000**.

The Walk's registration area was in the Proctor School Gymnasium, where the setup activities



Scott Morton and his sons David and Raymond are staunch supporters of the Walk

by volunteers began at 8 a.m.

Registration began at 10 a.m., and, throughout the day, the gym was the center of activity .



Samantha Murray cuts tape to start the Walk.

When SF Youth Ambassador Samantha Murray cut the ribbon to start the Walk at noon, a record number of 380 individuals stepped off for the scenic Highlander Course Walk through the community and along the country road next to the Ipswich River. Shortly after that, the companion Walk on the Flatlander Course started behind the Proctor School of equivalent distance but with no hills.

Trophies were awarded this year to:

### First Highlander Finisher

*Liam Gillen-Hughes*

### Senior Highlander Finisher

*Frank Fitzpatrick*

### Junior Highlander Finisher

*Lauren Leone*

### First Flatlander Finisher

*Susanne Lovell*

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 Events For Rent  
 Gil's Grocery - Topsfield  
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 LaPlume Printing  
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 Rowley House of Pizza  
 Russ McQueen Entertainment  
 Seacoast Coca-Cola Bottling Co  
 Shaw's, Northshore Mall  
 Sylvan Street Grill  
 Tresca Brother's Sand and Gravel Co.

**Special thanks for their efforts to:**

Great Hill Volunteers  
 Police Sergeant Gerald & Barbara Harrison  
 Carla King  
 Proctor School Custodial/Food Service Staffs  
 Reserve Officer Steve and Maryann Shepard  
 Topsfield Board of Selectmen  
 Topsfield Parks Department  
 Topsfield Police Department

**JAMES ROUMELIOTIS  
 BOUNCES INTO GUINNESS  
 RECORD BOOK TO HELP SFNE**

A long-time Pogo enthusiast, James Roumeliotis wanted to set the record straight. He wanted to establish a new Guinness Book World Record for the number of consecutive bounces on a Pogo stick. In the process, he also wanted to promote awareness about and raise funds for scleroderma.



*WBZ-TV, Boston covered James' attempt to break the Guinness Book record*

The record James had to break was 177,737 bounces set in 1992 over a course of 20 hours and 20 minutes, and his fundraising goal was \$5,000 for scleroderma. His plan was to attempt the record at Worcester (MA) Polytechnic Institute, where he is a senior, with the help of his support team - the members of his Sigma Pi Gamma Iota Fraternity. He also enlisted sponsors Infoscitex, SBI

Enterprises and GNC Living Well.

Starting at noon on Saturday, September 22, James began bouncing his way into history and ended his quest at 7:45 a.m. the following day. During this time, Guinness allowed James to take a five-minute break each hour or bank that time by not taking a break. At the start, James bounced the first five hours straight without taking a break, banking 25 minutes. The pedometer he wore to keep track of the number of bounces could not keep up with the number of bounces he completed, which was at a rate of between 2.5 and 3.35 bounces-per-second. Even though the pedometer did not capture all the bounces, it did register 178,457 bounces from start to finish, which still surpassed the 15-year-old record of 177,737 to set a new world record.

For the accurate documentation needed by Guinness, an HDD video camera was used to record the attempt uninterrupted. The camera was operated by the members of James' fraternity, then reviewed with each bounce individually counted.

The tape, which has been sent to Guinness, shows the actual number at **212,434** bounces accomplished in 19 hours and 45 minutes. In addition to shattering the previous bounce record, James also surpassed his fundraising goal by raising more than **\$6,000** to support SFNE programs.



*After establishing his record, Jim takes a well-earned rest surrounded by his fraternity brothers.*

Additionally, James, along with the community-minded members of his fraternity, got some well-deserved recognition. The Boston CBS affiliate, WBZ-TV did a segment on James that Saturday afternoon and aired it locally that night. The following day after the record was achieved, more than 30 CBS affiliate stations across the country aired the story, calling much needed attention to scleroderma!

**LYNDA FERNANDES GOLF  
 TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS**

The 4th Annual Lynda Fernandes Golf Tournament held in September at the Midville Country Club in West Warwick, RI, was a tremendous event for the participants and resulted in the RI Support Group being able to forward a check for **\$3,125**, which represented half of the tournament's proceeds.

The fundraiser was held by Raymond Fernandes and his son, Tony, in memory of Raymond's wife Lynda, who lost her life to lung cancer at the age of 51. Lisa Tortolani, who is a member of the RI Support Group is a cousin of Raymond, who generously offered to donate half of the proceeds to SFNE and the other half to Annie's Angel.

Lisa and her family have been very helpful with the Rhode Island Group's fundraising and educational projects.



*Lisa Tortolani, right, stands with Annie Walsh, who will benefit from the work of Annie's Angels and the \$3,125 it received from the Fourth Annual Lynda Fernandes Golf Tournament. Annie, who has lung cancer, is awaiting a double lung transplant.*

**AN EVENING TO GET  
 REACQUAINTED**



*Josephine Prudente leads the line dancing enthusiasts.*

It was a gathering of long-time SFNE supporters on the night of October 5 at the

Knights of Columbus Hall in Lynn, MA. And, it was appropriately called “The Reunion Dance,” which brought together individuals from Boston’s North Shore area who had, and still are, helping the Chapter to succeed in its mission of “support, education, research.”



SFNE’s Chapter Coordinator Cheryl Kelly and her family had a great time! Standing, daughter Lee Anne, with fiancé Anthony. Sitting, (l-r) Cheryl with Mom Gerry, son Jackie, friends Zabra and Theresa, Kathy and brother Bruce.



SFNE’s Great Hill Volunteers know how to work well together when there is work to be done but also how to relax. Clockwise from left: “Red” Bullock, MaryJo and Dick Dussault, Leon and Judi Belinsky, Joanne and Paul Beaulieu, Merilyn Adams and Elsie Bullock.

## FOURTH ANNUAL HARVEST DANCE



Resting between dance sets.

Young and old had the opportunity to take part and enjoy the Fourth Annual Harvest Dance, held Sat., October 13, at The Garibaldi Club in Plymouth, MA.

The dance, which was once again organized by Marie Reid, featured the 1960’s-70’s music of Dale and the Duds,

excellent food and a wide variety of raffle items, including a Daisuke Matsuzaka autographed baseball, donated by the Boston Red Sox. Many of the raffle items were secured by Susanne Lovell.

The dance raised awareness about scleroderma on Massachusetts’ South Shore and **\$4,000** for SFNE.



Age is no barrier to having fun and this group didn’t miss a beat!

## POLAR PLUNGE USHERS IN 2008



What a way to wake up!

Not only was it was an “eye opener” for many on New Year’s Day, it was also the opener for SFNE’s fundraising activities for 2008.

A group of SFNE supporters from the L-Street Tavern in South Boston, MA, joined with about 500 other hardy souls to brave the balmy 39-degree temperatures and enter the bone-chilling waters of Boston Harbor for the New Year’s Day Polar Bear Swim of the L-Street Brownies.

While the overall event was its 104th consecutive annual plunge, it was the Third Annual Polar Plunge organized by L-Street Tavern owners Susan and Jack Wood and SFNE Board Member Kevin Conroy to raise awareness of, and funds for, the Chapter while having a lot of fun. Donations are still being received at the Chapter office and have already surpassed **\$1,100**.

The SFNE contingent was led from the L-Street Tavern to the beach by bagpipes and drums played by members of the Greater

Boston Firefighters Pipes & Drums and the Local 103 Electrical Workers. The walk began at 8:30 a.m. in order to take full advantage of the 9 a.m. high tide.

Kevin is the prime mover of the SFNE Plunge to honor his sister, Liz Lombard, who has scleroderma and has been instrumental in having the State of Massachusetts investigate what appeared to be a high incidence of scleroderma in South Boston.

To ward off any chills at the end of the Plunge, many returned to the L-Street Tavern where Susan and Jack provided a warming and welcome beef stew.

## VERMONT GROUP HOLDS FIRST WALK



The “Balloon Man” was a popular feature at Burlington, VT’s inaugural walk.

The Burlington (VT) Support Group wanted to do something special in 2007 so they decided to organize the First Annual Vermont 5K Walk-A-Thon to Cure Scleroderma, which took place on Sunday, September 30, in Oakledge Park along the shores of Lake Champlain in Burlington.

More than 50 walkers took part and raised **\$5,500** plus. In addition to the walkers, many of their friends and family members took part by volunteering their help to make sure the day was a success.

The idea for a Walk came up at one of the support group meetings, and two new members - Stephanie and Mike Child - volunteered to Co-Chair the event. Their committee consisted of all of the members of the support group and their friends and family members.



Patty and Paul Kissell (in blue t-shirts) pose with their dog Trooper and members of their team.