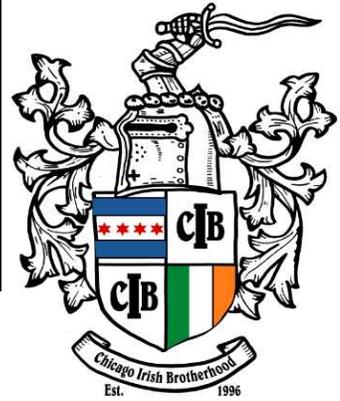


# CHICAGO IRISH BROTHERHOOD Newsletter

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## Tears and Cheers for Terri Ann

On Saturday, March 22nd, all the tears and cheers that were shared at the **Chicago Irish Brotherhood's 2007 Day At The Races** were remembered as the organization handed over a check for \$5,000 to the **Make-A-Wish Foundation**.

For those who were there and those who could not attend the event last December, this year's **M-A-W** wish will be granted on our behalf of Terri Ann Fester, the inspirational daughter of long time **C.I.B.** friend Dale and Lynne Fester.

Terri Ann, along with her brothers and parents, was on hand to enjoy the day with the **C.I.B.** and she played a very special role in the day's events.

First of all, Terri Ann's address to the crowd was the most heartwarming speech ever given in our decade plus existence. This beautiful 16 year-old girl has more faith in life and good nature than can be imagined.

"My story reads like a novel," Terri Ann began. "I am a surviving twin who was born 10 weeks premature. My sister, Mary Lynne died when we were born. One of the things that can

happen with prematurity is that you can get cerebral palsy or "CP."

"When I was 6 years old I got cancer too. Cancer is not at all related to CP. Lucky me, I got both!"

Her sweet sense of humor won over the crowd instantaneously.

Terri Ann was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome, a rare type of pre-leukemia. Her only chance for survival was to have a bone marrow transplant. She was given a 50% chance to live. Her brothers were tested as donors and young Kurt turned out to be a close match. Terri Ann had a bone marrow transplant on Feb 26, 1998 using Kurt's marrow.

Five years ago, Terri Ann was a Wish child and **M-A-W** granted the Fester Family a wonderful trip to Hawaii.

"It made me forget all about my cancer, doctors and blood tests," Terri Ann said.

At the "Races" Terri Ann was given a ticket by Larry Gworek for the Split-The-Pot raffle. She won \$500. Without hesitation, she gave every

dime back to the organization for our check for **M-A-W**.

That action, although it drove her brother crazy to think that he could have bought a flat screen TV, was pure heart.

There wasn't a dry eye in the room after our contingent witnessed such unbelievable selflessness.

Shortly after our event, Terri Ann was diagnosed with a brain tumor. As she faces her next health battle, she is emphatically thankful...

Thankful for her wonderful parents, her great brothers, the **C.I.B.**, the **Make-A-Wish** and everything beautiful in life.

If you are reading this and don't have a tear in your eye, you may need a doctor more than Terri Ann does.

God bless our remarkable young friend.



Terri Ann and Larry Gworek

