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didn't want or need to leave the boat for anything.

"The one trip we made into Key West was to buy matching Santa hats for ourselves and the crew. We wanted to give them something fun to remember us by, because we knew we would never forget them or their kindness and hospitality," Deborah said.



Deborah and James with friends and crew

Their favorite after-dinner ritual was karaoke. "On the third night we even got the crew to sing with us. It took some encouragement but we ended up having a great time," she said.

"After a couple of fun days in Key West, we cruised along the coast to John Pennekamp State Park in Key Largo, where we anchored offshore overnight. The moon was full that night, and it was

truly magical being anchored away from land or any other boats.

"The following morning, after a sumptuous breakfast, we cruised up to Fort Lauderdale for what would be a very special last evening on the yacht. Dale Reginer, aka 'Champ,' who is one of the owners of the yacht, had suggested that we arrive in Fort Lauderdale early enough to be

our friends and family meant the world to us. All the time I just kept thinking how blessed we were to have been given such an incredible gift due to the kindness of Moffitt, Hooters of America and the generous people in that room that night. Not only did Moffitt give me my life back, but they also gave James and me and our friends and family the experience of a lifetime.

"We can never thank the Moffitt Foundation, Mike McNeil, Coby Brooks, Ed and Marsha Droste, Lags and Champ enough for their kindness and generosity and for a magical week that we will never forget," she said.

So, for any of you Pinellas Partners who are considering joining us this year, remember: **Magic can happen** at the Magnolia Ball. Just ask Deborah and James Llewellyn.

Moffitt Facts 2008

Beds	162
Admissions	7,482
Patient Days	47,388
Average Stay (in days)	6
Patient Visits	271,161
(Third largest among U.S. cancer centers)	
Screening Visits	18,808
Surgical Cases	7,935

Get Connected



Stay Connected

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bowling "Ball"
at Splitsville
Wednesday, Feb. 18, 6 p.m.
Contact Sue Bliss
813-745-4860
Sue.Bliss@MOFFITT.org

"Florida Bank Miles for Moffitt" Night with the Tampa Bay Rays
Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m.
Tropicana Field, St. Pete

Magnolia Ball
with the Beach Boys
Saturday, April 25
Contact Kathy Werner
813-745-1340
Kathy.Werner@MOFFITT.org

MOFFITT
CANCER CENTER

Pinellas Partners

World Champion Phillies team up with Moffitt Pinellas Partners

The Philadelphia Phillies were gracious to host our annual Steering Committee meeting in November at Bright House Field, and it hasn't stopped there. We're in the process of scheduling a "Pinellas Partners for Moffitt Day," where a portion of ticket sales at a Threshers game will go to Pinellas Partners.

You've seen the Phillies in action on the field but those of you attending the annual **Bowling Ball at Splitsville on Wednesday, Feb. 18**, will get a glimpse of how the Phillies crew performs on the lanes. We hear some reps from the Tampa Bay Rays will be there, too. Maybe we could see a World Series rematch? Come be a "Pinhead" for only \$75 and catch all the action.

Thanks to John Timberlake and all the Phillies/Threshers gang for their continued support of Moffitt. The Phillies have made Clearwater their spring training home for 25 years and we congratulate them on their World Series win.

Pinellas Partners has considered dates for our next informative event, but currently we're getting geared up for the **Magnolia Ball on Saturday, April 5**, at the A La Carte Event Pavilion in Tampa. Pinellas Partners will reserve a few tables, so if you're interested in buying individual tickets and would like to sit with your fellow Pinellas Partners members, contact us at pinellaspartners@prov.com. See our Upcoming Events section for more details.

Here's to a great 2009, with hopes of getting steps closer to finding a cure.

Best Wishes and Thanks,
Pinellas Partners Core Committee
www.MoffittPinellasPartners.com



For more information, please visit www.MagnoliaBall.com, or contact Kathy Werner at 813-745-1340 or Kathy.Werner@moffitt.org.

Steering Committee Members

- Scott Andringa
- Brian Aungst
- Rob Bauer
- Ernestine Bean
- Beverly Billiris
- Bruce Bokor
- Joe Burdette
- Aaron Cohn
- Gary Conners
- William Crown
- Jodie Cunningham
- Ed & Marsha Droste
- Holly Duncan
- Ron & Ann Duncan
- Jackie Edgington
- Larry Feder
- Fred Fisher
- Doug Graska
- Lucy Grinnell
- Bob "Gator" Handley
- Lindsay Hardee
- Mary Harvey
- Bill Maher
- Judy Mitchell
- Pam Muma
- Bob Passwaters
- Ron Petrini
- David Ruppel
- Leslie Schipani-Anderson
- Karen Seel
- Julie Shannon
- Covington Sharp
- Gary Skinner
- Laverne Smith
- Richard Spayde
- Susan Stern
- Bill Swisher
- Dan Walker
- Gregory Wright

Clearwater Beach attracts world-class collaboration and dialogue

By Bill Swisher

The renowned beaches of Pinellas County are becoming a major player in Moffitt Cancer Center's collaboration with other research and treatment facilities in the ongoing search for ways to prevent and cure cancer.

cal centers.

"We chose Clearwater Beach because we wanted a destination that would be attractive to an international audience as well as people from within the United States," said Dr. Vernon K. Sondak,

cancer scientists and clinicians, who gathered at Moffitt's main campus in Tampa to share their knowledge about a different type of cancer. The Advanced Prostate Cancer Collaboration brought together experts from academic institutions as well as research and treatment centers. Among the institutions represented: Columbia, Harvard and the Universities of Florida, Michigan, Texas and Washington.

these and trying to attract world-class collaboration and dialogue, it's critical that the conferences differentiate themselves from the vast sea of events occurring day in and day out," said Ed Droste, chair of the Moffitt Foundation Board of Directors.

"In their grueling schedules and travels during their desperate battle of hope for cancer sufferers worldwide, the refreshing o-



The Sandpearl Resort and Spa on Clearwater Beach was the site for a four-day conference in November. The subject: melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer.

Hosted jointly by Moffitt and USF Health, the meeting brought together health care professionals from eight nations to share information and learn about the newest ways to manage skin cancers, especially in large, multi-disciplinary medi-

chief of the Division of Cutaneous Oncology at Moffitt and a professor at the University of South Florida College of Medicine. "Because of the length of time some attendees would be there, we wanted to have this in a beachfront setting from the outset.

"Once we saw the Sandpearl, we realized it was ideal for our conference," he said.

The day after the melanoma conference ended, Sandpearl housed another group of



Participants heard presentations on such subjects as gene fusions, radiation therapy and potential vaccines, all as they relate to prostate cancer. But first they went on an introductory sunset cruise on Clearwater Bay.

"In putting together mega-events like

sis atmosphere of the gulf water views and beautiful Pinellas beaches provide the refreshing respite that contributes to energized dialogue and return trips," he said.

"Unique collaborations may cure cancer -- like a world-class institute and a world-class beach community."

Magic can happen at the Magnolia Ball

By Mary Harvey

Attending the Magnolia Ball last year brought Deborah Llewellyn, her husband James and six of their closest friends a dream vacation they could never have imagined.

Here's how it happened: Deborah was a guest speaker at the Magnolia Ball in May. She shared openly with the 800 guests the story of her courageous battle with Hodgkin's disease at Moffitt Cancer Center six years ago. Her story of hope and survival was so moving; it touched the heart of each and every person in the room.

There were many wonderful auction items up for bid at the ball, but the one that got the most attention was when two parties began bidding on the five-day private yacht vacation aboard Hooter Patrol IV. It quickly became an all-out bidding war between Mike McNeil of Hooters of America and Les and Pam Muma, who are members of our Pinellas Partners group and are also well known for their philanthropy and generosity toward the

Moffitt Cancer Center Foundation.

The bidding for this wonderful trip opened at \$10,000, went quickly to \$20,000 and then all the way to

imagine, there was not a dry eye in the room at that point.

I spoke to them recently about their trip aboard the 97-foot private yacht. "We knew



From left: Capt. Adam Marani, Ara Bergillos, James & Deborah Llewellyn, Latchi Kaymakanova and Brook O'Neill

\$50,000. At that point, after a brief conference, the owners of the yacht decided to offer the cruise to both parties for \$50,000 each, raising the amount donated for this one auction item to \$100,000. Then, in an even more amazing moment, Mike McNeil took the microphone and announced that he would donate the trip he had just paid for to Deborah and James. As you can

the minute the Hooters bus picked us up in Ft. Lauderdale that we were in for an amazing adventure. Everything from start to finish was so much more than we ever could have imagined," Deborah said. "Every detail, every wish we had was taken care of by Capt. Adam, Brook, Ara and Latchi, the wonderful crew on the yacht. They were so kind and generous to us that by

Mission Statement

To contribute to the prevention and cure of cancer through education and outreach in an effort to support the work of the physicians and scientists working to cure this terrible disease that has touched all of our lives in one way or another.

the time the trip was over, we felt like we were saying goodbye to family," she said.

"The first day aboard we cruised from Ft. Myers to Key West, where we stayed for two nights. The funny part was, even when we got to Key West, none of us wanted to get off the boat. We talked about going into town but always decided that we

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Share your inspirational stories at: www.moffittpinellaspartners.com