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In recognition of **National Volunteer Week**, April 19 - 25, Dani's Foundation would like to thank each and every volunteer for their support of our efforts to succeed!

MY BIG GREEK ROAST BENEFITS DANI'S FOUNDATION



"My Big Greek Roast" was the theme of a March 14 event that took place in the West Club

Lounge at Invesco Field at Mile High. The event paid tribute to an amazing man: Steve "The Greek" Antonopoulos and his 33 year career as Athletic Trainer for the Denver Broncos.

The evening was sponsored by KOA Radio and members of the Denver Bronco Alumni and was billed as "A Night of Love and Laughter" in recognition of Antonopoulos. In addition to honoring "The Greek", **My Big Greek Roast** raised funding for Dani's Foundation, a Colorado non-profit organization that is working to find the cause and the cure for Ewing's Sarcoma and the other pediatric sarcomas that are affecting and taking the lives of children and young adults.

Antonopoulos, who grew up in Hugo, CO, earned two degrees in sports medicine from the University of Northern Colorado prior to landing his dream job of working with the Denver Broncos in 1976. Since that time, Antonopoulos has succeeded in participating in 660 Denver Bronco football games, tended to the health and physical well-being of over 1,500 Denver Bronco players, worked feverishly to get the Denver Bronco players game ready for 8 AFC championship games and 6 Super Bowl match ups and is the proud owner of two Super Bowl Rings.

"Steve is 'the best of the best'", explained Roast Chairman and former Denver Bronco player Jim Jensen. "Thanks to 'The Greek's' care while I was a member of the team, I can still play golf, tennis and take to the ski slopes every year. Not too bad for an old guy like me," exclaimed Jensen.

This event was designed to honor and pay satirical respect to Antonopoulos' career, but also served to raise much-needed funding for Dani's Foundation and their efforts to fund greater programs, education and research.

Dani's Foundation Founder and President Michele Ashby took the stage prior to the roast program and captivated the guest's attention as she told the story of her daughter Dani while reading excerpts from Dani's personal journal during her battle against Ewing's Sarcoma. "Dani fought her disease with dignity and grace but she is no longer with us," explained Ashby. "This is unacceptable and I need each of you to raise your hand and make a one-year commitment to join Dani's Foundation in our efforts to find the cause and the cure for Ewing's Sarcoma and the other pediatric cancers that are taking the lives of those that we love." The crowd followed Ashby's lead and all raised their hands - now clad in baby blue Dani's Foundation bracelets - which were placed at each table setting.

(continued on Page 6)



Hosts of The Roast prepare for a Night of Love and Laughter. Fox 31 Anchor Ron Zappolo and KOA personality Dave Logan hosted **My Big Greek Roast** on March 14.

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*Why
should we care
about rare diseases
like
pediatric sarcomas?
Because,,
as one mother put it,
"even one life lost
is one life too many!"*

DEDICATED TO DANI

Michele Ashby is the Founder and President of Dani's Foundation. As the mother of Daniele Stell, a Ewing's Sarcoma patient who succumbed to the disease in 1999, Michele has lead the charge in the formation of Dani's Foundation with the goal of finding the cause and the cure for this dreadful disease and those other rare forms of cancer that are taking the lives of children and young adults.

In order to bring embodiment to her mission to succeed, Ashby recounted the story of her daughter Dani's life prior to succumbing to cancer at My Big Greek Roast event. "I need for you to know this amazing young woman so that you will join me in my mission to succeed," Ashby stated as she began to read from Dani's final journal entries.

"Dani was my 'wild child'", recounted Ashby. "She was amazingly intelligent and equally as daring. "Three years, prior to her death, Dani gave birth to a son. As an unwed teenager, Dani made a personal decision to put the child up for adoption but continued to play an active part in his nurturing and development; even taking time to send him messages during her journey through cancer. Dani truly believed that everything had a reason and with that in mind, I would like to read portions of a passage written by Dani to her infant son in a journal that she made just for him entitled *To My Inspiration...*"

April 16, 1999 - Today I found out that in God's plan my life's being cut short. I never got a chance to share many things about my life with you and now I will be missing most of yours. I will never forget the times I got to share with you, I want you to know that.

I LOVE YOU. *I'm glad God's plan worked that I got to be part of your life for the duration of mine. You are so special to me.*

I'm thankful you have such wonderful parents. I hope they remind you about me. In spirit I will always be with you. I will be watching over you always. If ever you are afraid, look up to the stars and speak to me. You are never alone. I may even appear in your dreams.



Daniele passed away the next day, April 17, 1999, in her home, with her family around her. She was buried on April 20, 1999, in Denver Colorado, at the same time that the Columbine tragedy was happening just a few miles away.

Daniele was a special girl who helped and inspired many people in life. She is now on the other side helping others. We are hopeful that you will join us in keeping Dani's memory alive and join our team to battle pediatric sarcomas now and in the days ahead.

Ashby has become a champion to those patients and families who have been diagnosed with pediatric cancers. She was instrumental in developing a Teen and Young Adults (TAYA) Clinic at The Children's Hospital in Denver with the goal of offering support to the young patients and their families during their journey through the cancer experience.

In addition to advocating for cancer patients, Ashby has also become a champion to those local and national scientific investigators who are working to find the cause and the cure for pediatric sarcomas. Since its inception in 1999, Ashby and Dani's Foundation has raised funds to assist where needed and, as she promised her dying daughter, she will not stop until cures are found and all children are safe from these terrible diseases.

PLEASE HELP US! WE CANNOT FIGHT THIS BATTLE ALONE!

Dani's FOUNDATION

Dani's Foundation was formed in memory of Dani Stell, an active, bright and social young woman who loved fashion, dancing, school and friends.



Dani's Foundation was established in 1999 with the goal of lending support and resources to Ewing's patients and family members, advocating for better treatment protocols for all cancer patients and working toward finding the cause and the cure for Ewing's Sarcoma and the other rare forms of pediatric sarcomas that are taking the lives of children and young adults.

Since its inception, Dani's Foundation has supported local and national programs, education and research that are aimed at eradicating Ewing's Sarcoma and other forms of pediatric sarcomas that are affecting and taking the lives of children and young adults.

We need your help **NOW** to make a difference in the lives of those patients currently affected and those yet to come. By working together, we can make tomorrow a brighter day for our most precious natural resource: our children!

Visit our website at
www.danisfoundation.org

Dani's Foundation Milestones

Dani's Foundation has provided over \$157,000 in funding to the following grants and awards:

1999 - A memorial fund at The Children's Hospital (TCH) in Denver received approximately \$30,000, which was used to fund two Dani's Dine In Kiosks. *Dani's Dine In Kiosks help families and staff order food from nearby restaurants while they are in the hospital.*

2000 - Dani's Foundation awarded \$18,000 to the Denver Cancer Center at The Children's Hospital in Denver for research aimed at Ewing's Sarcoma and other pediatric cancers.

2001 - Dani's Foundation awarded \$20,000 to Dr. Jeffrey Toretsky, at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, providing pilot funding to extend his research on Ewing's Sarcoma; \$10,000 to the new Teen Clinic at The Children's Hospital in Denver; \$5,000 to Dr. Edythe Albano's research at The Children's Hospital in Denver; \$1,000 to the Marchello Fund, a scholarship fund for young cancer survivors.

2002 - Dani's Foundation awarded \$5,000 to Dr. Jeffrey Toretsky to extend his research on Ewing's Sarcoma; \$5,000 to Dr. Edythe Albano's research at The Children's Hospital in Denver; \$1,000 to the Marchello Fund.

2003 - Dani's Foundation awarded \$5,000 for the continuation of the Teen Clinic at The Children's Hospital in Denver; \$5,000 to Dr. Jeffrey Toretsky to continue his research on Ewing's Sarcoma; \$2,000 to the Marchello Fund.

2004 - Thanks to funding support from Dani's Foundation, Dr. Jeffrey Toretsky's lab discovered a key combination of two proteins in Ewing's Sarcoma.

By preventing these two proteins from interacting, the research scientists believe

the effect could be similar to removing the spark plug wires from the spark plugs in a car: without spark plugs, a car cannot run. Similarly, without this protein interaction, Ewing's Sarcoma cells cannot survive.

Dani's Foundation has provided funding for Dr. Toretsky's lab to create novel peptides to prevent this interaction.

2004 - Dani's Foundation awarded \$10,000 to Dr. Larry Wiese, at Therapheris Inc., for research into new treatments for cancer patients; \$5,000 for the continuation of the Teen Clinic at The Children's Hospital in Denver.

2005 - Dani's Foundation awarded \$5,000 to Dr. Jeffrey Toretsky to continue his research on Ewing's Sarcoma.

2006 - Dani's Foundation awarded \$2,500 in funding to The Children's Hospital in Denver for the purchase of new DVD players for all patient rooms in the oncology ward; \$5,000 to Dr. Jeffrey Toretsky to continue his research on Ewing's Sarcoma; \$5,000 for the continuation of the Teen Clinic at The Children's Hospital in Denver; \$1,000 to the Marchello Fund.

2007 - Dani's Foundation awarded \$10,000 to Dr. Jeffrey Toretsky to continue his research on Ewing's Sarcoma; \$5,000 for the continuation of the Teen Clinic at The Children's Hospital in Denver; \$1,000 to the Marchello Fund.

2008 - Dani's Foundation awarded \$10,000 to Dr. Jeffrey Toretsky to continue his research on Ewing's Sarcoma.

Dani's FOUNDATION

In Memory of Dave “Shaggy” Stone

By Patrick Kurelich



David Stone stood on the trail looking across the expanse of Rocky Mountain National Park. The Aspen trees were turning gold; groups of them lined the mountainsides. From where he stood they looked like veins of gold in green rock. The sky was streaked with red and orange, showing signs that the day was coming to a close. David, his sister

Jennifer, his dad Bobby and I had hiked the day away, traveling nearly seven miles in all. As he sipped from his camelbak, David smiled as he turned to his family and said, “This is amazing, I think it’s the best hike I’ve ever been on.” For that moment it did not matter that David was struggling to beat cancer. For that moment all that was important was being with his family and being witness to such an amazing day.

Four months prior to that moment David, or Shaggy, as he was more commonly known, was diagnosed with a very aggressive type of cancer. Through perseverance and courage he underwent treatment to rid his body of this disease. During that treatment he lost his “shaggy” dreads that had given him his trademark name years before. He also lost being outside for the entire summer, a strong blow to a man who once slept on the Colorado Trail, in the mountains, under a tarp. Through it all he stayed positive. You would never believe he was as sick as he was by the way he spoke.

“I feel great,” he would say. “Just got to get this cancer thing under control and I’ll be styling.”

By the end of the summer he thought he was going to have it beat and he could go on with his normal routine.

Three weeks prior to the hike in Rocky Mountain National Park Shaggy underwent brain surgery to remove a racket ball sized tumor. Unfortunately the cancer was not beaten, it had just been hiding. Now with a heavy treatment schedule ahead of him and an uncertain future, Shaggy decided to push the envelope and do whatever he can as fast as he can.

“I’m stronger than most people,” he said while laying in the ICU, “If anyone can beat this thing it’s me.”

Most cancer patients, especially after brain surgery, would be taking things easy and be preparing themselves for the long and uncertain road ahead. Not Shaggy, once he was able to get out of the hospital he was gone like the wind.

“I can’t wait until I can hike and have a beer,” Shaggy mentioned before he was discharged.

It did not take long for Shaggy to do just what he said he wanted to do. The day after he was discharged he was having a beer during the Broncos game and hiking with his father and sister. Within three weeks he was ready for some serious hiking and perhaps some adventure. It was this that prompted the trip to the mountains outside Estes Park.

This trip would prove to be the best hike of our lives. The day started as beautiful as they come, blue sky as far as the eyes can see and a nice breeze to keep you cool as you walk. Upon reaching “Bear Lake” in the park, Shaggy was faced with the decision of what hike to tackle.

“I want to see as many lakes as I can,” Shaggy said. He then pointed to the map, “let’s do this loop here, it is only six miles or so...” Many people that are not sick with cancer feel that six miles, at high altitude, is a long and difficult distance to travel.

Not for Shaggy though. He probably had it in his mind since before we got there that he wanted to see as much as he could. He should be taking it easy, but he is one stubborn man. With that the journey began.

The first half mile revealed nothing about how amazing this hike was going to turn out. Only the thick forest was visible and the sounds of nature were drowned out by the sounds of tourists. After that first half mile, the trees opened into a clearing with a picturesque lake covered in lily pads. As the trail climbed above the lake, the first glimpses of the area became clear. Golden aspens littered the landscape and towering peaks dominated the backdrop. This became the most memorable part of the journey, the changing aspens. Throughout the hike to the present day the first thing about the hike Shaggy always mentions is the trees and the view.

As the hike continued and we climbed further into the mountains the view only became more breathtaking. As the trail wound around the hills different parts of the landscape became visible. It looked almost too amazing to be real; it looked more like a canvas painted with watercolors. The greens melted together, so many different color tones and the yellows streaked through like they were brushstrokes.

“The view is stellar...,” Shaggy would remark as we traversed the trail.

At the top of the trail Shaggy, Jennifer, Bobby and I were greeted by a pristine lake. Initially from the trail’s end one could not see the lake, only a small murky pond. The real lake was visible only upon climbing across the magnificent boulders. There were few people aside from our group there; one could hear the wind sweep across the lake. The lake was enormous; the blue water stretched nearly half the length of a football field. We all wished we had another day to just enjoy the lake itself, it was truly breathtaking. Unfortunately the sun had started to decline toward the horizon and it was time to head back.

On the walk back down from the lake, Shaggy was in the best spirits possible. We talked about skiing, hiking, mountain biking, and all the things that he loves to do. The hardest part about it was that we all knew deep down that it would be a miracle if he was able to do everything he wanted again. Though if you listen to Shaggy you would think he would be 100% by next week.

“I’ll be on the bike Monday,” he said, “Got to get in shape for ski season!”

Truly skiing is all he wants to do and that is all his family wants him to be able to do. It is his love, it is his passion. To him it does not matter if the doctor is going to clear him or if it will kill him. As long as he is standing come ski season he will be on that mountain.

“I don’t care what they say, I’m skiing this year,” he remarked when asked what if the doctors say he cannot go.

This hike is a hike that his family and I will always remember. For that journey nothing else mattered but the adventure. We forgot to be sad about Shaggy’s health. We forgot to be mad about the disease. We just spent an amazing time in good company and will have a lasting memory of that day. In life we take so much for granted, the simple things can just pass us by without notice. That hike at “Bear Lake” would have been a great hike regardless, but it would not have been as amazing as it was if Shaggy was not there.

LOOK WHO HAS JOINED DANI'S TEAM

WALMART EMPLOYEES SUPPORT DANI'S FOUNDATION



The WalMart Foundation continues to support charitable organizations that are important to their customers and their sales associates. WalMart Founder, Sam Walton, introduced the philosophy to "operate globally and give back locally" and Dani's Foundation has been the recipient of many local community grants during the past year.

Photographed here are WalMart employees from the Aurora WalMart (top) and the Highlands Ranch WalMart (below) who have granted funds to Dani's Foundation through their individual store community grant award program.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Dani's Foundation, we extend our thanks to each and every WalMart and Sam's Club - and their employees - who have made a commitment to join **Dani's Team** in our effort to develop a community education program that will hopefully lead to earlier detection for all pediatric sarcoma patients.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



2008 Education Grant

WalMart - Aurora

2009 Education Grants

WalMart - Highlands Ranch

Sam's Club - Cheyenne, WY

WalMart - Longmont

WalMart - Avon



Dani's FOUNDATION

Coming Events

Below is a listing of coming programs and events for Dani's Foundation. If you would like to become involved with any of these very special activities, contact Martha Simmons (303/601-1881) for specific details.

April 2009

19-25 National Volunteer Appreciation Week

August 2009

20 Cocktails in the Park
Denver's City Park Pavilion

September 2009

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

19 STEPS Walk
Stride To End Pediatric Sarcoma
Location To Be Announced

October 2009

TBA Purses With A Purpose
On-Line Auction
of Celebrity and Designer Purses

November 2009

15 Year End Campaign
to End Pediatric Sarcomas

December 2009

1-31 Dani's Foundation Giving Tree



True Blue Denver Bronco Fan and Dani's cousin Mason Hatton traveled in from Phoenix to attend My Big Greek Roast. He is pictured here with his grandparents Cae and Bill Hatton at the March 14 benefit & auction.

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My Big Greek Roast

(Continued from Page 1)



Following Ashby's heartfelt appeal, the festivities of the Roast began with short jabs from **My Big Greek Roast** Hosts: KOA Personality and Denver Bronco Broadcaster Dave Logan and Fox 31 Anchor Ron Zappolo. CBS 4 Sport Anchor Vic Lombardi represented the sport media in roasting Antonopoulos and came prepared with a photo from Steve's grade school years. "Same hairstyle," quipped Lombardi as a full-haired

Antonopoulos appeared on the big screen.

Other Denver Bronco personnel who joined in on the festivities included Denver Bronco Owner Pat Bowlen and CEO Joe Ellis, who dropped by prior to dinner to congratulate Antonopoulos on the impending recognitions and former Bronco players including Larry Brunson, Steve Busick, Keith Burns, Mark Cooper, Bucky Dilts, Ron Egloff, Steve Foley, Jack Gehrke, John Grant, Dale Hackbart, Jim Jensen, Mike Harden, Rich Karlis, Keith Kartz, Claudie Minor, Dave Studdard, Ralph Tamm, Denver Bronco Ring of Fame Member Billy Thompson, Billy Van Huesen, and NFL Hall of Fame Member Gary Zimmerman.

Mayor John Hickenlooper could not attend the March 14 Roast but sent a video greeting to Antonopoulos. Ron Zappolo then read a proclamation from the Mayor proclaiming Saturday, March 14 as "Steve 'The Greek' Antonopoulos Day" in the City and County of Denver. Following the proclamation, former Denver Bronco and current Head Coach of the Houston Texans Gary Kubiak's personal greeting was played on the big screen. The crowd laughed as Kubiak recounted days of keeping the other quarterback (John Elway) healthy so that he (Kubiak) would not have to take the field.

Tim "The Barrel Man" McKernan and his wife Becky traveled from their home out of state to make a special appearance at the Roast event. In addition to McKernan, several members of the Denver Bronco Cheerleaders and Miles the Mascot were in costumed attendance at the Bud Light cocktail portion of the event.

My Big Greek Roast featured a silent auction with over 200 items donated by businesses and organizations from throughout Colorado and the nation, a Greek Feast Dinner provided by Epicurean Catering and the post-dinner roast.

To learn more about Dani's Foundation and how you can help, visit the Foundation's website at: www.danisfoundation.org.



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On behalf of the Board of Directors & staff of Dani's Foundation,
we send our sincere thanks to those donors who have supported our efforts during the last quarter.

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Ways to Support Dani's Foundation

Dani's Foundation relies solely on the generosity of others to support its programs and research. Since the origin of the Foundation in 2000, over \$157,000 has been directed to improved patient programs, community education, advocacy for improved pediatric treatment protocols and increased funding for pediatric sarcoma research which has been aimed at finding the cause and the cure for Ewing's Sarcoma and the other pediatric sarcomas that are affecting and taking the lives of children and young adults.

There are a variety of ways in which you can help the Foundation to continue serving those in need and offering funding for vital programs, education and research:

- Return the donation envelope provided within this newsletter with your *tax-deductible* donation to support Dani's Foundation.
- Find out if your employer offers *Matching Fund* donations to non-profit organizations. If so, you can double your donation to Dani's Foundation by completing simple paperwork prior to making your donation.
- Volunteer your time to serve on a Foundation committee and/or participate in any one of the Foundation's programs or special events.

For information on becoming involved with Dani's Foundation, contact Martha Simmons at 303.601.1881 or via email to martha@danisfoundation.org. ***Your participation is vital to our continued success!***

Visit Dani's Foundation on the world wide web at www.danisfoundation.org!