

## "Tremendous progress" for Rory

**Nate Dougall** brought his son, **Rory**, to Euro-Pēds last winter for his 5th session of intensive physical therapy. Rory has been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. Nate shared his impressions of Rory's intensive therapy at Euro-Pēds:

*"It's just been tremendous. The greatest thing that we get out of it is that Rory makes progress every time he comes to Euro-Pēds.... They get him to do things that we didn't think were possible. He took his first independent steps here which was great. In 2002, when he first put the SUIT on, he went from a walker to just using crutches and he's never really gone back to the walker. Every time we set goals, he surpasses those goals. For instance, this time the goal was to walk with an object and carry it in two hands and do that without a crutch for 20 steps, and he did it for 60 steps! ...He gets excited about coming to Euro-Pēds. They definitely push him harder than he's ever been pushed and he really works harder. He's made tremendous progress. It's a great program, and it's certainly worth coming out from Wyoming for."*

~ **Nate Dougall, Jackson, Wyoming, father of Rory Dougall, age 9**

**\*Note:** After Rory's last session at Euro-Pēds, Nate was commissioned to serve in Iraq as a Major with the Multi-National Corps Iraq (MNC-I) where he is responsible for infrastructure security for the country.

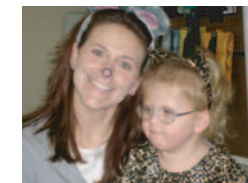


Rory Dougall of Jackson, Wyoming with his PT, Melissa Ahler

# Update

## Winter 2006

### Patients Celebrate the Holidays at Euro-Pēds with Help of Volunteers



(photos top to bottom); **Kennedy** as Buzz Lightyear on Halloween; **Miloslav** (right) & his 2 Muskateer brothers; **PT Melissa Ahler** with Baby Bop **Tanae**; **PT Angie Jackson** and patient **Erin** from California as mouse and cat; **PTA Kate Szawiela** & patient **Micah** are surrounded by **Project 2000** boys who handed out bags of Halloween candy to patients; **Samantha Fox** with Mr. & Mrs. Claus; Prize-winning quilt donated by **Cutup Quilters** of Waterford; **Palace Patrol** and the band **QTMC** surprise patient **Jesse** with a Pistons jersey

### Message from The Director, Michelle Saunders, MPT

#### Update on Clinic Expansion

Thanks to all the parents who took part in our first teleconference regarding an expanded Euro-Pēds clinic! The **North Oakland Foundation** followed up with a survey to the Parent Expansion Committee members and we are waiting on responses to determine the date and topics of the second teleconference. If you have any questions or are still interested in taking an active role in fundraising, please contact me at (248) 857-7137 or e-mail [msaunders@nomc.org](mailto:msaunders@nomc.org).

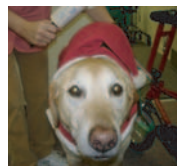
#### Reminder to Check Insurance Prior to Session

**Taleen Miller** is the billing specialist for Euro-Pēds. Feel free to contact her regarding your account or any questions regarding your insurance company. For new parents, as well as returning parents, please make sure you contact your insurance company prior to your child's session. You need to ask questions such as: Do I have enough visits to cover the session?; What will my responsibility be, if any?; Do I need authorization or referrals?, etc. Of course, we will continue to verify insurance for you as a courtesy; however, you are the only one able to get detailed information regarding your own policy. If you have any questions you may contact Taleen directly at (248)857-7064.

#### Inviting Guests

We warmly welcome visiting therapists, family members or friends during your child's therapy sessions. However, as a hospital-based clinic, we are required to get release forms from other parents prior to any guests arriving. We would prefer knowing that your guests are coming at least one week ahead of time, if possible. Thanks for helping us comply with HIPAA and JCAHO regulations pertaining to your privacy and confidentiality rights!

*Happy New Year... We are looking forward to serving you in 2006!*



## Arnie's Corner "Therapy Dog Extraordinaire"

### Arnie Claus Gives, as well as Receives

Euro-Pēds patient, **Kennedy**, gets to be Arnie Claus' Special Reindeer.



Arnie gets his very own presents to unwrap, with the help of patients **Brandy & Abigail**, and Arnie's human (and long-time Euro-Pēds volunteer), **Kay Neslage**.

## Patient from Portugal Celebrates Birthday While at Euro-Pēds

We are fortunate to have so many dedicated families who take time out of their normal routines to travel across the state or across the country to bring their child for intensive therapy. This past December, **Carlos & Rosaria Cardoso** traveled across the ocean from their home in Portugal to bring their daughter, **Joana** to Euro-Pēds. The Cardoso's own two restaurants in Cambres, Portugal, which they entrusted to other family members during **Joana's** four-week session. While here, **Joana's** parents and the Euro-Pēds staff and patients celebrated her 7th birthday together.



Above **Joana** opens her birthday presents with the help of her mother, **Rosaria**, and her therapist, **Carolyn Rose**



**Benoit** of Trenton, Ontario, joins **Joana's** celebration

## Special Thanks to Special People...

...**Allan Einstein & his Project 2000 class** for distributing Halloween candy...**The Cutup Quilters** for making homemade quilts for our patients...**Karen Davies and the Waterford Kroger Employees** for donating 5 DVD players...**Leona Revoldt**, for donating children's books and stuffed animals...**The Schedlbower's** (Mr. & Mrs. Claus), **Girl Scout Troop #1386**, & **Notre Dame Prep High School's Cheerleading Team** for distributing Christmas gifts to patients...**St. Stephens' Brownie Troop #843 & Kelly Miller** for donating videos...**Nancy Scherba** for magazines...**Fran Cleveland** for the Entertainment Book...**Lisa Kalie** for donating a long-distance phone card...**Rhea Allard-McGhee** for helping with the Halloween Party...All the people who kindly supplied us snacks and holiday goodies...and to all who have helped families and friends at Euro-Pēds...Thank You! (Please see our website [www.europeds.org](http://www.europeds.org) for more photos of our generous visitors!)

## Employees of the Month

### October '05: Anne Mancour, Communications Coordinator



"It's the extraordinary Euro-Pēds staff and patients that make it a pleasure and an honor to do my job of marketing; I simply get to tell other people how great this place is as a result of their passion, dedication and hard work."

### November '05: Angela Kraj, PTA



"I'm inspired by the amount of compassion the people I work with have. I love coming to work because I love being able to motivate the kids to do something they've never done before."

## NOMC Euro-Pēds® Parent-2-parent

### Euro-Pēds Patient, "Sweet Matthew," One of 15 Adopted Children

After **Roger and Bonnie Epling** married 24 years ago, they made it a priority to help the kids where they lived in Oregon. They began fostering children and eventually adopting them. "My dream was to have a working farm for troubled kids," Roger said, noting that they were also boarding twelve horses on their land in Oregon.

In 1996, they moved from Oregon to the rural town of Yale, Michigan, thinking that they would semi-retire." Instead, they found themselves continuing on their path of adopting and raising children in their seven-bedroom home on two acres. To date, the Epling's have adopted five sibling groups totaling fifteen children who are now between the ages of three and twenty-nine years old.

One of those fifteen children is 4-year-old Matthew, a Euro-Pēds patient with a wide and persistent smile and a sweet demeanor, and the first special needs child in the ever-enlarging Epling family. Matthew was 18 months old when Roger and Bonnie adopted him, along with his two sisters ages three and five. "Matthew had CP so his mom was going to keep his sisters but put him up for adoption," Roger said. "Matthew was such a sweetie; ...He would just smile at you and melt your heart."

Matthew has a shunt and was diagnosed initially with Spastic Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy. The Epling's discovered Euro-Pēds when a caseworker from the State of Michigan's Early-On program suggested they take Matthew to the clinic for treatment. "The Doctor said that Matthew would never walk, let alone stand...We just wanted him to sit up and to crawl. Now, I can stand him up and take his shoes off. He's got a full range of motion, and he can grab with his right hand," Roger said. "He's grown six inches since he's been here [at Euro-Pēds]!"

"The kids in our home have a special closeness, especially with Matthew. I think that's one of the reasons Matthew has come so far, because he has a reason to do it now. We just love him to pieces."



(left) Roger & Bonnie Epling with the ever-smiling Matthew, one of their 15 adopted children



(right) Matthew at Euro-Pēds with his therapist, **Renea Fletcher, PTA**

\*Note: For others interested in fostering or adopting special needs children, contact your State offices and ask for the Child Welfare department or Adoptive Services.

## Euro-Pēds Therapists Presenting Around U.S. in 2006:

As specialists in pediatric intensive physical therapy concepts, research and unique tools, Euro-Pēds has once again been invited to present on Intensive Physical Therapy. **Slawek Walenski, MPT/Associate Director** and **Melissa McGinnis, MPT**, will be presenting at the following '06 venues\*:



April 21-23	Abilities Expo-Metro New York, New Jersey Convention Center
June 16-18	Abilities Expo-Anaheim, California, Anaheim Convention Center
August 18-20	Abilities Expo-Novi, Michigan, Rock Financial Showplace
Nov. 17-19	World Congress & Exposition on Disabilities-Philadelphia

\*Days & Times TBA. Please visit our website at [www.europeds.org](http://www.europeds.org) and click on News & Events for specifics, or go to [www.abilitiesexpo.com](http://www.abilitiesexpo.com) and [www.wcdexpo.com](http://www.wcdexpo.com)



## Euro-Pēds T-Shirts Make Great Gifts!

If you're looking for a fun gift for a patient or a supporter that also gives back to Euro-Pēds, go online and check out our two designs. One is a cool tie-dye purple, and the other is a bright solid lime green. They are available in adult and child sizes. The order form is online at [www.europeds.org](http://www.europeds.org), under "News & Events" or you can call us toll-free at 1-888-875-6662 and ask for Anne. We'll ship them to your home.