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# Local boro family brings cheer to those in need this holiday

## Baskets go to Child Life Center, John Theurer Cancer Center

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By Kaitlyn Kanzler

POINT PLEASANT – For the past 20 years, one local resident and his family have dedicated a portion of their time to making the lives of others brighter.

Over the weekend, Ken Ryan and his family spent Sunday, Nov. 22, making up fruit baskets and gift boxes for the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Child Life Center and the Hackensack University Medical Center John Theurer Cancer Center.

“This will be our 20th year and without the support of friends and family, especially the Point Pleasant community, we wouldn’t be able to make it happen for those needing a little support during the holiday,” Mr. Ryan said.

Around 50 adults and children gathered at the Ryan’s Pearce Avenue home in Point Pleasant on Sunday to put together the baskets and pack the cars that would be going to each hospital.

According to Mr. Ryan, he and his family do this good deed in memory of his older brother, Danny Ryan, who died after a three-year battle with leukemia.

Mr. Ryan said his brother was always willing to help those in need and the family created the Daniel P. Ryan Foundation to help families pay medical bills, purchase food and to assist them with mortgage payments.

For the past 13 years, the foundation has awarded two, sometimes three, scholarships/awards to seniors at Monroe Township High School, which Danny Ryan attended, to help with their college education.

“It went great,” Mr. Ryan said. “My parents dropped off 60 fruit baskets to the patients at the Child Life Center at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, and my family delivered 150 goodie boxes to the patients at Hackensack University’s John Theurer Cancer Center.”

According to Mr. Ryan, several fruit baskets were also delivered to families that received assistance throughout the past year.

“It was a very rewarding day to honor my brother and the foundation, and be able to put a smile on the faces of many affected by cancer,” Mr. Ryan said.

### Photos

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Francesca Ryan with [from left], her father Ken, her sisters Annabella and Juliette her mother Gabrielle and grandmother Jamie Rotondi delivered 150 goodie boxes to the Hackensack University Medical Center John Theurer Cancer Center. Photo by KEN RYAN, STAR NEWS GROUP

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