

A word from our Event Chair Couple...



Dear Friends,

When I first began working in pediatric health care more than three decades ago, a child diagnosed with cystic fibrosis usually didn't survive to graduate from high school. Today, thanks to the outstanding research and education conducted by organizations such as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, those children live into adulthood, get married, have jobs and lead productive lives well into their 40s and beyond. But it's still not enough.

That's why my wife Melva and I are so pleased to be chairing this year's Breath of Life Ball, because we know how important it is for organizations like the CF Foundation to be able to continue their work. We still need to find better treatments and, ultimately, a cure for this insidious disease, and your support of the Breath of Life Ball can help make that possible.

At Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, our comprehensive Cystic Fibrosis program provides state-of-the-art care for more than 300 children and teens every year, so we have the opportunity to see first-hand how the work of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is helping those patients and their families. Your support of the 2009 Breath of Life Ball will help give improved care, new treatments and hope for the future to all the families in our region who are dealing with cystic fibrosis.

Sincerely,
Dr. Randall L. and Melva D. O'Donnell
President and CEO, Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics
Chairs, Breath of Life Ball 2009