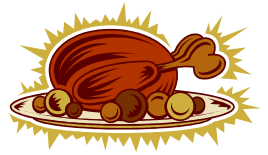




**Team Florida Hydrocephalus Support Group**

# *Hydro Chat*



## *From The Editor*

Happy Thanksgiving! Welcome to the first 'official' newsletter of the Team Florida Hydrocephalus Group. Well, for everyone who was able to attend our first official Team Florida walkathon in August, we had a great turnout with over 50 people attending, and we raised over \$4,000 for the Hydrocephalus Association.

Even more exciting news than this is that I have been chosen (one of six people chosen) by the Hydrocephalus Association to be flown out (expenses paid) to San Francisco in January for a Focus Group meeting on their Regional Expansion Plan.

The Association has been around and helping people dealing with Hydrocephalus since 1983, and they have heard what you have been saying. They are gathering a group of people to discuss an expansion plan to have regional offices to be able to reach out to additional people. Hopefully, Florida will be one of their chosen locations. I will keep you posted, but in the meantime, if you have any suggestions or input, please feel free to email me and let me know so that I can pass it along.

~Paula Keyser  
Team Florida Captain

Do You Have  
Something To Say?  
If You Would Like  
To Contribute To  
Our Upcoming  
'New Year'  
Newsletter,  
Please Email  
Articles and  
Comments To:  
[hydrosupport@gmail.com](mailto:hydrosupport@gmail.com)

## **Our Friend's Special Days**

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Chris R.       | October 1st   |
| Ka'Rhon D.     | October 4th   |
| Pat M.         | October 19th  |
| Scott B.       | October 28th  |
| Nicole C.      | October 29th  |
| Chris S.       | November 5th  |
| Kendall H.     | November 20th |
| Christopher R. | November 23rd |
| Mark K.        | November 29th |
| Kathy G.       | December 14th |
| Ronnie C.      | December 17th |
| Tara L.        | December 27th |
| Cameron S.     | December 29th |



THE ARTICLE BELOW APPEARED IN THE LATEST NEWSLETTER FROM THE HYDROCEPHALUS ASSOCIATION. IF YOU DID NOT GET A CHANCE TO READ IT, READ ON, IT'S SOME GREAT INSPIRATION!

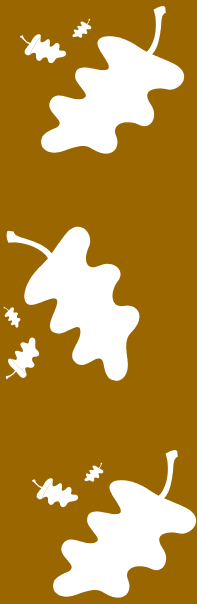
## *Welcome to Holland*

*By Emily Perl Kingsley*

I AM OFTEN ASKED to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability—to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this. . . . When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip—to Italy. You buy a bunch of guidebooks and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. Michelangelo's David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting. After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland." "Holland?" you say. "What do you mean Holland? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy." But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place. So you must go out and buy new guidebooks. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met. It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around . . . and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills . . . and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts. But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy . . . and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say, "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned." And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away . . . because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss. But if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things. . . . about Holland.

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# What a Team!



Thank you to everyone who came to our  
1st Annual **TEAM FLORIDA** walkathon

Special Thanks to:

- Samantha (my sis) for taking all the photos
- Mike (our friend) for shooting all the video
- Pete & Shorty's in Clearwater for donating the food
- Joe, Al & Mark for cooking all the food
- Nana Pat for making the crafts with the kids
- Nurse Bandi-Aid for just being YOU!

**Our total \$\$\$ raised is now  
\$4,117.00 Great Job TEAM!**