



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Bernard & Millie Duker Children's Hospital at Albany Med Receives Important Gift from Area Family**

ALBANY, N.Y., January 20, 2015 –

A gift to the Bernard & Millie Duker Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center made in memory of a Rotterdam child who lost his battle with cancer will help support young patients and their families as they face life-threatening illnesses.

Family members of Tyler DeMarco, who died in 2010 at age 12, today presented a \$130,000 check from the Tyler DeMarco Foundation to Albany Med physicians and staff to support an endowment for the "Journeys" program, which provides support and services for families of children facing a serious medical condition. The funding also will support the Bernard & Millie Duker Children's Hospital Renovation Fund.

"In honor of our son, we are committed and determined to fulfill Tyler's wish to make a difference for children with cancer," said Don DeMarco, Tyler's father. "Tyler's goals are now our mission derived from the love, compassion and 'never give up' determination Tyler demonstrated throughout his short and precious life. Tyler's belief that 'no kid should have to go through this' is what keeps us motivated in the fight against childhood cancer."

DeMarco, along with Tyler's mother Pam DeMarco and his brother Ryan DeMarco presented the gift to pay tribute to the staff of the children's hospital whom they came to know well during Tyler's battle with brain cancer.

"We are so grateful for this gift, which will make a lasting, positive impact for the patients of the Bernard & Millie Duker Children's Hospital at Albany Med," said Dr. David A. Clark, director of the children's hospital. "Just as Tyler lived driven by his spirit to 'never give up,' we will never forget the difference he and his family are making for other children battling cancer."

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