



State of Our Union – Looking back and to the future of CFCC!

Happy New Year!

We wanted to begin this new year by stepping back and revisiting a few of your incredible accomplishments. From fundraising to community service, you have made 2008 a truly memorable year. So enjoy that last bit of New Year's champagne while we celebrate your many achievements!

Thanks to all of your dedication and hard work, Cook fans have helped raise more than \$38,000 in the fight to eradicate cancer. That's a pretty awe-inspiring sum!

While David was busy touring the country **this summer, you were hard at work supporting the American Cancer Society. In just a few short months, you raised tens of thousands of dollars**, which led to their CEO recognizing David as a leader in the fight against cancer.

Your generosity didn't stop there. In just a **little over 3 weeks, you raised more than \$2,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society** in support of the Cook fans who walked in honor of two very special people in David's life, Lindsey Rose and Luke. Our team, Cook Fans Unite2Fight, walked in the Pinellas Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Light The Night Walk, where Lindsey Rose served as the Hero of Hope.

Your **support of Julie's Proverbial Box/DCO fundraising team for Stand Up 2 Cancer was incredibly moving.** You began by helping her team raise just over \$5,000 to help celebrate David's album release, and that sum alone touched David's heart. Then, when SU2C asked teams to reach into their hearts to participate in an end of the year challenge, you stepped up and showed the world how compassionate and generous David's fans are. **In the last 15 days of this year, \$6,000+ was raised by Cook Fans, bringing the team's total to a little over \$11,000.** *Congrats to Julie and her PB/DCO team for this tremendous accomplishment!*

On top of all of your fundraising for the fight against cancer, you also embraced the deeply personal cause of our favorite bass player. Joey took it upon himself to put those little Peeps on his amp and you all stepped up in thanking him by donating to his charity of choice. (Will any of us ever look at lavender Peeps the same again?!) In **just over one month, you have contributed nearly \$1,000 to the American Diabetes Association in Joey's honor.**

As if all of that fundraising wasn't enough, you took on some incredibly moving service projects. David said it wasn't all about money and encouraged his fans to "just do something." And did you ever respond!

The Cook Fans Conquering Cancer Team in Tampa worked with some very special fans to make David a Quilt of Thanks for his support of the fight against cancer. Oncology patients from a local pediatric hospital – including David's #1 girl, Lindsey Rose, decorated quilt squares that reflected their dreams, thoughts, and inspirations. Hospital volunteers came together to lovingly sew the quilt together, and the finished product brought tears to everyone's eyes. The perfect ending came when the Quilt of Thanks was given to David in Tampa when he was accompanied by Lindsey Rose. He was able to open the gift in private with her at his side, where he declared, "Now, I have a blanket to keep me warm."

In August, many of you traveled to Kansas City for the homecoming Idol concerts and even made time to volunteer at the American Cancer Society benefit we helped host in David's honor. David himself signed many prizes for the benefit for us and even donated 4 tickets and 4 backstage passes for the top fundraisers. It was an afternoon filled with much fun (David Trivia FTW!), the great music of Nick Gibson & the Can't Hardly Playboys (thanks, guys, couldn't have done it without you!), and more than a few firsts for our group (including a Jumbotron debut for an American Cancer Society recruitment & awareness video). In the end, the Cook Fans Unite2Fight American Cancer Society benefit was a true demonstration of your commitment to the cause, and it was an event that deeply touched David's heart.

When you step back and look at it all, it's incredibly touching. No one can ever say David's fans lack generous hearts! **A huge thank you to the 125 team members that gave so much of themselves to get these fundraisers not only started, but continued to keep others motivated as well. This couldn't have happened without them, or the countless donors who gave of themselves to support these causes.** Each and every one of you are heroes in the fight against cancer--be proud of what you've accomplished!

Now that we've celebrated the past year, who's ready to continue to change the world in 2009?! We will continue to support the personal causes of both David and Joey as we work to eradicate cancer and find a cure for diabetes.

We wanted to take this time to ask **you which causes interest you and what changes you wish to see.** Send us your ideas! Would you like to focus on fundraising? Would you prefer to organize a service event? Both? Let us know- we have a year full of opportunities awaiting us.

Stay tuned for some exciting things to come, including a message board, e-newsletter and a new broader reach of Cook Fans Conquering Cancer. We want to make sure we have many avenues to connect and work together on our various projects and initiatives!

Thank you for your continued support, and we can't wait to see what 2009 will bring!

