

# Brothers Come Together for Dance Marathon '05

Submitted: February 7th, 2005  
 by: Justin Pasay '05 - THON Chairman

## Article Responses

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## Dance Marathon '05 is Finally Underway!

After months of hard work, THON '05 finally got underway at 7:00 pm Friday evening. Our four Phi "dancers" have now been on their feet for...



Cecil Weeks '06, Justin Pasay '05, Jef Andruscavage '05, and Phil Donegan '05 pose with our THON child Kallan Hammaker (left), and her sister Krystian at the start of THON '05

**48 hours 0 minutes**

Only 0 hours 0 minutes to go!

Our guys can use some encouragement to make it the full 48 hours. Please enter a message or some words of encouragement in the form below. All messages will be delivered directly to the dancers - this is a real boost the the guys as they try to make it the full 48 hours.



Phil "The Captain" Donegan '05

## Phi Spotlight - Phil Donegan '05 Phil lands "The Best Job for a College Student"

Our THON Co-Chairman Phil "The Captain" Donegan '05 finally realized that he was getting a little too big for his Hooters outfit, so he traded in his bright orange short-shorts and skimpy tank-top and set out in search of a new career. Finding that the Coors Lite Girls weren't hiring, he settled on becoming the official



Say, haven't I seen that guy...

spokes-model for Captain Morgan Original Spiced Rum. So in keeping with fine Phi tradition, when he's not working hard at school, or raising money for kids with cancer, Phil is paying his way through school dressed up as Captain Morgan pitching Rum to college students. Way to go Captain!

If you'd like to send a message to Phil and the guys while they're "dancing", or if you'd like to make a donation to THON

### Your Response

**Any words of encouragement for the actives?**

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### Recent Responses



**Arthur Miller '47**  
 Wayne, PA

**Any words of encouragement for the actives?**

Great effort on the THON this year -- I understand it set a new record! Also, loved seeing the 1947 on the website -- them's my boys!



**Gregory Skochko '96**  
 Suisun City, CA

**Any words of encouragement for the actives?**

You guys make me very proud to be a Penn State Phi. Thanks for carrying on this worthwhile tradition! For all of you who have participated this year & in year's past, you understand why giving of yourself for those less fortunate can make a difference & be so meaningful. Good luck! :)



**Phil Caraballo-Garrison '04**  
 New York, NY

**Any words of encouragement for the actives?**

Its good to hear that you guys are doing so well. I'm pretty pissed that I cant make it this year, but my thoughts are with you. Dont kill Cecil (is he this year's Blake?).



**Tim Wilkinson '83**  
 Mechanicsburg, PA

**Any words of encouragement for the actives?**

I was very pleased to hear that there are eight pledges in the spring pledge class. Keep up the good work!! You are on track to fill the house with 35 men in the fall. Thanks for doing your part.



**M. Blake Edwards '04**  
 Downingtown, PA

**Any words of encouragement for the actives?**

Great job on the fund raising guys! 4 Grand in one weekend; that is something to be proud of! Keep up the good work - as always...FTK!

**Randy Thompson '83**

on behalf of Phi Delta Theta, [click here...](#)



Phi Delt Thon Child Kallan Hammaker (left) poses with her sister Krystian at the Thon Family Carnival

## The actives work hard to raise money for kids with cancer

Keeping with the Phi Delt tradition of community service, the actives have been working very hard this year to raise money for Penn State Dance Marathon. As many of you know, Penn State Dance Marathon, affectionately known as THON, is

the largest student-run philanthropy in the world where Penn State students collectively raised over \$3.5 million last year.

Four weekends a year, the Active Brothers brave the cold weather and snowy conditions to raise money for kids with cancer. As a Thon Chair, I have been extremely proud of the dedication and effort the brothers have shown towards Thon this year.

On the weekend of December 3rd, 4th and 5th, 28 brothers packed into 7 cars to make the three hour journey to can in Pittsburgh. A few eager brothers looking to get a jump start on the fundraising, left early Friday morning to beat the afternoon rush. The remainder of the brotherhood attended their Friday classes and later joined the rest of the guys in Pittsburgh. The brothers were spread throughout Pittsburgh staying at the homes of Guy Bacco '07, Justin Pasay '05, Jake Barker '07, Joe DiRenzo '06, and Matt Quirin '07. After arriving safely in Pittsburgh, the brothers headed to bed early to rest up for a long day of canning.



Brothers up at 7am ready to brave the cold weather to raise money for kids with cancer



Grant Anderson '05 cans in front of Wal-Mart

The next morning at 7:00 am, the alarm clock rang and fellow Thon Chair Phil Donegan and I made a series of calls to make sure all the brothers were up and ready to go. After a quick breakfast, the guys headed out by 7:45 a.m. each having a can and sign to station them themselves at the intersections and storefronts reserved for Phi Delta Theta.

For over ten hours, the brothers canned at Giant Eagles, Wal-Mart's and at intersections in Bloomfield, North Hills, Mount



Austin, TX  
**Any words of encouragement for the actives?**

Great job taking care of Kallan and the rest of the kids. I just made a donation on THON's site in your behalf. Good luck Justin, Phil, Cecil, and Jef!

[See All Responses](#)

Lebanon and in the City of Pittsburgh. After a long, successful day, the guys returned to the homes at which they stayed the night before to feast on the wonderful meals prepared by the hosts' parents. When the meals were complete, the brothers thanked their gracious hosts and even helped clear the table and wash the dishes. With the dishes clean, in true Phi Delt form, all 28 brothers in Pittsburgh came together at Joe DiRenzo's house to celebrate the success they had canning during the day.



After a long day of canning, Brothers enjoy a wonderful meal prepared by Mrs. Bacco



Brothers celebrate at after a long, successful day of canning

Although Saturday night turned into a late night for many, all 28 actives awoke early the next morning to get in a few hours of canning before returning to State College. When it was finally time to head back, the brothers met for lunch at Primanti Brothers, a Pittsburgh tradition, and then headed back to State College together.

After returning from a long weekend of canning, the brothers headed to Chapter to discuss weekly business as usual. Following Chapter, the guys came together to count the bills and wrap the coins collected. All told, the Brothers raised \$4053 for the Kids in one weekend! I could not be happier with the tremendous effort put forth by the Brothers. It just goes to show that when all the Brothers come together, great things can happen.



Brothers Raised \$4053 for the Kids!

### Kallan is an Inspiration to the Brothers



Brothers hang out with Kallan and Krystian during the Thon Family Carnival

For the past two years, the actives have been extremely fortunate and privileged to have Kallan Hammaker as our Thon Child. Kallan and her family have served as a tremendous inspiration to the active brothers. For those of you unfamiliar with Kallan's story, at age three she was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor on her brain.

In the year that followed, Kallan underwent a series of surgeries in addition to enduring many

months of radiation as well as chemotherapy. I'm sure you could imagine that this would be an extremely painful time for anyone let alone a three year old. However, Kallan's father, Scott, told me that through all the surgeries and months of Chemotherapy, she never once complained about being sick. Kallan's courage and strength has really motivated the active chapter to become involved with THON and establish a strong relationship with the Hammaker family. Kallan, now age five, has been off chemotherapy for eight months and is starting to regain some of her strength back.

### **The actives make Christmas a little brighter for Kallan and her family**

Throughout the year, the brothers maintain contact with the family through email, letters, phone calls and visits. This past November, the family attended the THON family carnival held at the White Building. During the four hour carnival, brothers engaged in many games with Kallan and her sister including jacks, basketball and arts and crafts. Following the event, the brothers said their goodbyes and made sure to ask the girls what they wanted for Christmas this year.

With Christmas around the corner, the brothers were more than willing to donate money toward gifts for Kallan and Krystian. After collecting the money, Justin Pasay '05 and Phil Donegan '05 bought the gifts and headed to Camp Hill to visit the family. As we pulled up to the house, the girls were at the window anxiously awaiting our arrival.



Justin Pasay '05 and Phil Donegan '05 pose for a picture in front of the tree with Krystian and Kallan

We entered the house and gave the family hugs and then proceeded to the living room to exchange gifts. The girls were very happy to see that they received Shrek 2 and Spiderman along with Teddy Bears and numerous coloring books. After they finished opening their gifts, the family gave us a scrapbook with pictures of the brothers and the girls at different events in the past two years. A gift that really meant a lot to the Active Brothers. Following the gift exchange, Phil and I spent the day playing different games with the girls. We put together puzzles, played basketball, watched cartoons and even played "house." After several hours of playing games, we sat down to a wonderful meal of homemade lasagna prepared by Mrs. Hammaker. As always, she made extra food and homemade brownies to take back to all the guys at the house.



Kallan teaches Phil Donegan '05 how to put a puzzle together



Kallan pins Krystian in a "friendly" wrestling match

Following dinner, Phil and I said our goodbyes and told the family that we would be back to see them and stay with them for a canning trip in early February. They told us they were very excited and would also be staying at the Nittany Lion Inn February 18th 19th and 20th for Thon weekend to visit with the Brothers and cheer the dancers on. As Phil and I discussed on our ride back to State College, our relationship with the family has made Dance Marathon all the more meaningful and special.

### **48 Hours of Non-Stop Dancing begins Friday, February 18th at 7:00pm!**

This year, Justin Pasay '05, Jef Andruscavage '05, Phil Donegan '05 and Cecil Weeks '06 will be representing Phi Delta Theta at the forty-eight hour no sitting, no sleeping event held at Rec Hall. The Dancers along with the Active Chapter would appreciate any donations you could give toward Penn State Dance Marathon. In addition to donations, if you would like to send mail to the dancers to cheer them on during THON weekend, please send it to the house or post your comments of support in the form below. Receiving mail at THON is a tremendous pick-up for the dancers as they try to stay awake and on their feet for forty-eight hours.

### **Please make a donation to THON on behalf of Phi Delta Theta**

**To donate online**, go to the official THON website [www.thon.org](http://www.thon.org) and click "Donate Online". Then just follow the instructions and be sure to select "Phi Delta Theta" as the organization so we get credit.

**To donate by check**, please make a check payable to "*Penn State Dance Marathon*" and send it to the address below.

**Phi Delta Theta**  
Attn: Justin Pasay  
240 North Burrowes Rd  
State College, PA 16801



The Brothers thank you for your continued support.

## Proud to be a Phi!

Great job guys! Please take a moment to offer some words of encouragement to our actives...

### Your Response...

**Please enter your response below.**

You can change your response at any time.

**Any words of encouragement for the actives?**

Cancel

Submit

For more information on THON, please see the THON official website at [www.thon.org](http://www.thon.org).

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