

Passion for lights raises money for St. Jude kids

Joe Petrowski Jr. has designed a Christmas light display for his family home in Guilford, Conn., since he was 6 years old. As he grew, it grew. And about seven years ago, he started using the display to collect money for charity.

Now 21, Petrowski's most recent Christmas display included about 55,000 lights and raised more than \$13,000 for St. Jude – the only charity that he has collected for twice.

The 2011 total included a \$10,000 check from the Yvette and Arthur Eder Foundation in Guilford, which also contributed \$10,000 when Petrowski first raised money for St. Jude in 2008. "I thought it was a great opportunity and a great cause, given what St. Jude does on a daily basis and who it affects," Petrowski said.

Tony Raucci, who leads a volunteer committee called the Connecticut Network, worked alongside Petrowski in his fundraiser this past December. "Joe amazes me," Raucci said. "It baffles me that a college student would take weeks out of his time back home for the holidays to put together a light display and collect money for kids with cancer. And I think we were both equally astonished at the generosity of the Yvette and Arthur Eder Foundation as well."

It takes Petrowski seven to 10 days to put up the display, and he credits his parents, Nancy and Joe Petrowski Sr., for their support of this project, which costs them an extra \$100 in their electric bill over Christmas. "That is their donation to allowing people to have some joy during the season," he said. "If not for them, I wouldn't be able to raise the funds like I have."

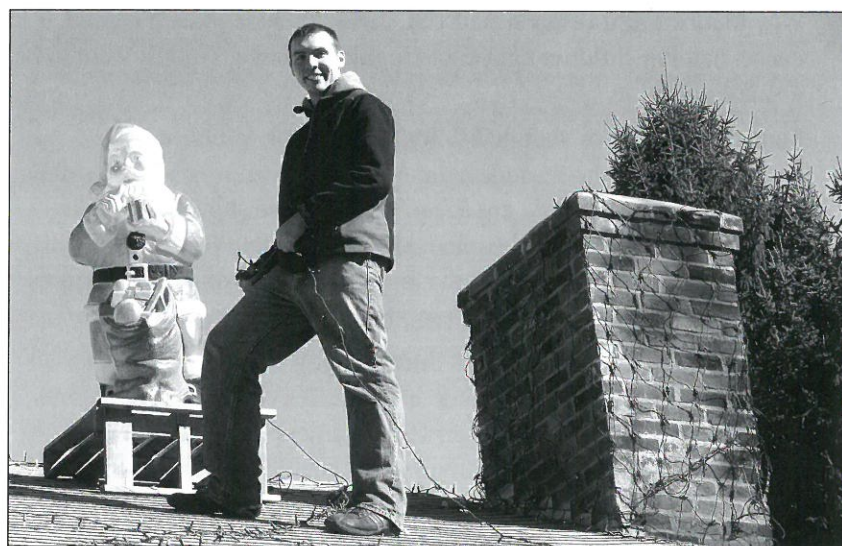
Petrowski's neighbors in the New Haven, Conn., suburb also are supportive of the display, which usually runs from Thanksgiving weekend to Jan. 2. "The people across from me say it brings the neighborhood to life," he said.

In addition to thousands of lights, Petrowski's display includes songs such as the Jackson Five's *Up on the Housetop* and Barbra Streisand's *Jingle Bells* synchronized with flashing lights and transmitted via an FM transmitter to radios in cars cruising past the display. Between musical sets, a recording made by another neighbor describes the display and the charity that it benefits, directing passers-by to the well-lit donation box flanked by Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse.

A senior at Emerson College in Boston, Petrowski will receive a bachelor of fine arts degree in theater design technology this spring. He



Joe Petrowski strung 55,000 lights in this display to benefit St. Jude.



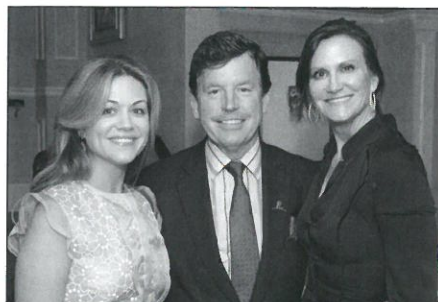
The roof of his family home doesn't escape decorating by Joe Petrowski.

will move on to the Disney College Program for the next six months and says it is unlikely that he will be in Connecticut to put up the display in 2012.

But he hopes to keep sharing the message of St. Jude wherever he goes. "If there is any way I could help contribute and help spread the word on the mission, I would love to," Petrowski said. "I hope to."

Capt. Sully lands at St. Jude dinner

Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, known for safely landing a U.S. Airways jet on the Hudson River in 2009, joined St. Jude supporters for the fourth annual Palm Beach Dinner at Club Colette Feb. 29. Event chairs included Lourdes Fanjul, Talbott Maxey and Thomas C. Quick.



Participants enjoyed fine dining and dancing while honoring the work of St. Jude founder Danny Thomas. Guests also heard from David Ellison, MD, PhD, chair of the St. Jude Pathology Department, and John Sandlund, MD, who specializes in leukemia and lymphoma and works with Danny's

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within the Hispanic community," said Richard Shadyac Jr., CEO of ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. "In addition to celebrating our remarkable partnership, Univision and St. Jude are both celebrating our 50th anniversaries this year. We are truly grateful for Univision

