

People & Places

Boat club raises \$21K for children's cancer group

By **Faran Fagen**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In 2010, contributions to the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation grew nearly 50 percent. Part of that success was the \$21,000 donated by the Lauderdale Small Boat Club.

"We are totally amazed at what a local club has accomplished to give back to our neighbors in dire need through the JJCCF," said **Sandra Muvdi**, founder of the Fort Lauderdale-based nonprofit foundation. "Each and every member of this club should be commended for their work, as their contribution made a significant difference for the foundation and the children we assist."

Each year, the Lauderdale Small Boat Club donates to a local charity that benefits children. Last year, members met with JJCCF families with cancer-stricken children and knew they had to help.

"We look for local charities that will use the funds to assist those in need and not to cover administrative costs, and JJCCF fits this description to a T," said **Connie Wadsworth**, the club's charity co-chairwoman. "In the past few years, we have focused on children with disabilities or medical needs."

The foundation provides emergency financial assistance for South Florida children fighting cancer. Families that qualify receive



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From left are Connie Wadsworth, charity co-chairwoman of the Lauderdale Small Boat Club, Sandra Muvdi, founder of the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation, and Edward Schinski, chairman of the club's fundraising committee.

emergency financial relief for everyday necessities such as medical, utility, rent, mortgage, car, gas and food costs. Muvdi established the foundation soon after her only child, **Jessica June Eiler Muvdi**, died of leu-

kemia at age 7 in 2003.

"The foundation is healing and gives me a very important reason for being," Muvdi said. "Milestones such as receiving donations from the Lauderdale Small Boat Club give me a satisfaction that the community appreciates what we're doing for the children in need."

Fundraising events included a dinner with an auction, a flea market, raffles and more.

"They should be commended, and hopefully other organizations in the community can learn by their example and raise money for a small local charity," Muvdi said. "There are so many different clubs and organizations in the community. Hopefully, other clubs can choose a charity and raise money and do the same."

For more information, visit www.jjccf.org.