

***Welcome to the 10th Annual CHOC Regatta!***

I am writing to introduce myself as this year's chairperson for the CHOC regatta, which is taking place on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at BYC. The CHOC regatta is an annual event where sailors and non sailors alike gather to have a great time and raise money for a great cause. It is held in conjunction with the first Sunkist Regatta and is open for both large boats and smaller one design racers.

Since you may not know me, I'd like to tell you a little about why I am chairing this regatta.

I answered my phone one morning and BYC Rear Commodore Peter Bretschger was on the line. He was calling to ask me to chair the regatta. I hesitated, but he pressed further reminding me of the difference we can make at CHOC with the funds we are able to raise in the regatta. More importantly, at that moment I thought of a little boy named Eric whom I know and love. Eric was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of 3. Eric's mom had taken him to see his doctor because he wasn't feeling well. That afternoon, she called me to pick up his backpack from the doctor's office. It had been left there when she and Eric rushed to the hospital to have further tests done. Later that night I called their home to see how he was feeling and was told by his dad that Eric had leukemia. For Eric, this began the long trial of dealing with childhood disease.

It is with great joy that I can tell you Eric is now 15 years old. Due to Eric and his family's determination, CHOC's efforts, and the grace of God, Eric is a freshman at Mater Dei High School. He is on the water polo team and doing very well.

Through the care and support given at CHOC Eric is now an amazing teenager. I know first hand the difference CHOC makes. As a result I am more than happy, actually thrilled to be chairing the CHOC regatta this year.

I thank you for your support in helping us help them treat the more than 210,000 children who come to them each year. Together, we can make a difference. Attached is your CHOC racing form along with your sail-a-thon form for your convenience. With the sail-a-thon form you may donate a cumulative amount as a boat. You may get pledges for your boat from your crew as well as from non-sailors. The boats with the highest donations will be recognized for their outstanding participation. Just fill out both forms at your earliest convenience. You will not only have the satisfaction of having participated in a very worthy cause but also the chance to win some fun prizes.

With love in our heart let's do our part.

Respectfully,

Margie M. Hunter