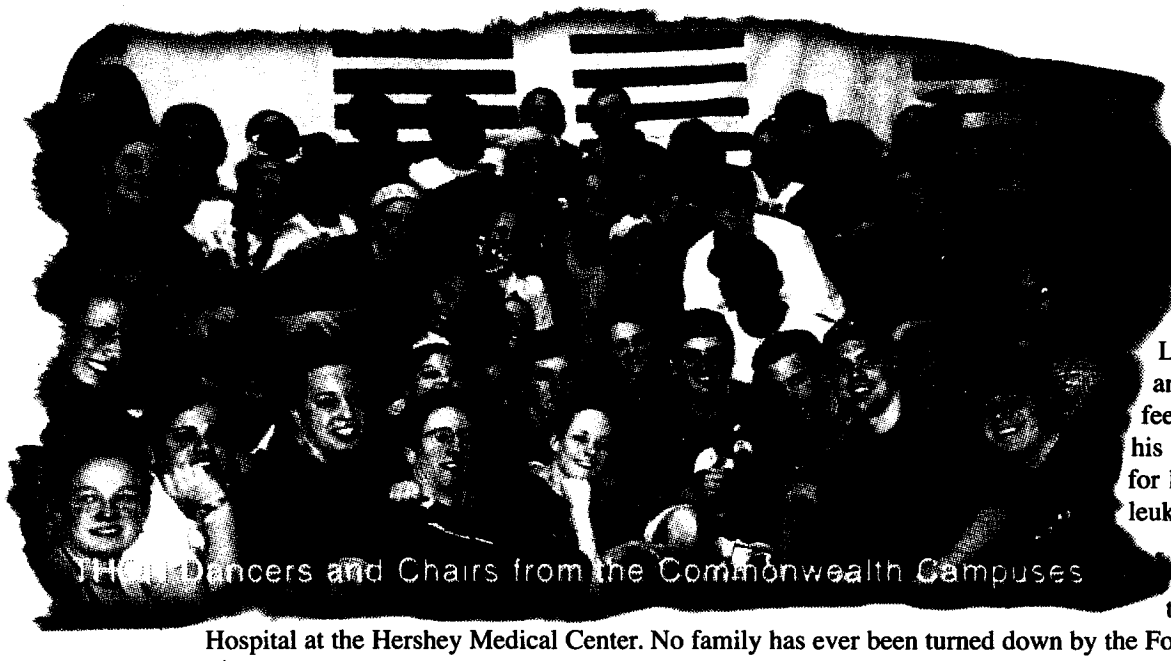
THON Raises Over 3 Million

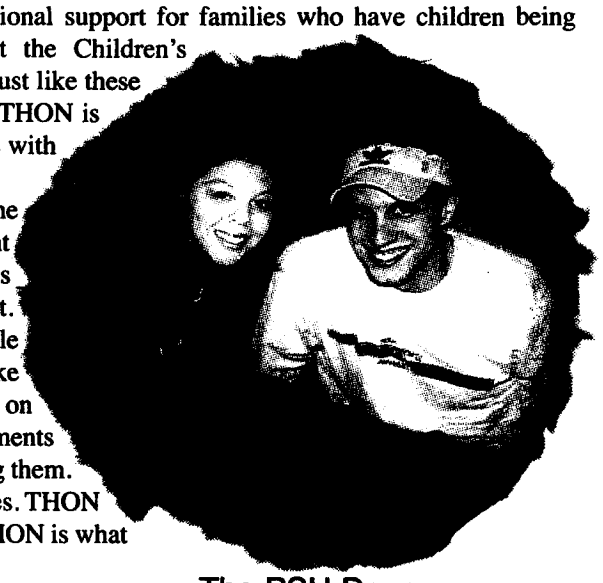
Story and photos provided by Melissa A. Kupchak
THON chair for PSH


THON Dancers and Chairs from the Commonwealth Campuses

The 2002 Interfraternity Council / Panhellenic Dance Marathon took place on Feb. 22 through 24 at the Recreation Hall at 7 p.m. on the University Park campus. THON 2002 raised $3,613,178.61 for the Four Diamonds Fund to conquer Childhood Cancer! It topped last year's record of $3,609,830 by almost $3,500. Jonathan Myers and Lynette Carter had the honor of representing Harrisburg in Penn State's 30th annual Penn State Dance Marathon. They did an awesome job, both on their feet for 48-hours. This year was extremely memorable for Jonathan because his family has been a Four Diamonds family for about five years. He danced for his 11-year old brother Jimmy, who was diagnosed with acute lymphatic leukemia at age 3. This year there were more than 260 organizations that raised the money for the Four Diamonds Fund, which exists to provide financial assistance and emotional support for families who have children being treated for cancer at the Children's Hospital at the Hershey Medical Center. No family has ever been turned down by the Four Diamonds Fund. Just like these families no dancer ever stands alone; organizations raise money together, moral together, and support the families together. THON is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world, and through its efforts since 1973, over $17 million has been raised for kids with cancer!

THON is meeting people from all over the place. THON is doing a line dance every hour and trying not to run into the dancer next to you. THON is playing catch with a football with a child for four straight hours. THON is wanting sleep. THON is periods of boredom. THON is feeling at times like the Rec Hall is the size of a closet. THON is feeling like a hammer hit your feet. THON is pain. THON is wanting to give up, but knowing you can't. THON is people you don't know putting stickers on you and making you happy. THON is feeling like a kid again. THON is children. THON is the spirit of these kids. THON is the smile on a child's face. THON is the Hershey Medical Center. THON is the chemotherapy treatments that make these kids cry. THON is the best doctors and nurses in the country comforting them. THON is the families who suffer so much during the year. THON is hearing their stories. THON is the tears you can't hold back. THON is these families thanking you for your help. THON is what these kids look forward to all year. Most of all, THON is seeing real heroes.

Jimmy & Kyle Stone with Spidey


The PSH Dancers
Lynette Carter & Jonathan Myers

In this year's dance marathon, Jonathan Myers and Lynette Carter represented Harrisburg by successfully dancing with all their heart, for one reason, "For The Kids!"