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Employee Memories of the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Target House Impact Travel Advantage Network Fundraiser

Employees at Travel Advantage Network join together to raise funds for charity month by month

MILLERSVILLE, Md. – It took just one visit to [St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital](http://www.stjudechildrens.org) Target House to leave an indelible mark on Shannon Small, marketing coordinator for Beachtree Properties at [Travel Advantage Network](http://www.traveladvantagenetwork.com). Three years later, Small and co-worker Kristina Gibbons, assistant to the director of sales, joined forces to launch a Travel Advantage Network-sponsored fundraiser for that same charity.

The recent month-long fundraiser that TAN hosted for St. Jude Target House raked in more than \$1,300 in donations. St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital treats children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases, and Target House serves as a residence for families who have children undergoing treatment at the hospital.

“I was empowered with the fact that these families had to leave their jobs months at a time to be with their kids before they passed away,” says Small.

Small and Gibbons quickly learned that incorporating America’s favorite classic foods makes for a successful charity event. The two women staged an array of charitable events for the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Target House fundraiser, including a silent auction for restaurant gift cards, the sale of yummy tacos with all the necessary toppings, as well as a Hot Dog, Chips and Root Beer Float Day. Additionally, Small and Gibbons arranged an Orioles Park Day for TAN employees and a special Jeans Day, where employees paid to wear their blue jeans. “We had a blast doing it,” Gibbons says. Their fundraising efforts paid off and Travel Advantage Network raised \$1,363.50 in donations for the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Target House.

“Our company culture not only encourages philanthropy, but enables our employees to have fun doing it,” says TAN President Brad Callahan. Each month, TAN employees rally behind a chosen charity and raise funds to support it. In 2008, TAN employees donated more than \$10,000 to charities like the Muscular Dystrophy Association, National Alopecia Areata Foundation and The MISS Foundation.

For more information about [Travel Advantage Network](http://www.traveladvantagenetwork.com), call 410-729-1133, or visit its website: www.planwithtan.com.

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ABOUT TRAVEL ADVANTAGE NETWORK - Since 1992, TAN, a [wholesale priced vacation](#) accommodations program, has helped families and individuals create lifelong vacation memories. TAN is the proud recipient of the Better Business Bureau of Maryland's prestigious *Torch Award* for exemplifying high business standards and professional integrity and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce's *Philanthropy in Business Award* for outstanding and innovative commitment to local and national charities. TAN is a recipient of *SmartCEO Magazine's* 2008 and 2009 *Future 50 Award*, recognizing the fastest growing companies in the greater Baltimore area. To learn more, visit www.planwithtan.com.

ABOUT ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is internationally recognized for its pioneering work in finding cures and saving children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. All patients accepted for treatment at St. Jude are treated without regard to the family's ability to pay. To learn more, visit www.stjude.org.