

Nutrilite Energy

Helps Power Volunteers

Pam Burch IBO since 1977 | Founders Emerald

When ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" announced an August building project in Washington, D.C., a construction firm with Amway Global ties stepped in to manage construction – pro bono.

"It was the right thing to do," says Tim Burch Jr., CEO of Burch Builders Group LLC. He took the helm of the three-generation family business when his father retired. Free from the demands of construction contracts, Tim Sr. started helping his wife of six years, Pam, in her AMWAY GLOBAL™ business.



Pam helped broker a major product donation from Amway Global for nearly 15,000 "Makeover" volunteers. In just five days, generous crews completed two projects: a new home for community volunteers Nikema and Tamara Tripp, and a new facility for a local youth development program called *The Fishing School*. During breaks, volunteers consumed four pallets of NUTRILITE® Energy Bars, Sports Drinks, and XS® Energy Drinks.

"The bars were basically meals for people working around the clock," Pam says. "Volunteer crews can burn out unless they're well fed and you keep them going." She says the NUTRILITE and XS products are a big improvement over some of the junk food they may choose, and *The Fishing School's* kids enjoyed them too. "They're a good source of nutrition," Pam says. "It was good for the kids to see better options to eat and drink."



Remembering Ishan

Mayank and Sejal Gala IBOs since 1993 | Emerald

On August 28, 2008, Ishan Gala celebrated his second birthday in the hospital. The next day, his parents' hearts were broken when doctors told them, "There is nothing more we can do." Eight short days later, their beloved little boy passed away.

Ishan's battle started eight months earlier when he was diagnosed with Stage IV neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer most common in children under five. His parents, Mayank and Sejal, fought hard alongside him.

"After one week in Sloan-Kettering, I knew that helping these children fight cancer was what we were supposed to do with the rest of our lives," Mayank said. "I think that everyone has a calling, they just have to figure out what it is." During the long months of Ishan's illness, Mayank was optimistic about the future, always imagining Ishan working with him, offering hope to other children with the disease.

But his optimism faded when they took Ishan home for the last time, as Mayank wrote in an essay about his son.

The hospital arranged for an ambulance ... I remember that ride home. We still believed with all of our heart that Ishan would be OK. We arrived home and it seemed like this wasn't real. Just a short time ago, we were playing in his playroom, sitting reading a book, dancing to music, kicking the ball in the driveway, and now he was being brought in on a stretcher, connected to oxygen ... Hospice was there. The medical supply company was there. I felt like it was chaos. I just wanted everyone to leave and for us to be a normal family. Ishan spent three days at home. You could tell he was tired. He kept pointing at different parts of the room as if there was an angel waiting to take him home. He was pulling at his tubes as if he was letting us know that he no longer needed them.

With Ishan's death, the Galas' desire to help other children with cancer only intensified. Just one month later, Mayank and Sejal established The Ishan Gala Foundation to support neuroblastoma research. (See "Hope for Children," at right.)

Throughout Ishan's illness, the Galas were by his side, thanks to their hard work and investment in their AMWAY GLOBAL™ business. "We were able to spend every single day of the two years and nine days of Ishan's life with him," says Mayank.



Hope for Children

On August 29, 2009, exactly one year after the Galas received the most devastating news of their lives, The Ishan Gala Foundation hosted its first event and raised \$40,000 toward a cure for neuroblastoma. Mayank is proud to report that 99% of the money raised by The Ishan Gala Foundation goes directly to research.

"We support the foundation out of our own pockets," Mayank said. "We want it to remain an all-volunteer organization so the money raised goes to finding a cure." He cites statistics to emphasize the need: 650 new cases of neuroblastoma every year; 46 children diagnosed with cancer every school day; every 16 hours, a child with neuroblastoma dies.

The Galas are grateful for the support of their parents, Kanti and Hemi Gala, and their IBO community. Mentors and personal friends, Pam and Larry Winters, are major supporters of the foundation. IBOs Matt Megel, Jamie Payton, and Anita Smith serve on the board. And many IBOs who heard Ishan's story attended the fundraiser.

"It was amazing to see how everyone came together," Mayank says. "Ishan's legacy will live on. There is a cure and it will be found."

"When we moved from Virginia to New York for his treatment, we didn't worry about our mortgage or paying bills. We only focused on Ishan, and our business supported us."

Now, Mayank says, the business lets him pursue his new passion: fighting the disease that took Ishan. "I didn't even know that kids got cancer until this happened to my son," he says. "Now my idea of perfect happiness is to make sure that no parent ever hears what we heard ... that nothing more can be done."