

Mother finds comfort in ChaCha the Chihuahua

Rebecca Swieczkowski, Frisco resident and owner of **Get Reformed Pilates Studio**, was looking for a companion to help her adjust to empty nest syndrome and give her comfort while her 20-year-old son, **Joffrey**, fights a rare aggressive sarcoma cancer.

When she saw **ChaCha** the Chihuahua and read her bio on the **Frisco Humane Society** website, Rebecca knew she was the perfect match.

"We are so very happy and grateful that we adopted little ChaCha into our family," she said.

Last September, Joffrey, currently a college student and PetSmart manager, was diagnosed with an aggressive stage five sarcoma cancer called **Demoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor**.

Joffrey's diagnosis came as a surprise to the Swieczkowskis since the family has no cancer history and Joffrey was an active young adult.

For comfort, Joffrey relies on his own pet menagerie — **Philippe**, a 15-year-old cat and cancer survivor; **Salad**, an exotic green-cheeked Conure parrot; **Bertie**, a bearded dragon, and a tank of tropical fish.

Joffrey's large family of animals isn't uncommon for the Swieczkowskis

"Have we always been pet lovers? Are you kid-



KATHRYN HORNER
Contributor

ding?" Rebecca said. "I've raised five children and at least three pets per child through the years."

All five adult children are living in various places around the country, each with a tender heart for animals and a dog or cat of their own.

And now, with the addition of ChaCha, Rebecca has a friend to keep her company.

While the Swieczkowskis friends have gone above and beyond to support them during their trying time, for Joffrey and his mom, their loving pets have provided that extra comfort when they needed a friend to listen and someone to snuggle with.

Kathryn Horner contributes to neighborsgo on behalf of the Frisco Humane Society. To see adoptable pets, visit friscohumanesociety.com.



Rebecca Swieczkowski found a snuggle buddy and source of comfort in her newly adopted pet, ChaCha the Chihuahua.

Photo submitted by **KATHRYN HORNER**

RACE FOR JOFFREY

Alexandria Ford, a trainer at Rebecca Swieczkowski's Pilates studio, has organized a fundraiser to help the family.

Alexandria will be participating in five triathlons through 2011, running a total of 165.7 miles. The races she will participate in are:

April 10 — Ironman Lonestar 70.3 in Galveston

May 1 — Historical Kiwanis Triathlon in McKinney

June 5 — Playtri Festival Triathlon in Irving

Aug. 21 — Take on the Heat Triathlon in The Colony

Sept. 25 — Stonebridge Triathlon in McKinney

For more information, visit funds.gofundme.com/Race-for-Joffrey.

— Danielle Abril, dabril@neighborsgo.com

SPEND YOUR 2011 SUMMER WITH US!

ALL SPORTS CAMP

PLAY ALL DAY
AT OUR ALL SPORTS CAMP

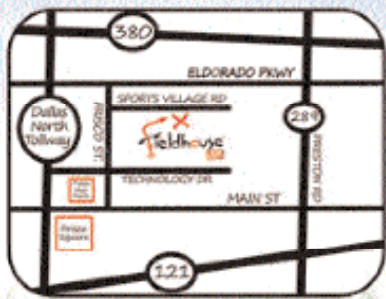
FOOTBALL CAMPS

BASKETBALL CAMPS

SOCCER CAMPS

VOLLEYBALL CAMPS

CHEERLEADING CAMPS



6155 Sports Village Rd.
Frisco, TX 75034
(972)668-6207
www.FieldhouseUSA.com