

# Event helps childhood cancer research

NORWALK

By CHASE WRIGHT

Hour Staff Writer

Lars Foss-Skiftesvik had never had his head shaved before Tuesday night. Still, he wasn't nervous.

Foss-Skiftesvik, an analyst for the Norwalk-based marine transportation and logistics company Heidmar, Inc., knew he couldn't come into work Wednesday wearing the green-colored, spiked hairdo he was sporting at O'Neill's Pub & Restaurant Tuesday night for a fundraiser to benefit the St. Baldrick's Foundation, a volunteer-driven charity committed to funding childhood cancer research.

"Once I put the green stuff in I figured this was the point of no return," he said.

Foss-Skiftesvik was the company's top fundraiser, generating nearly \$7,500 in donations for childhood cancer research. By the time of Tuesday's head-shaving event, Heidmar's Helping Heads had raised nearly \$60,000 and was on its way to reaching an ambitious goal of \$100,000 in contributions.

Timothy P. Brennan, president and CEO of the company, said the hard work of his employees -- and the courage of the 26 whose heads were snipped clean -- helped make Heidmar's fundraiser the seventh most successful St. Baldrick's event in the country.

"For a small, local company, I'm very proud of that, and I'm very proud of our employees," said Brennan, who got the event going by having his head shaved alongside his 7-year-old son Tommy.

According to Brennan, Heidmar hosts fundraisers for various charities every year. The company held a similar St. Baldrick's event in 2008 in conjunction with O'Neill's and the Norwalk Fire Department, which raised more than \$100,000 for childhood cancer research, he said.

With help of patrons and friends at the Norwalk Fire Department, O'Neill's will host another St. Baldrick's event on Saturday, March 12 at 3 p.m. Last year, the popular South Norwalk pub tripled its goal and raised more than \$70,000. O'Neill's is hoping to match that goal this year.