

Caps for the Cure

The Cure Starts Now, a foundation which funds pediatric brain tumor research, will begin their first national fundraising effort with a little help from our children. During the month of May they are asking school kids to wear a hat in support of other kids who battle brain tumors everyday and donate a dollar to help fund research to help these kids. This fundraiser will be the first fundraiser which will be run all over the country, with supporters from Pennsylvania, to Alabama, to California already preparing for their Caps for the Cure Day. The foundation's co-director Wyoming's Brooke Desserich is also mother to Elena, who lost her battle with a brain tumor last year, "With supporters from all over the country, we wanted to give them an easy way to raise funds for research. But most importantly this will give the schools a way to show their support for other little school kids who are battling these tumors everyday. These are normal kids who went to school everyday and played sports, and now have to spend their days in hospitals battling the ruthless bully called brain tumors." If you are a parent, please call for a packet for more information to take to your teachers, daycares, and school administrators and ask for their help in this very simple fundraiser and awareness campaign. Simply email the



foundation at brooke@thecurestartsnow.org, and a packet will be mailed to you which includes a letter to the parents, stickers, and instructions.

The Cure Starts Now was started by a Wyoming couple whose 6 year old daughter, Elena, was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Elena was a bright and healthy kindergartner who loved to read and draw and wanted to be a teacher when she grew up. After she was diagnosed, her parents learned there is a severe lack of funding for pediatric brain tumor research, resulting in few treatment alternatives. Elena lost her battle only 9 short months after diagnosis, but her parents' fight had only begun as they began The Cure Starts Now. They hope to raise funds to provide treatments for the other children fighting

brain tumors.

All proceeds of Caps for a Cure will go towards pediatric brain tumor research through The Cure Starts Now.

Please visit the website for more information at www.thecurestartsnow.org.

Advocating for Kids

When Janene Nader, of Wyoming, started volunteer work with foster children, she knew she'd found her niche. "I wanted to do something where I could make a difference," Janene explains.

"When someone at my church spoke about ProKids' CASA volunteers, and how CASA's help kids in foster care, I thought, 'This is it!'"

A CASA is a Court Appointed Special Advocate. After training, CASA's are assigned by the court to advocate on behalf of a child in foster care. CASA's make sure the child is safe, that the child's needs are met, and help each child move into a safe, permanent and nurturing home.

In fall of 2006, Janene started CASA training. According to ProKids' Training Manager Beth Turk, who oversees the 30 hours of training each CASA must take, "We work hard to prepare our volunteers for what to expect, and what they'll see on a typical case. Although the first thing we tell them is there's no such thing as a typical case!"

Jane describes her first case: "I was assigned to a sweet 12-month-old named Sashi. Sashi was in the foster care system because her mother had an addiction problem.

I spent time getting to know Sashi—visiting her at daycare and at the home where she was living so I could see how she was doing. I also talked with the mother's treatment team to see how the mother was progressing with her rehab."

According to Tracy Cook, Executive

Blooming Greenhouses

Plenty of Plants Available for your Planting Needs


- Geraniums • Bedding Plants
- Vegetable Plants • Hanging Baskets

Local Produce Stand Open July 1st

SHROYER NURSERY

9791 Winton Road
(corner of Winton & McKelvey)
Open till 8 p.m. Weekdays, till 5p.m. Sat & Sun.

931-2843



Lifetime Warranty!

Gutterglove®

Gutter Guard

Your gutters will never clog again.

Our advanced microfiltration system outperforms any gutter guard.

513.646.7843
www.gutterglove.com

Tested and approved by ...
Ask the Builder, Tim Carter
www.askthebuilder.com/692_Gutter_Guard.shtml
Tim Carter is not a spokesperson for GG, and was not paid for this placement.

\$500. OFF

THE PURCHASE OF A GUTTERGLOVE SYSTEM

Valid Thru 08/15/08
USE CODE: LM0808
Valid only with gutterglove dealer.
Not valid with any other coupon.



Janene Nader

Director of ProKids, "Children in foster care have court hearings where important decisions are made about their future." These include decisions about the child's educational and medical needs, visits with family, and most importantly, where the child will live. "The CASA makes recommendations both in and out of court to make sure the best interests of the child don't get lost," explains Tracy.

Janene describes one way she made a difference as a CASA, "I was concerned because I suspected Sashi had developmental delays. We'd learned in training that delays are typical in abused children. So I brought it up with Sashi's daycare people and caseworker, and I scheduled testing. It turned out she had verbal and developmental delays. We were able to get a plan into place and today, at age two, Sashi is completely on target."

A year passed from the time Sashi was removed from her mother's care. During this time Janene had been in constant contact with Sashi's mother and the mother's treatment team.

"Sashi's mother really wanted Sashi back," says Janene. "And she was willing to do the work necessary to change."

Eventually, after glowing reports from the mother's team, Janene was convinced that the mother was ready and capable of taking care of Sashi, and that it was in Sashi's best interests to go back to her mother.

Janene got reports from the treatment team that showed Sashi's mom had made the changes necessary to parent her child, and that she had learned to live differently. These reports, and Janene's own report, convinced the magistrate. Today Sashi is home with her mother, who is now able to provide a safe loving home for Sashi.

"It was important for me to get permanency for Sashi," says Janene. "To get her out of the system as quickly as possible. I really felt her mother was ready, and that she was the right person for Sashi to live with—the best mom she could have."

Although Sashi had a CASA, not every child in Hamilton County foster care has one. Tracy Cook explains, "There are about 1,200 kids in foster care in Hamilton County. In 2007, ProKids had about 150 CASAs serving 386 children. We believe the community can help us reach every child in need. I hope people reading about Janene and Sashi will decide to get involved."

"I've worked with kids all my life," said Janene, who taught school for 31 years at Cincinnati Public.

"But I had no idea—like most people—about life for kids in foster care. It seems these children are just not a priority in our society. As a CASA, I truly feel that I am making a difference."

For more information about ProKids, call 281-2000 ext. 201. Or visit www.prokids.org.

Correction:

In April's issue of Wyoming Living, we inadvertently left out one of Wyoming's outstanding Citizens of the Year. We regret the error, and offer this look at the never forgotten, Mr. Steve Lohman:

Steve Lohman, 2007 Citizen of the Year.

Steve Lohman's passion has been sports. He introduced fast-pitch softball to Wyoming and coordinated Wyoming girls' softball for grades K-12. He is a member of the STAR Soccer Club's board of directors. For the last 10 years Steve has coached at least two select soccer teams per season. Steve currently serves as the president of the Wyoming Boosters Association. He also teaches Sunday School for 7th graders at St. James. He has served on the Wyoming Athletics Commission, served as May Fete and Food Bank volunteer and organized the Drake Hospital Easter program.



Steve Lohman



Sherri Kohnle Design at le petite cottage

providing full-service
interior design



furniture | accessories | draperies | antiques

21 Village Square, Glendale, Ohio 45246
513.771.0786
lepetitecottage@fuse.net

tues-thr 10-4 6 sat 10-2 or by chance, evenings and sundays by appt.