



MEDIA ALERT

To: ALL MEDIA

help us help them fight

Date: November 18, 2009

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Courtney's Wish, "make things better for other local kids battling cancer"

Courtney Wolfe is a beautiful thirteen year old girl with an infectious laugh and a smile that lights up a room. For most of her life, her days were spent playing with friends, attending school, and playing sports, but all that changed on August 7, 2009 when she was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL). Her active life is filled with multiple doctor and clinic visits, chemotherapy treatment and physical therapy.

Courtney has spent the last three months in and out of the hospital. Though she still has a long, hard fight ahead of her, Courtney's prognosis is good, and she maintains a cheerful disposition. She accepts that no one can adequately explain to her why she contracted leukemia, and she understands the risk that kids "like her" face every time they enter the hospital with weakened immune systems.

Despite the hardship that ALL has inflicted on her and her family, Courtney has a dream. Recently, after learning about another local child who lost her battle with leukemia as the result of an infection that was acquired during a stay in the hospital, Courtney determined that perhaps the reason she got leukemia was to lead a crusade to inform the public and to see that our community's first, children's outpatient cancer treatment center is built. Courtney wants to ensure that other local children battling cancer receive treatment, free of opportunistic infections, in a specialized outpatient center.

"Hospitals are full of sick people," says Courtney, "so it is definitely not the best place for children who have weakened immune systems to be. It just puts us all at risk every time we go there. I want to change that so no other child or family ever has to worry about having to come to hospital for outpatient care and possibly contracting an infection that is even more deadly than the cancer they are already fighting."

Courtney learned that her dream has a cost of more than six million dollars, but she is not deterred. Courtney has decided that she wants her "make a wish" to be the opportunity to share her dream with the nation. Her wish is to appear on the Oprah Winfrey Show, the Ellen Degeneres Show and the Today Show so that she can appeal to their more than six million viewers and ask them to open their hearts and donate one dollar each in order to make her wish come true.

The Kids Cancer Foundation shares Courtney's dream, and is dedicated to making it a reality. We ask the community to consider our local children battling cancer and blood disorders and "help us help them fight." Courtney's Wish Campaign to build an outpatient clinic will be kicking off with a blood & toy drive at local Fire Station 28. The Kids Cancer Foundation and Florida's Blood Centers are co-sponsoring the event. This is a unique opportunity to impact our community in a positive way. Donors will have the opportunity to give blood and save a life as well as an opportunity to bring a new unwrapped toy for a local child battling cancer and be one of the first to donate to Courtney's Wish Campaign.

Thank you for helping make a young girl's dream come true.

When: Saturday, December 12th, 2009 from 8 am to 4 pm.

Where: Fire Station #28, located at the corner of Okeechobee and Royal Palm Beach Blvd.

Who: Any person in our community who would like to help make Courtney's wish come true.

For more information contact: Captain Kevin Shaw: 561-389-5937 or

Michelle O'Boyle: 561-371-1298.

