



The Patriot-News

Nonprofit to set up shop -- an ice cream parlor

Sunday, July 04, 2010

BY ROBYN SIDERSKY

%%par%%rsidersky@patriot-news.com

The best parts of Kallan Hammaker's life were about simple things -- going to school, making "glitter stickers" and eating chocolate ice cream.

Diagnosed with brain cancer at age 3, Kallan spent much of her time in hospitals and clinics, away from her favorite things.

She fought the cancer for four years, until she died on Easter 2007.

Upon learning of Kallan's diagnosis, her family became active in raising money for pediatric cancer research. They participated in Relay for Life, raising more than \$29,000 and naming their team Kallan's Klan. They registered Kallan's Klan with the state as a nonprofit organization.

Though they've had several fundraisers over the last two years, the family decided they needed "a backbone" that would bring in more money for the organization.

On Saturday, the family will open a Meadows Frozen Custard shop in Enola and donate all the profits to Kallan's Klan.

"We came up with the idea of using ice cream to find a cure for pediatric cancer," said Scott Hammaker, Kallan's dad. The concept of opening a business and donating all its profits to charity is unique and challenging, he said.

Scott Hammaker said they were inspired by the Newman's Own brand of dressings, sauces and other foods. When Newman's Own started, it donated its profits to helping children suffering from serious illnesses.

The ice cream shop's profits will support the organization and its projects. The shop will be run by Kallan's Klan volunteers.

Meadows has helped with the costs. It donated the franchising fee of \$25,000, said Steve Gardner, the director and secretary of Meadows Franchise Systems.

The store will be the first Meadows in the Harrisburg area. Several other franchises operate in Pennsylvania.

Scott Hammaker said a lot of the equipment and supplies were donated or discounted.

One of the first projects on Kallan's Klan's list is to help build a new playroom at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. While Kallan was sick, she was a patient there and spent a lot of time in the hospital's playroom.

Scott Hammaker said a lot of the time when the family was there, there wasn't much for the children and they had to bring toys.

"We did that to make the lives of pediatric cancer patients better," he said.

The playroom will be in the pediatric oncology clinic, right off the main lobby of the new children's hospital,

Hammaker said.

The organization is also donating \$100,000 to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute in New York for a trial done on pediatric brain cancer patients.

Kallan was a patient there as well.

One of her doctors, Kim Kramer, got to know the Hammaker family while Kallan was being treated.

"He's one of our big supporters in helping accomplish this mission," Kramer said of Scott Hammaker's support of the trial.

Kallan's Klan has nearly completed a playground and bike path with fitness stations at West Creek Hills Elementary in East Pennsboro Twp., where Kallan went to school.

Her dad said Kallan loved school, but she missed a lot of it while she was sick.

What Kallan wanted most was to be in school and with her friends and to be "normal," he said.

The school has a purple bench and a plaque in honor of Kallan.

Kallan's sister, Krystian, attends the school. When Krystian is sad about Kallan, she goes and sits on the bench, Scott Hammaker said.

The sisters had a close relationship, he said. Before Kallan was sick, she always took care of and protected her little sister. Then, when Kallan got sick, the roles reversed and Krystian, 2 years younger than Kallan, became the protective one. Kallan's dream was to be an elementary school teacher, Hammaker said.

The organization has started two scholarships, one for an East Pennsboro student who wants to study elementary education and one for a brain cancer survivor.

"We thought we could help some young student pursue their dream and at the same time honor Kallan's dream," Hammaker said.

The organization's next fundraiser is the PA Amazing Chase on July 17. It will be similar to the CBS program "The Amazing Race," and participants will have to go to pit stops to complete tasks.

Although he lost his daughter to the disease, Hammaker has hope for other children suffering from brain cancer.

"Our reward is to find a cure," he said.

©2010 Patriot-News

© 2010 PennLive.com All Rights Reserved.