

Squeezing out childhood cancer one cup at a time

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When six year old Ashley Martin of Huber Heights learned of the battle family friend Johnathon Doerr had endured with childhood cancer, she was eager to get involved in raising awareness and furthering the cause to find a cure.

On Oct. 9, 2008, The Doerr family had their world turned upside down when their three year old son Johnathon was diagnosed with an aggressive form of childhood cancer called medulloblastoma, just three days after his third birthday.

Johnathon immediately started aggressive treatment including a difficult surgery, several regimens of chemotherapy, and complete radiation of the brain stem and spine, but Johnathon's cancer still returned. Teri and Dan Doerr then had to make the most difficult decision of their lives — they stopped treatment with the exception of keeping Johnathon comfortable. Johnathon's five year old brother, Daniel had the most difficult time understanding why he was losing his brother and best



Julia Seaman (left) and Ashley Martin (right).

friend. He often asked his parents questions like, "Is Johnathon going to become an angel?" and "Can crocodiles fight brain tumors?"

On May 2, 2009, Johnathon lost his seven month battle to cancer with his family by his side. Johnathon touched the hearts of so many and his giving spirit continues on as he donated his tumor to research dedicated to finding a cure for medulloblastoma and other childhood cancers.

Inspired by Johnathon

during this brave journey, Ashley sought the help of friends in Girl Scout troop 30113 in hosting a fundraiser in Johnathon's honor. Although it is not an official girls scout event, the Girl Scouts were sincerely interested in helping.

Fellow Girl Scout, Emily Smith (age 6) even asked, "But, why isn't there a cure yet?" And, so this group of first graders set out to do what they could to help find a cure.

Ashely and her friends will host a lemonade stand on June 12 at the Huber Heights swimming pool located at 5045 Fishburg Rd. in tribute to Johnathon Doerr.

The money raised will go to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer, a 501(c)3 public charity, to fund childhood cancer research projects.

The mission of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation is to raise funds and awareness of childhood cancer causes, primarily to support research into new cures and treatments; to encourage and educate others, especially children, to raise money for childhood cancer by holding their own lemonade stands; and to expedite the process of finding new cures and bringing them to children with cancer now.

We hope you will join the effort to squeeze out childhood cancer one cup at a time from noon to 4 p.m. on June 12 at the Huber Heights Swimming Pool.

To find out more about Alex's Lemonade Stand or to make a donation online, please visit <http://www.alexslimonade.org/stands/11882>.

Huber Heights First Baptist Church hosts VBS

Discover Vacation Bible School "down under." Hop on to the "Bommerang Express" at Huber Heights First Baptist Church, located at 5875 Shull Road from 9 a.m. to noon on June 22-26.

This is a free and fun way to learn about Jesus for kids Kindergarten through sixth grade.

If questions, call 233-3444.

Trinity Lutheran Church sets new worship times