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Restaurants raise funds for **Let It Be Foundation**

Four months after saying goodbye to her daughter, Ruthe Rosen is ready to start giving back. As co-founder of the new **Let It Be Foundation**, a California nonprofit organization supporting Chino Valley residents, she plans to give hope to families of children who have been diagnosed with life-threatening diseases raising money throughout the community. "I now have the knowledge of knowing what these families are going through," said Rosen, a Chino Hills resident. Karla Asch-Rosen was diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer when she was 14 years old. Although she only lived 13 months longer, she made the most of her time, consistently saying she just wanted "to be normal again."

Her mother was inspired that mindset and has now made it her mission to focus on the positive things that can come out of negative situations. "We're doing this to help families enjoy living," Rosen said. But she wants everyone to know that the foundation is not about paying bills and not about giving money, it is about providing services to help children feel normal.

"We want to help people when it's time to get their hair cut, when it's time to clean the house and when they need quality family time," she said.

The foundation aims to aid local families helping out with living expenses like medical accessories, grocery and restaurant certificates, sports enrollments, sibling tutoring, household and automobile maintenance, yard and gardening services, meal delivery, art lessons and personal maintenance. There are specific requirements to become eligible for **Let It Be Foundation** help, but any Chino or Chino Hills child, age 3 through 18, who has a life-threatening medical condition and is in treatment at the time of referral is eligible for assistance.

As Rosen spent countless hours in the hospital with her daughter, she said she realized how important family was.

When Karla was sick, she would hand out care packages to other children, Rosen said about her daughter. Now Rosen wants to continue with that generous spirit.

"I promised Karla I would help her make a difference. She did her part. Now, it's my turn," Rosen said. "I promised God I would honor Him all the days of my life and one way I can do this is to love one another." Although the foundation is still new, Rosen, her husband and co-founder Michael, and the board of directors have a list of programs they would like to provide, including helping with back to school supplies, church and summer camps, family care packages and baskets, artistic expressions, and accredited teen programs. Details are still in the works, but those involved in the **Let It Be Foundation** are excited to launch each program for families in need.

Currently, however, all of the group's efforts have been focused on their first fundraiser, Dine Around Town. On June 29, 10 participating restaurants in Chino Valley will donate a portion of the bill, not including tax and tip, when they are presented with a flier printed from the Web site www.theletitbefoundation.com.

"Karla's favorite thing to do was to eat, and June 29 would have been her 16th birthday," Rosen said. "We are doing this to honor her and bring the community together."

The day-long fundraiser will last all day, so people can eat breakfast, lunch or dinner at a participating restaurant, and they will still be contributing, Rosen said.

Suzy Sweeney, the intensive care charge nurse at the Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, took care of Rosen's daughter when she was sick. She said her time on the job has made clear in her mind the need for this type of foundation.

"Being a pediatric nurse, I see a lot of people come in here," said the Chino Hills resident, who is also a board member for Let It Be. "We treat the whole family, not just the child that is affected the life-altering disease." Sweeney admits that it is easy to overlook the needs of the rest of the family.

"There is so much involved in this situation -- it affects siblings, it affects the marriage," she said.

Sweeney said she is looking forward to the outcome of the first fundraiser.

"It is such an easy way for people in the community to help the foundation get off the ground while helping local businesses," she said.

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