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Section: Local

Area schools united to help 'Let It Be' foundation

Matt Wrye, Staff Writer

It has been nine months since Ruthe Rosen and a group of young people started the **Let It Be Foundation**, giving care, inspiration and financial assistance to Chino Hills parents whose children have been affected by cancer. Six families later, Rosen and her Junior Advisory Team, a group of teens, are gearing up for a foundation fundraiser to raise money for enhancing bedrooms in four families' homes.

"We want these kids to be comfortable," Rosen said about the children going through cancer treatment. "For a child who's been removed from their social environment... it's about making their room brighter, a place you want your friends to come and hang out at because you can't go do the things they're doing." To make this happen, Rosen has worked with officials at 19 schools across Chino and Chino Hills to put together "Kids-4-Kids" on April 18 to 20 at Wickman Elementary School - three nights of dinner and entertainment showcasing students' talents. Tickets are \$5 at participating schools and \$7 at the door. Each night, more than 20 kids will put on a variety of talent shows. Some participating students were already preparing for their school's individual talent show, but some have worked hard just for Rosen's cause, she said.

Some funds for the room enhancements have already been raised from lemonade-stand and garage sale fundraisers, but Rosen hopes Kids-4-Kids will top all of that off.

She added that the event is just one more way in which the Junior Advisory Team is learning leadership skills since the teens will be decorating for the talent show.

"These aren't kids who don't have anything else to do," Rosen said. "These are very active, social teenagers who put aside time for planning. These are kids helping kids."

One woman for whom Rosen's young team of volunteers has made a difference is Rhonda Gilman. When the Gilmans found out that their 16-year-old daughter, Rebecca, had cerebritis, an abscess of the brain that may be connected with Rebecca's lupus, their medical bills skyrocketed and the family prepared for an emotional roller coaster.

"It significantly affected our lives fiscally, emotionally, time-wise - everything," Gilman said. "We made significant changes for a middle-class family."

The family welcomed Rosen's offer of help with open arms, receiving movie tickets, gift cards, gift baskets, flowers and other items.

"Whatever it is, it gets us to go out," Gilman said, adding that the foundation's gifts are just enough to make her and her family feel almost normal again. "Since then, it's been more than just financial support. They call and ask how she's doing. It's just little things - it takes the stress off."

FYI:

Dinners and talent shows to benefit the **Let It Be Foundation**

WHEN: 5 p.m., April 18 - 20

WHERE: Wickman Elementary School, 16250 Pinehurst Drive, Chino Hills

COST: Tickets are \$5 at:

Wickman, Eagle Canyon,

Butterfield Ranch, Los Serranos, Rhodes, Alicia Cortez,

Glenmeade, Chaparral, Cattle, Walnut Avenue, Rolling Ridge, Marshall, Dickson, Newman, Litel, Hidden Trails Elementary schools, and Chino Valley

Christian, New Hope Christian and Loving Savior of the Hills Lutheran schools

INFORMATION: (909) 606-6503