

Chino Champion (CA)

Foundation puts down new roots

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Published: July 21, 2007

After one year of helping children with life-threatening diseases, the **Let it Be Foundation** has opened an office in Chino. The 1,500-square-foot facility contains a 900-square-foot warehouse where supplies and donated items will **be** stored.

"The **foundation** has grown to a level we couldn't imagine," said president Ruthe Rosen. "Not only in helping sick children but in the number of volunteers that are involved."

Mrs. Rosen and her husband, Michael, founded the organization in memory of their 15-year-old daughter, Karla Asch Rosen, who died in 2006 from an inoperable brain tumor.

More than 500 volunteers have been involved in some level or another in the past year, Mrs. Rosen said.

With the opening of the office, the Rosens will have more personal space in their Chino Hills home, where the **foundation** operated for the past 12 months.

"My husband is excited," Mrs. Rosen said. "He'll finally **be** able to park in the garage."

The office is located at 13905 Ramona Ave., Unit J, in the Butterfield Business Park between Schaefer and Edison avenues.

"There is a lot of potential and room for growth," said Melinda Saunders, a volunteer. "We're excited to get started."

The office is children-friendly. A kids' section allows the children of volunteers to **be** entertained with Play Station 2, air hockey, and ice cream, just as soon as the electricity is hooked up in that area for donated ice cream carts.

Now that Mr. Rosen has installed the office furniture and computers, the volunteers intend to create a warm atmosphere by displaying cards, letters, and photographs.

"I want this to **be** a fun and happy place," Mrs. Rosen said. "Caring for sick children can **be** sad for the heart."

Board and team meetings will also **be** held at the new office.

The **foundation** currently cares for six families. Its purpose is to provide them with as normal a life as possible. The families do not have to **be** considered "needy" to qualify for the **foundation**, Mrs. Rosen said. She said any family's costs add up quickly for expenses not covered by insurance.

For example, Mrs. Rosen said she remembers when she had no time to wash her car or tend to her garden when she was caring for Karla. That's why the **foundation** provides everything from house cleaning and gardening, to gift cards for restaurants, gas stations, and grocery stores.

"We want to help our families think," she said. "We want to help them adjust to a new normal."

The **foundation's** Junior Advisory Team recently raised more than \$9,000 to provide some of the costs for bedroom makeovers for four children. The **foundation** spent \$6,000, and volunteers provided \$15,000 in free labor including interior designers and contractors. The makeovers were completed in mid-June.

The teenage team raised money by holding a talent show, lemonade stands, and a garage sale.

The next lemonade stand blitz will **be** held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25 at various grocery stores in the Chino Valley.

On Saturday, Sept. 8, the **foundation** will host a "Live Laugh Love" dinner benefit and silent auction at 6 p.m. at a private residence in Carbon Canyon.

The board includes Mr. and Mrs. Rosen, Kim Shappell, Rhonda Harvey, Tim Adams, Steve Penelton and Vince Gealy.

The new phone number for the **foundation** is 613-9161.