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The Let It Be  
**FOUNDATION**



## Press Release

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### Over 150 Local Students Perform to Sell-Out Crowd, Benefits Families in Need

CHINO, CA: The Let It Be Foundation's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Kids 4 Kids" Community Talent Show took place last Thursday and Friday joining together 25 local public and private schools, three performing arts studios and nearly 175 elementary, middle school and high school students to perform to a sell-out crowd at Chino Hills High School Theater. This is the first time in the show's five season history that the event has ever sold out and elicited such a strong community response.

"Attending the Talent Show with my family was a wonderful experience!!! My husband and I laughed, danced, grooved, sang along and applauded ALL of the acts..." according to Stacy Lombard a local resident and mother of Friday night performer, Canaan Lombard of Chino Hills High School.

Also added to this year's show were high school student talent and the premiere of the foundation's "Extraordinary Youth in the Community" Award given to local youth who have gone above and beyond to make a difference.

Organization President/Co-founder, Ruthe Rosen explains, "These kids contributed to the foundation through their own special efforts. One student, Darby, came in every single week for over a year to volunteer and help in our office and another talented young girl, Aidin, painted her own art then sold her artwork just to show her love and support for the families we care for. Most importantly, these kids did this on their own – their parents didn't prompt or ask them to do it. We felt that these youth needed to be recognized for their selfless acts of giving." Seven local youths received the award: Haleigh Bowers, Chelsea Brendlinger, Nathan Gilman, Luke Austin, Aidin Flaherty, Darby Minton and Riley Ruiz.

The purpose of the event is to warmly unite every school as one community to support local children diagnosed with life-threatening medical conditions. The show is not a competition – it is a showcase of youth who have the courage to get on stage and share their talent. Student performers for the event were selected by their schools, accepted through an open audition hosted at Wickman Elementary or represented a participating performing arts studio. Whether a first time performer or a seasoned stage veteran, the show displayed a diverse group of acts that included: a Girl Scout daisy troop performing a musical number to Annie's "It's a Hard Knock Life," a Don Lugo High School student solving a Rubik's cube on stage in less than two minutes and even a fourth grader from Levi Dickey performing a stand-up comedy routine!

"The diversity in our community is such a blessing, and the sold out seats made our hearts so full with gratitude and pride to see our community come together for this amazing cause!" says Lombard.

The entire event is coordinated and operated by members of the foundation's Youth Leadership Program with guidance from the organization's staff. All proceeds from this and other "Kids 4 Kids" fundraising events benefit The Let It Be Foundation's mission to care for families in need. Past and current

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members of the Youth Leadership Program have volunteered over 12,000 hours to further their team's mission to create awareness for life-threatening pediatric illnesses through various fundraising events, while inspiring other youth in the community to get involved. The current youth leadership teams are comprised of 31 middle school and high school students from various public and private schools around the Chino Valley and are selected through an interview process. Applications for the 2011-2012 Youth Leadership Program are now available online at [www.theletitbefoundation.com](http://www.theletitbefoundation.com) and will be accepted April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>.

With this year's "Kids 4 Kids" Community Talent Show marking new benchmarks and achieving its first sold out crowd, there is strong belief that this event will become a community staple.

Kamille Soler, Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the foundation and this year's show director comments on the show's success, "I am so proud of all the students who came together to make this production happen and am sincerely inspired by the level of community support. This is such a unique and uniting event that benefits everyone in the community. I have no doubt that it will only get bigger and better for years to come."