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Friends to hold Ontario fundraiser for Chino girl with cancer

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ONTARIO - Roz Jones' 9-year-old daughter, **Cameron Brown**, doesn't have much time to live. But Jones said she knows if she feels sorry for herself, she'll miss out on valuable time with Cameron.

"I'll have plenty of time to fall apart when I no longer have time with her," she said.

Two years ago, doctors found a mass over a third of Cameron's brain.

Within three days of being diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, she had two surgeries. In a span of 21 days she went through four surgeries to drain fluid as well as to try to remove the mass.

During the first surgery, Cameron began to hemorrhage and doctors decided to stop and allow the family to say their goodbyes, Jones said.

But Cameron defied expectations and recovered.

Since then Jones, of Chino, has been at the side of her daughter for each one of her five surgeries and the rounds of radiation and chemotherapy.

To make matters worse, Jones recently lost her job, and as Cameron's health continues to deteriorate, the money from unemployment checks will not cover the medical costs.

On Saturday, five of Cameron's "aunts," all friends of Jones, will hold a fundraiser in Ontario. The money raised will go toward a trust fund to pay bills and future burial costs, said Linda Gutierrez, a longtime friend of Jones.

The women - Gutierrez, Erma Tapscott, Donna Hurlburt, Elizabeth Webster and Angela Cazares - have spent many hours drumming up donations from the community for the event.

"There's nothing I wouldn't do for Cameron," Tapscott said as she wiped away tears. "I wish I could do more. It's small in comparison to what I wish I could do."

The gathering Saturday will be anything but somber, Gutierrez said.

From Starbucks gift baskets to large Coach purses, the public is invited to stop by and bid on any of the items or purchase raffle tickets.

There will also be music and light snacks.

On April 19, 2007, after the third surgery, doctors told Jones that Cameron would remain in a semi-comatose state. The doctors suggested that Jones consider putting her in a hospice or removing the feeding tube and letting her daughter die, Jones said.

"I told doctors my soul is screaming to me that Cameron is going to be a walking, talking testimony for God," Jones said as she wiped tears.

Again, after several months of rehabilitation and learning to walk and talk, Cameron recovered.

Since then, every day Jones said she has with her daughter is a blessing.

"Every extra day I have with her is the extra cherry on the cake," Jones said.

Through it all, Cameron has seemed fearless. There was one moment before the second surgery that Cameron began to cry, Gutierrez said.

"She told me, 'I'm scared. I don't want my mom to be by herself,' " Gutierrez said. "She's not worried about herself. She's more worried about her mom."

The surgeries however, have taken a toll. It wasn't until after the first two surgeries that doctors realized Cameron had suffered a stroke. The stroke caused paralysis to the left side of her body, and she is also blind on her right eye.

In March, when Cameron went through her fifth surgery, doctors learned the tumor had grown, reaching the third of four stages for this form of cancer, Jones said.

How to help

If you are interested in learning more, call (909) 565-8944 or make a donation to Bank of America, 40 W.

Foothill Blvd., Upland; attention: Pat Obezo. Saturday's fundraiser will start at 6 p.m. at 1843 S. Almond Ave., Ontario.