

The Living Pink Balloon Returns For A Second Year

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Roseneath - The first Living Pink Balloon, held on September 5th, 2009, was a huge success, the goal for the event was to raise \$10,000 for the SickKids Foundation for Brain and Behaviour research. We surpassed that goal by raising over \$12,000. We of the organizing committee would like to thank each and everyone who participated in last years event and we hope to see you again this year.

The 2nd Annual Living Pink Balloon will take place On September 18th. 2010

The hope of The Living Pink Balloon is to gather 500 people in one place as a symbol of solidarity in support of SickKids Foundation. All of the proceeds are going to Brain and Behavior Research Center. With everyone wearing pink T-shirts we will form a Living Pink Balloon. The concept is based on the idea of the Living Green Ribbon, created by the Trillium Gift of Life Foundation.

In this small community, the children of two families have been involved with Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids). Hollie Gray suffered a fatal brain aneurysm, which was originally diagnosed as a brain tumour. The Brenna Crowe is receiving ongoing treatment for a brain tumour (craniopharyngioma).

Like so many families and communities, SickKids has offered world-class comfort and care in times of great stress and desperation. This committee has been formed to help give back in a small way to the compassionate care offered by SickKids

Registration for 2010 is \$20.00 for Adults & \$10.00 for Youth,

2010 Registration includes a Living Pink Balloon T-shirt, and will be available for pick-up at the event only. T-shirts will not be available for purchase on the day of the event. Our deadline for sales of T-shirts is September 9th, 2010 as the T-shirts are being ordered on the 10th

Event Tickets are available at the following locations:

- in Alderville at The Scissors Edge, Our House Snack 'n' Go and Trails End
- in Cobourg at Herbal Magic.

You can also order your event tickets online at <http://www.livingpinkballoon.org> [1].

You can also join the Living Pink Balloon's Facebook Group at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=113753281116> [2].

This is a not for profit fund-raiser with all proceeds going to SickKids Foundation, Brain and Behavior Research Center. Our goal with the sale of 500 T-shirts is \$10,000.

If anyone would like to make a financial donation, they can do so at any Scotiabank Branch Transit # 95562 Account # 0427128. Tax Receipts are available for monetary donations over \$20.00.

Backgrounder

Hollie's story

Four days before Hollie's 11th Birthday, On the morning of September 1st, 2008 Hollie Katherine Anne Gray was rushed to Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) after we as her parents found her unresponsive. There were no signs or symptoms to lead to the final conclusion. Hollie had a mild headache and was sick to her stomach. Nothing that would indicate anything more serious than a stomach bug. The paramedics arrived early in the morning and after resuscitating her put her in the ambulance. Her heart had stopped on the way to the hospital and another ambulance /paramedic team was called to meet us at county road 9 and Highway 45.

They started her heart and after arriving at NHH she was quickly rushed into emerg. Where after numerous tests they had seen a "mass" on her brain and she was rushed by ambulance to Toronto's Sick Kids Hospital. When we arrived at SickKids we were told that there was no function to her brain. Her brain had swelled and she was clinically "brain dead". They were only keeping her alive long enough to have family come and say their last good-byes.

Even through our grief we decided to help other families live. We decided to honor Hollie's truly giving nature, and

donated Hollie's "gifts of life" through Trillium gift of life Organ Donation. Hollie has become a hero in our eyes. She truly has a wonderful soul.

Trillium has since become a vital part of our lives. Through them Hollie was able to help save 5 lives with the gift of Organ Donation. Sadly there is not enough research on brain trauma for Hollie to have been saved. But we CAN make a difference...

Brenna's Story

At three years old Brenna started to exhibit symptoms of a condition we had never heard of. She was throwing up and lethargic and we made many trips to the hospital but were told it was the flu. Her symptoms worsened and she started having headaches as well. She started having seizures and stopped breathing on the last trip to the hospital finally prompting a CT scan, which showed the mass. At this point we were air lifted to Sick Kid's and she had surgery to relieve the pressure on her brain.

Brenna has a Craniopharyngioma – a brain tumour that has a cystic part that had filled or 'grown' to the size of a lime, which was blocking the normal drainage pathways of her brain and was pressing against the ventricles as well.

About a month after this surgery, she had a second to insert a catheter into the tumour itself. This catheter is used to drain the fluid, which builds up in the tumour, and to deliver the chemotherapy drugs, which are being used.

So far, she has undergone two surgeries and two bouts of chemo. Most days no one would know she was even sick. We are so thankful to Sick Kid's – they saved her life.

We still have a long way to go this type of tumour can reoccur and can cause many other problems with hormone levels, eye site, growth, and development. With the ongoing care we are receiving from SickKids, we are confident that Brenna can continue to have as normal a life as possible.

In order, to bring awareness to other parents with children who have brain tumors or conditions as yet undiscovered, we have joined with another family who lost their loved one to put together an event with all proceeds to Brainchild, Brain & Behavior at Sick Kid's hospital.

Links

1. <http://www.livingpinkballoon.org>
2. <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?qid=113753281116>