



NEWSLINE

Reporting our progress in the battle against leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma.

Mack Madness Fundraising Success



McKenzie Marie Schneider also known as "Mack"

On May 7, 2005, Ed and Lisa Schneider were blessed with the birth of an "angel" known as McKenzie Marie Schneider. McKenzie became known to the family as Big Mac, Little Mac, Mac and Cheese, Mackie, and Sugar Sugar, because she was so sweet. She was born with Down syndrome, an AV canal defect, low muscle tone, delayed speech and many other imperfections, but to Ed and Lisa, and those who knew her, McKenzie was absolutely perfect.

In February 2009, McKenzie was diagnosed with leukemia. Prior to the start of her chemo treatments, she was also diagnosed with RSV, a deadly virus which can take the life of a young child. On

February 28, 2009 McKenzie lost her battle and passed away.

It was clear to Ed and Lisa that their "Mackie" touched many lives in her 3 ½ years when 1,000 friends and family attended her visitation and filled St. Joseph's Church in York for her funeral. The outpouring of support was so overwhelming that the Schneiders decided to do something to make sure that Mackie's life and spirit lived on and continued to touch the lives of those she left behind.

The result was the first ever "Mack Madness" fundraiser to benefit the York Area Down Syndrome Association, The Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society held on Sunday, May 24. More than 700 children and adults attended the picnic-style celebration at Party Pals at the Grove in York. The proceeds reached \$25,000 for these three charities.

There was lots of family-style fun including a bounce house, volley ball, waffle ball, pony rides, dunk tank, face painting, sand art, balloon man, "Mackie Idol" and much more. Cheap Sneakers, a classic rock and roll band, entertained the crowd, and there was plenty of delicious chicken BBQ for everyone. Inside the pavilion, guests could bid on 35 silent auction items and 65 raffle items.

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“Mack was, and still is, an incredible little girl. She will continue to change lives and help others for many years to come,” says Ed Schneider following the success of the first annual Mack Madness. “God, Mack, family, friends and all the prayers we’ve received, will continue to help us get through this very difficult time. We love her and miss her dearly.”

Ed and Lisa were pleasantly surprised by the overwhelming success of Mack Madness and it didn’t take long for them to choose a date for the 2nd annual event. In his follow-up email to event attendees and sponsors, Ed says, “Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 30, 2010!”

United Way - Write us in!

You can participate in your employer’s United Way campaign and support LLS at the same time. When completing your designation form, write in The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society - Central Pennsylvania Chapter.

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