

9-YEAR-OLD INSPIRES ART SHOW TO BENEFIT CANCER GROUPS

HANDS OF HOPE Childrens Art Show & Silent Auction to benefit Olivia's House
When: Sunday, June 2, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Where: Stewartstown Eureka 54 Fire Hall

(STEWARTSTOWN, PA) – Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 2, and prepare to be touched by the compassion of a young boy with a big heart (or great vision). 9-year-old Nathan McCloskey knows from experience that cancer doesn't affect just the person, but everyone they love.

In 2009, he lost a grandfather at the age of 55. Active in his community, Fulton Lytle was a two-time president of the Stewartstown Lions Club, a volunteer for the Eureka Volunteer Fire Company and a frequent blood donor.

"He donated virtually any time he could," remembers daughter Carrie McCloskey, who noted that due to his treatments, he also was a recipient. In his honor, McCloskey's mother held a blood drive and that memorial has since become an annual event that also incorporates food and fun, with proceeds benefiting H.O.P.E. (Help for Oncology Problems & Emotional Support, a local nonprofit that helps cancer patients and their families). That was all good – but that was just the beginning.

In memory of his grandfather and in an effort to help others in his community, the Stewartstown Elementary student last year made the fun and festive event even brighter – incorporating original art as seen through the eyes of a child.

Last year, Nathan accepted a challenge from his church to Live a Better Story. Participants were given \$5 with instructions to do something good in their community. Nathan's mother matched the contribution and with \$10 in hand, Nathan bought 10 art canvases so that he and others could create - and auction off - original works of heart, all incorporating a handprint.

The idea was simple enough and those 10 pieces of art resulted in a contribution of \$120 to benefit H.O.P.E., which Nathan chose because he "sees the importance of children getting help after the death of a loved one."

"My dad battled cancer for four years," says McCloskey. "Nathan was a baby when he was diagnosed – old enough to understand but not really. Most frustrating was the fact that he couldn't run with him and do physical things."

This year, based on last year's response and continued word of mouth with friends and family, more "creations" are expected and Nathan has decided to channel this year's proceeds to Olivia's House, another local nonprofit that works with grieving youths.

Now officially named The HANDS of HOPE project, Nathan is very proud of how this small effort can help other children who have lost family members as well as how it

continues to grow year after year. "He's very excited about it. Last year, people were excited, the art was amazing and the community support awesome."

This event is in conjunction with the Annual Fulton Lytle memorial Blood Drive. Food – including pit beef/ham/turkey, soup and baked items - will be available from 10 a.m. until sold out. The blood drive runs 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Those interested can make an appointment with Denise Hershey at 717-993-2613 or just walk in. The location will be the Eureka Fire Company at 82 North Main Street in Stewartstown, PA. All profits from food items will go to H.O.P.E. and all art proceeds will benefit Olivia's House. If unable to attend, contributions can be sent direct to M&T Bank in Nathan's name to benefit the HANDS OF HOPE project/Olivia's House.

Olivia's House is an organization of caregiving professionals and volunteers committed to supporting grieving children. Its purpose is to facilitate healing through grief and loss education, in York PA. For more information about Olivia's House go to: <http://www.oliviashouse.org/>

H.O.P.E. is a local nonprofit dedicated to helping cancer patients and their families. Services include assistances with meals, groceries and transportation; support groups; educational resources; and scholarships for high school seniors. For more information, visit www.hopeforcancerfamilies.org.

"An individual doesn't get cancer, a family does." - Terry Tempest Williams

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