



Local Restaurant Holds Fundraiser Today to Help Lakeland Mother

by Chuck Welch on Apr 14, 2011

Alicia Hayes understands that life can take sudden drastic turns. In December, after an uneventful work day, Hayes walked to the company parking lot. Before she reached her car, Hayes had what friends called an “epileptic episode.” An ambulance ride, a diagnosis at the hospital and the seemingly healthy 27 year-old mother of two learned she had a brain tumor.

In three months Hayes has had two surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation treatments to remove a tumor in her motor vortex. Making numerous trips with her to the Orlando Regional Medical Center, her family struggles with the life-altering illness. Recently they learned Hayes must return to the hospital this month for more tests.



Alicia Hayes, Wyatt, Chris Hayes and Kaylee
Family Photo Summer 2010

With medical expenses mounting, Tim Bosko has stepped in to see if his company can help the Hayes family. Bosko is the owner of the South Lakeland Beef ‘O’ Brady’s and first heard about Hayes from her mother, Sherry Strickland.

“Here at Beef ‘O’ Brady’s we truly pride ourselves on our commitment to our community, supporting local community members and organizations. When I heard about Alicia Hayes, I knew we had to have an event in support of her and get the entire community involved,” Bosko said. He spoke to his colleagues at the North Lakeland restaurant and both locations decided to hold a “Spirit Day” to raise funds to help with Hayes’ medical bills.

From 11 am to 11 pm on Thursday April 14th, both locations will give a portion of dine-in and carry-out sales to the Alicia Hayes Foundation. Customers will need to tell the cashier to write “Alicia” on the back of their itemized receipt for the funds to be applied to the day’s donation.

Those who would like to donate, but can’t go to either Beef ‘O’ Brady’s location on Thursday, can contact Sherry Strickland at (863) 698-1378 for more information.

Strickland is buoyed by the response, "I have been amazed by the outpouring of support from the Lakeland community. I am so grateful and forever indebted to the Bosko's for doing all that they have done and holding this event at Beef 'O' Brady's. Words can't even describe how amazed I am by all of the support and prayers that have gone out for Alicia, I am just so grateful."