



"HOPE FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER"



TEAM WILL BREAKAWAY NEWSLETTER

April 2012

In This Issue

[Go the Distance Update](#)
[TW Rally at the Capitol](#)
[Cards for Kids](#)
[Outreach Efforts](#)
[A Will to Survive](#)

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QUICK LINKS...

[Our Website](#)
[Heroes](#)
[Events](#)
[About Us](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Welcome to [Team Will's Breakaway](#), an electronic newsletter to update you on Team Will's activities and programs. Team Will is a community of volunteers who share the joy of cycling.

Our goal is to raise awareness for children with cancer and their families, to advocate for their needs, and to support research so every child can survive and lead a long and healthy life.

Cyclists of all skill levels and ages across the country have joined Team Will and are promoting a community that imparts a coherent, credible voice to educating society about childhood cancer through various cycling activities and partnering with organizations to provide resources to families affected by childhood cancer.

2012 Go the Distance Drivers, Community Advocates, Donors Needed!



Team Will has 20 cyclists and 7 support crew members committed to this event already, yet is in need of three more minivan drivers for our cross-country route, more in-kind donations or route support, and, as always, charitable contributions to help the families battling childhood cancer. Are you able to help in any of the following ways?

- If you are looking for a great way to see the country, would enjoy supporting a pack of committed cyclists in the fight against childhood cancer, and want to make a tangible impact for this amazing cause, please contact Tom Weissgerber (916-398-0034) about driving across the country with Team Will.
- If you can help out by providing a meal, a load of laundry, a shower, or a place 2-4 members of the team can sleep along the route, please view the Community Support Wish List on Team Will's website. Any support provided by the community means more of Team Will's fundraising dollars get directly in the hands of the families battling childhood cancer. We also appreciate support with local advocacy, if you have connections with media outlets in the cities through which Team Will is riding.
- If you want to make an impact by making charitable contributions, please consider making a donation to Team Will. Team Will is partnering with the Foundation for Children with Cancer (FCC) to help provide financial relief to families coping with the devastating impacts of childhood cancer. 43% of families have a parent give up or reduce employment to care for their child. Pay a utility bill, cover hotel costs so parents can be near their children during extended stays in the hospital, or simply pay parking while families go to centers for treatment. Every dollar counts.

Please take a moment to get involved today. Because remember: Kids Get Cancer, Too!

Team Will Rally at the Capitol a Great Success!



On February 13th, Team Will cyclists and supporters gathered at the California State Capitol to honor our Heroes and raise awareness in the Sacramento Community about the fight to end childhood cancer. The California Senate recognized Team Will with Members Resolution No. 1191, presented by Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, proclaiming September 2011 Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. And Executive Director Ken Scarberry, volunteer Lisa Depew, and cyclist Brian Williams spoke to the crowd about Team Will and the important impact our organization is having in the community. After the Rally, cyclists rode over to UC Davis Medical Center to visit with children and deliver hand-made Valentines made by the students at Lakeview Elementary School in El Dorado Hills.

Thanks again to all who came out to support this important event. We hope local area residents caught the news coverage on KCRA Ch3 and a multitude of other stations that night. Photos from the event can be viewed at [are these posted anywhere? I have them if you show me where/how to upload], and Lisa's Speech is available in the [Media](#) section of the Team Will webpage.



Cards for Kids - Striving for 20,000 cards in 2012!



Team Will cyclists, drivers, and community volunteers gathered to count & sort cards again this past week. We reviewed over 1300 inspirational cards sent in by students and community groups from throughout the Sacramento area. Special thanks go out to the students and teachers of Sandra J Gallardo Elementary, Phoenix Schools, Brighton Schools, Sutter Middle School, Golden Hills Elementary, and the girls of Girl Scout Troop 224 for their compassionate and hopeful messages, reaching out to brighten the days of the children we will be visiting in hospitals throughout the U.S. this summer.



If you are feeling creative or know a bunch of children who are, consider participating in our Cards for Kids program. We would LOVE to see cards from throughout the U.S. and even other countries-the sky's the limit. Please reach out to educators & organization leaders you know. Again, our goal is 20,000 cards for 2012. For more information, including downloadable instructions for teachers & group leaders, please visit our website. And be sure to "Like" Cards for Kids - Team Will on Facebook. Questions can be directed to twcardsforkids@gmail.com.



Outreach Efforts

Some great things have been happening lately with Team Will outreach. A small but dedicated group of participants has received thousands of dollars' worth of cash- and in-kind donations from sponsors including Raley's, Safeway, Savemart, Rite Aid, Wheel

Works, and more. A special thanks to Tom Weissgerber for his amazing efforts pounding the pavement to engage with so many vendors. And our Cards for Kids program has received commits for several thousand cards, toward the goal of 20,000. BUT WE CAN DO MORE!

Please reach out to your networks, forward to the people who've sponsored you financially, pitch to your local schools/churches/community organizations/etc., or ask your local grocery store or Walmart/Target. If we all get the word out, great things will happen.

Please feel free to contact Lisa/Tom if you need any additional background information or support. A 5 minute visit to a local grocery store or restaurant could produce \$25 or more, to leverage for supplies on the trip. Just a few minutes can mean so much. Thank you again to everyone for all that you're doing to help Team Will serve these families & our current and future TW Heroes.

A Will to Survive

An essay by Katelyn Bradley, who was diagnosed with CRPS at age 7 and is now 18 - What is the most important lesson you have learned in your life?

The most important lesson I have learned in my life is perseverance. The doctors said I would never walk, never dance, never jump up and down on my bed with my little sister ever again, but when they said this, they did not know what I was capable of. I proved them wrong; I am walking again! It was not easy, it took a long time and many hours of work, determination and an attitude of perseverance, but now I am walking towards my future, dancing as much as my heart desires and jumping up and down for joy with the thought of what else I can accomplish.

While learning the lesson of perseverance, the road is never easy and never quite complete. In my life, I first had to accept and acknowledge my situation before continuing on down my path. I had to accept that my life would never be the same due to my illness and acknowledge that I would become a better person because of it. Every step that I took after that was a fight - literally and figuratively. I had to fight to stay alive and fight to enjoy every moment that I was given.

Perseverance is not just about the accomplishments at the end of the road. It is about the journey, the life lessons learned and the people you impact along the way. Everyone will face struggles at some point in their life, but without perseverance, their road may come to an end. I have been given many challenges in my life, but I am thankful for all the roads I have been down and sights along the

way. I am thankful for learning one of the most important lessons of life at such a young age: perseverance.

Team Will Heroes

A Team Will Hero is someone who does something extraordinary in an extraordinary circumstance. These Team Will heroes have done just that, something extraordinary; they have inspired everyone they meet with their courage and bravery in the face of extreme challenges as they battle for their lives. For this they are Team Will Heroes and we will never forget them. [Click Here](#) for a complete list of all Team Will's Heroes.

Thank you for being a part of Team Will. Please spread the Breakaway by sharing this newsletter with your friends and associations!

**Sincerley,
Team Will**