

# The Sweet Eats Program

Created in loving memory of Hendrix Wille

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## *Hospital Holidays*

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December Newsletter

send email to [eats@sweetnectarsociety.org](mailto:eats@sweetnectarsociety.org) to subscribe

## Tax-exempt status granted

First off, Sweet Nectar Society and The Sweet Eats Program got our tax-exemption status approved from the IRS. YEAH. Everyone's donations are tax deductible and this is retroactive to any donation made after December 2012. Any donation made over \$75 to The Sweet Eats Program will be getting a notification with the official Tax ID number on it, even if you received a thank you letter previously. Thank you for helping other families and allowing us to honor the memory of our son.



Tax ID 46-2102692



“One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.”

-Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own



## *2013 Holiday Dinner Sits Well!*

We sponsored dinner and dessert for all of the oncology families of about 50 people total, and all of the extra desserts went to the Peds I.C.U families. Holiday decorations, lights, ornaments, and real catering supplies to keep food warm were brought in and set up by my parents, Art, and I.

We had Ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, cornbread, and we also had a traditional Latino dinner of tamales, rice, and beans. The tamales were a HUGE hit and people came back looking for seconds, but needless to say, they were all gone.

Desserts were fabulous and covered everything from cookies, pies, candied popcorn, to chocolate tamales. We thank Marie Calendar's

for discounting half the food, and Casa de Tamales for making the homemade tamales and discounting the traditional Latino meal for families. Thank you to all the Sweet Volunteers that donated the desserts and drinks for the holiday dinner. We also want to thank POM Wonderful for donating multiple cases of Peach tea for the event.

My brother Eric and sister-in-law Lorena, could not be there for XMas day, so they came up afterward, and made home-made Mexican pozole and delivered it to the families at the hospital 2 days later. My brother said, "I will never forget their faces", and my sister-in-law said, "Thank you for letting us do this in honor of your son, and we hope we can do this every year". It really warms your heart to help other people and see them respond to your generosity and I am glad that my family felt that way too.

## HUGE SUCCESS for FIRST HOLIDAY GIFT CARD DRIVE.

I was shocked at how successful this was for the first year. It brought in over 75 holiday cards and about \$2000 worth of gift cards for the hospitalized families. We gave out gift cards worth at least \$25 to every family hospitalized at



Children's Hospital Central California on Christmas day on the oncology unit and the Peds I.C.U, and half the families on the Neonatal I.C.U. Families were so

grateful, and it was really nice for Art and I to meet new families, and new kids (little

and big) battling cancer. It made us miss Hendrix tremendously, but his spirit was definitely felt on that day. Seeing other children, with their bald heads, holding their iv poles, and still

managing to find a smile, made us think of Hendrix. It gave us hope for other children and the future of hope of finding cures for our children with aggressive cancers. We included... [Cont p 4](#)

### HENDRIX GREGORY WILLE

11/12/09 - 04/16/13

This is Hendrix, age 2, in March of 2012 at Children's Hospital Central California during his first hospitalization and bone marrow biopsy. He has a green wrap around his IV insertion on his right hand and is walking his pole around the floor shortly after getting his bone marrow biopsy. His YiaYia asked him to take a picture and he grabbed his pole and said, "CHEESE".

After relapsing and at the end of treatment, when packing up to leave the hospital, I looked around and asked, "Do we need to take anything else?". Hendo said, "My pole"!



"IT'S NOT HOW MUCH WE DO, BUT HOW MUCH LOVE WE PUT IN THE DOING.  
IT'S NOT HOW MUCH WE GIVE, BUT THE LOVE WE PUT IN THE GIVING."  
-Mother Teresa

## Holiday Gift Card Drive (Continued)

a message to other parents from ourselves, that included a few pictures and explained the Sweet Eats Program. Here are the pictures and what we said:

Happy Holidays! These cards were generously donated to The Sweet Eats Program, which



was created in memory of our son, Hendrix Wille. We lost Hendrix this year, but we have hope for other children and

families. We want to thank you for allowing us to honor his memory by being a small part of your holiday. Feel free to contact us if we can help your family in any way, or you just need another parent to talk to. Love, Roze and Art Wille 559-341-8325



¡Feliz Navidad! Estas tarjetas fueron generosamente donados a El Programa "Sweet Comer", que fue creado en memoria de nuestro hijo, Hendrix Wille. Perdimos Hendrix este año, pero tienen la esperanza de otros niños y familias. Queremos

darle las gracias por lo que nos permite honrar su memoria por ser una pequeña parte de su Navidad. No dude en contactar con nosotros si

podemos ayudar a su familia de cualquier manera, o simplemente necesita otro padre con quien hablar. Mi esposo y yo estamos también trabajando tanto en nuestro español. Amor, Roze y Art Wille 559-341-8325



## DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE AMAZING.

I haven't even been able to collect all of the food donation boxes yet, and our kitchen table is covered and stacked almost to the chandelier. Thanks to Araceli and Dr. Rao's office for reminding patients to donate when they called them for their appointments, the close-knit community of Visalia coming together, the Wille family Xmas boxes, and everyone the nurses collecting too. I'll post a picture after I collect all the boxes at the end of this week. I think we should have enough food for at least 3 months. Now, the fun part...taking inventory...YIKES!

## IN MEMORY



**Garrett Roland Saenz**

9/27/07 - 11/27/13

Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Garrett will be remembered for his laugh, smile, energy, and love of superheroes. He was a fierce Batman able to protect lil sis from all bad do-ers. "Always be yourself, unless you can be Batman. Then ALWAYS be Batman", could be heard from his mouth with a little crooked smile.



**Abigail Grace Needham**

3/25/08 - 12/27/13

Pineoblastoma

Abby Grace will be remembered for her smile, sensibility, loving things just so, and her best friend "Piggy". She loved her bedtime ritual of giving kisses to big sister, dad, then mom, and then again some extra kisses for under her pillow. She acquired a large fan base lovingly called "Angels for Abby Grace".

*BE SWEET AND GET INVOLVED!*

## Sponsorship Opportunities

- **"Hendo's Heroes"-Founding Sponsor- \$5,000**

Corporations, businesses, organizations, or individuals may become one of "Hendo's Heroes" by making a one time tax-deductible contribution of \$5,000 or more. "Hendo's Heroes" will receive a framed 11" X 14" acknowledgment print and plaque. The Founding Sponsor's name and logo will also be recognized at Children's Hospital Central California oncology family kitchen, all Sweet Eats printed paper products, internet sites, and at all Sweet Eats events, for the lifetime of the program.

- **"Hendo's Hotshots"- \$2,500**

"Hendo's Hotshots" may make a one time tax-deductible contribution of \$2500. "Hendo's Hotshots" will receive a framed 5" x 7" acknowledgment print and plaque. The sponsor's name will be listed on all Sweet Eats printed-paper products, Internet sites, and at all Sweet Eats events, for the lifetime of the program.

- **"Hendo's Helpers"- \$1,000**

"Hendo's Helpers" may make a one time tax-deductible contribution of \$1000. "Hendo's Helpers" will receive a thank you acknowledgment and be listed on all Sweet Eats Internet sites and at all Sweet Eats events, for the lifetime of the program.

Interested sponsors can contact Roze Wille at [eats@sweetnectarsociety.org](mailto:eats@sweetnectarsociety.org) or 559-341-8325 or

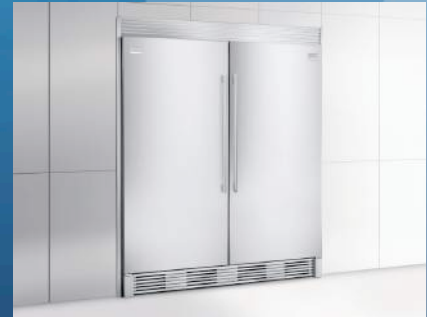
Payments can be made on-line: <http://www.gofundme.com/sweetnectar> and in the Comments section you can write Sweet Eats Program sponsorship. OR mailed:

Sweet Nectar Society, The Sweet Eats Program  
968 Sierra Street, Box 204  
Kingsburg, CA, 93631

## The Sweet Eats Program Family Kitchen

Thanks to Kustom Kitchens and their donation of approx \$20,000 of cabinets, countertops, and top notch Frigidaire appliances for The Sweet Eats Family Kitchen (including professional fridge, freezer, and convection microwave). If you haven't had a chance to send them a thanks for us and let them know you support local businesses that give back, you can send a quick message on their facebook page at:

[www.facebook.com/kustom.kitchens.5](http://www.facebook.com/kustom.kitchens.5)



The Sweet Eats family kitchen itself is progressing and we are hoping to get all of the cabinets and countertops in by the middle of January. We are working out a contract for coffee service as well. We are still working with the hospital to figure out how to bring in fresh food items that are not frozen, and they are supposed to come to some decision soon. Families will only be able to bring in homemade meals to the hospital directly to other families and not place them in The Sweet Eats Family Kitchen. So we are thinking we will create a "sponsor family" program, where outside families can sponsor a hospitalized family and bring homemade meals directly to them as often as they would like.

We are also negotiating with the hospital to be able to display our photography. We have acquired over 50 comments from parents that have children with cancer, and patients themselves, stating that they actually like the photographs, they make them feel "more at home", "more normal", and "not alone". There is a misconception that photographs of other children will create fear in newly diagnosed cancer patients and their parents. We have seen quite the opposite response from teens and parents in all stages of treatment (without a single negative comment). There is no medical research out there to support this fear. It appears the medical community (myself included), still have some learning to do on this subject.

Look Out for the January newsletter for pictures of the completed Kitchen.