THE SWEET NEWS



July/Aug 2014

GALA EVENT HUGE SUCCESS



Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, sweeties, families, and guests for making the first Sweet Nectar Society Gala Event a memorable and successful evening. With your love and support, Sweet Nectar Society reached our goal and raised over \$50,000 to fund our organization and mission for children with serious illnesses and disabilities for 2015. We also raised over \$5,000 to help expand our Sweet Eats program in 2015. The outpouring of generosity to our families in need was inspiring to all those present.





















THE SWEET EATS PROGRAM IS GROWING QUICKLY!



2014 CALIFORNIA REGIONS GRANT PROGRAM RECIPIENT

The Sweet Eats Program recently was awarded a \$5000.00 grant to support the current Sweet Eats Family Kitchen at Children's Hospital Central California, and to work on expanding the program to reach more families in need over the next year. High school Girl Scout, Nikki Castro, is going to be heading up our extension program to help support families in other areas of the hospital.

Local Restaurant Owners Agree to Feed Families!

Our restaurant sponsorship is starting to take off and our first two locally owned eateries are ready to take the plunge and donate meals on a regular monthly or bimonthly basis. Rosa Linda's (Clovis location), and Quizno's (Downtown location) will be donating food on a regular basis to families hospitalized. Our goal is to eventually provide a catered meal every Friday for parents that are traveling back into town to spend the weekends with their children in the hospital. This will be one less thing they have to worry about as their work week ends, they load up the car, and travel long miles to rush back to their children and spouses.



Clovis Restaurant 1420 Clovis Avenue Clovis, CA 93612

Quiznos

Downtown 2325 Kern St Fresno, CA 93721

First Local Farm to Donate Fresh Produce!!



Thankfully, now our families are going to get their fruit and veggies!! Tower Urban Family Farm has stepped up and agreed to donate fresh-picked produce weekly to families in need. These guys know how to grow food (do you see that pumpkin?) and we couldn't be more grateful for their generosity and this unique opportunity. Thank you for reaching out to us Tower Urban Family Farm, 111 E. Dennett Ave, Fresno CA.

See more photos and see their stories @ www.facebook.com/sweetnectarsociety

SWEETIES OF SUMMER

DEVANEE is currently a 3 year-old little sweetie. She was diagnosed a month after she turned 2 in June 2012 with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (A.L.L), the most common childhood cancer. She was admitted to Children's Hospital Central California and immediately began treatment. Devanee continues to show her amazing strength throughout her chemo. Devanee loves to dance and sing and dress up like a princess. She is always smiling and has a very happy spirit. We will continue to watch her and spread thoughts of hope as she continues on her treatment journey.





Lea is a happy, energetic, and fun loving two year-old. Lea has had multiple issues with the development of her major windpipe (called trachea) and required many surgeries in order to breathe. She has subglottic stenosis, which means the windpipe is narrowed beneath the vocal cords, and tracheomalacia (where the supporting cartilage did not develop properly so the windpipe is floppy and can collapse). Shortly after her photo session Lea was scheduled to have a complex procedure to reconstruct her trachea. After the surgery she will have a month long extended stay in the hospital. Her parents are very anxious and nervous but we are sending love and hope for this precious 2 year old.

"Charis Soleil" means "gift of light", a name purposefully chosen for this sweet girl. After 7 years of trying to conceive and finally giving up on the idea, the Crisco family received the news that they were expecting a baby! Charis was born on February 12, 2012 and diagnosed with Down Syndrome a day later. She began early intervention, physical, and speech therapy at a very young age. She was also diagnosed with strabismus (which means her eyes cross) and has been doing vision therapy to strengthen her



eyes in hopes of avoiding surgery. Charis also has several food allergies to soy, dairy, wheat, and citrus, which makes selecting meals a challenge. Despite any struggles, Charis's parents believe she is the best thing that ever happened to their family.

MORE SUMMER SWEETIES

Tania was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma in November 2012, at 4 years old. Rhabdomyosarcoma is a type of cancerous tumor that forms in the soft tissue, such as muscles. Tania underwent chemotherapy, six weeks of radiation, countless scans, pokes, and visits to the hospital. Tania had her last chemo on November 10, 2013 and will need to get scans every three months to ensure her cancer is



still gone. We are happy to report her first scan was in April and came back clear!!!



Aliyah was diagnosed with trisomy 21 (Down Syndrome) and multiple heart defects two days after she was welcomed into this world. Her family was not aware of her condition until she was born and they were taken by complete surprise. During her first two years of life, Aliyah was seen by many specialists, had many home visits, and many hospital stays at Children's Hospital Central California. This Sweetie has an amazing gift of determination, loving spirit, and curiosity for the world around her. Aliyah has taught her family many lessons; including to love, accept, and cheer on each life moment as it comes.

Emma was born with Aicardi Syndrome; a rare genetic neurological disorder in which the structure that connects the two sides of the brain is partly or completely missing. Emma has a very special bond with her family and responds to her parents in a way that she does not respond to other people- Emma is their ray of sunshine. This sweet family is



constantly on the go...regulars at the movie theatre, walking the mall, and Emma's dad run's marathons with Emma.

MORE SUMMER SWEETIES



Krissy is your typical toddler with tons of energy, bright eyes, and a smile that warms your heart in an instant. Doctors told Krissy's parents that she would not be mobile due to her Spina Bifida. But this powerful little girl proved them wrong! She's a mighty fast crawler, she is speedy with her walker, plus she has a really cool wheelchair that she pushes herself around in. Mobility is not a problem for her! Krissy is super spunky and absolutely wonderful. We loved spending time with her and her family!

Meet Olivia. Isn't she just a little bundle of joy? Her mom found out when she was just 5 months pregnant that Olivia would be born with Down syndrome. Almost two years later she's a little lady that knows what she wants and knows how to get it! Her parents just adore her and think she is the SWEETEST thing. They shower her with love and she smiles, laughs, and responds like all active happy toddlers do.



RECENT EVENTS



Our photographer Carrie Anne got to work with Make-A-Wish, and this little guy Gabe, during his wish as a park ranger. Carrie had a blast following him around in Yosemite. Make-A-Wish went above and beyond, as did all of the AMAZING people at Yosemite National Park. He fought fires, rescued a climber trapped on the rocks, flew in the helicopter, and rode along with law enforcement... he even got sworn in as an honorary ranger by a judge! "So happy I got to be a part of it!" - Carrie Anne

RECENT EVENTS (cont)



Down Syndrome Association of Central California www.dsacc.org

SWEET NECTAR SOCIETY IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH D.S.A.C.C. TO HELP SHARE THE SPIRIT OF THEIR SWEETIES

Sweet Nectar Society is proud to share some photos from our session with the Down Syndrome Association of Central California. DSACC exists to enhance the quality of life for all people whose lives are touched by Down Syndrome. For more information on this amazing organization, please visit www.dsacc.org.

Hearts of Gold



This summer our "Heart of Gold Award" goes to....Clovis Girl Scout Troop #2385! These young girls did some shopping of their own and spent their hard-earned cookie money to buy food for families hospitalized on the Craycroft oncology unit in June. These girls picked out everything from microwavable meals to chocolates and candies to feed

families in need. They are an inspiration for other kids (and plenty of adults too). Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to be a regular part of Sweet Eats? We are growing quickly and need lots of help. Please contact us if interested in any of the below positions:

Restaurant Sponsorship Lead-help sign-up, network, and coordinate other restaurant/eatery food donations on a regular basis to our hospital family kitchen.

Food/Product Donation Lead-help recruit, network, and coordinate food, drink, and product donations from local companies/farms on a regular basis.

Food Drive Coordinator-help organizations and individuals get posters, supplies, and arrange pick-up/drop off of food drive donations.

Volunteer Laundry/Food Drivers-looking for individuals to help coordinate laundry pick-up Mon/Wed, Tue/Th, Wed/Fri from Palm/Herndon area to/from Children's hospital. Also need volunteers to help with food deliveries on Friday early evening and other times during the week.

Please email Roze Wille at : <u>eats@sweetnectarsociety.org</u> or call 559-341-8325 and leave a message.

Thank you to our sponsors:



Arthur and Rozanne Wille

Gregory and Michelle Wille

Clovis Bingo Hall



Anonymous-"In loving memory of Ava"

Land O' Lakes Company Store-Tulare



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If you would like to donate food, products, hold a food drive, or get involved with one of our programs, please email us at eats@sweetnectarsociety.org OR info@sweetnectarsociety.org