

THE SWEET NEWS



May 2014

LAST MONTH TO GET TICKETS!

SWEET NECTAR SOCIETY
presents



A BLACK TIE EVENT
CELEBRATING OUR SWEETIES



Friday, June 20, 2014
Cocktail reception begins at 6:30 PM
The Loft Events
1028 N Fulton Street
Fresno, California 93728

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE:
WWW.SWEETNECTARSOCIETY.ORG/EVENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
INFO@SWEETNECTARSOCIETY.ORG
(559) 360-0779 or (559) 307-6538

GET YOUR CUPCAKES!

The Sweet Eats Program has been chosen as the charity of the month for Eddie's bakery. 100% of proceeds for the sale of these cupcakes will go to our local families. Thank you Eddie's.



Throughout the month of May the proceeds from Eddie's "Strawberries & Cream Cupcakes" will go directly to The Sweet Eats Program.



Eddie's Bakery Cafe:
7089 N. Cedar Avenue
Fresno, California 93720

SWEETIES OF APRIL

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

RICHARD was born with a congenital heart defect (in which his heart was backwards, did not have the needed artery connections, and was missing a valve). This Sweetie has spent most of his life in the hospital. On top of heart issues Richard has respiratory issues and is currently getting nutrition through a J-tube, but is working on eating by mouth. Richard has had two heart surgeries, will require more in the future, and one day may require a full heart transplant. This has been a very difficult year for their family as Richard's mom also suffered a massive heart attack and is currently on the transplant list.



GAVIN is all BOY—running, jumping, and playing super heroes are some of his favorite things. At only 4 weeks old, Gavin was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (CF), a life

threatening disorder and one of the most common chronic lung diseases in children and young adults. Gavin also had a heart condition called coarctation of the aorta (a narrowing of the aorta which does not allow adequate blood flow to his lower body or organs). Gavin had corrective heart surgery in August 2013 and is, smiling, and doing well.

Meet ADALIESE. Addie has a rare chromosome disorder for which there is very limited medical information available (Chromosome deletion 3p 14.1, Mitochondrial deficiency complex II & III). This has caused many medical challenges. She is fed via



a J-tube connected directly to her lower intestine 24 hours a day and her liver does not work properly. She also has respiratory issues, developmental disabilities and is generally non-verbal. However, she was such a joy to be around and we are so thankful to share her beautiful smile.



Meet JAMIE. This little guy reminds us to enjoy the little things in life, like feeling the warm morning sun on a shiny, bald, head! Jamie is undergoing chemo that will continue for three years after being diagnosed with Acute

Lymphoblastic Leukemia last August. Still, he continues to be brave, energetic and is very intelligent with an amazing vocabulary for a three year old, despite being drug exposed in the womb by his birth mother. Let's stand behind him in the fight against cancer. Through his HOPE+ COURAGE+ STRENGTH he also inspires us to enjoy the everyday moments we can so easily take for granted!!

VICTOR was born with Cerebral Palsy due to complications during birth. Victor also has a seizure disorder and is wheelchair bound. He is non-verbal but speaks through his amazing smile. He is a diehard 49ers fan and loves going to games with his family. The community of Visalia also came together to get him a new adaptive bicycle and you can watch him trying it out on the video link posted May 3rd at www.facebook.com/sweetnectarsociety.



Meet MARIETTA, an 18-year old young lady born with an unknown genetic disorder. She was first noted to have visual impairment at 3 months of age. Later more problems began to arise: seizures, autism, scoliosis requiring spinal surgery, and severe developmental delays. At age 8 she became strong enough to crawl and sit up but now has lost this ability and is unable to

move on her own. She likes TV shows that have songs and music. As a young child she also enjoyed being tickled and sharing her smile.

MORE APRIL SWEETIES

JOSEPH is very special in the fact that he was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) when he was 13 months old, rather than 5 years old like most boys. DMD affects on average 1 in 3,600 boys and is a degenerative, fatal disease, involving muscle weakness that gets worse with time. Joseph cannot walk, and he lost his ability to stand at just 15 months. Even still, Joe's courage and strength allow him to crawl around and his spirit and curiosity of life is contagious. If you want to keep up to date with his journey with DMD follow him on his Facebook page [Go Joe @ www.facebook.com/teamgojoe](https://www.facebook.com/teamgojoe).



ARIANA is an adorable sweetie who rocks an extra chromosome. She was born in November 2010 and was diagnosed with Down syndrome (an extra number 21 chromosome) at 6 days old.

Ari is, in every way, a typical toddler with energy and personality to spare. She is a loving and amazing big sister and teaches her family something new everyday. Ariana has a smile that lights up the day and we LOVED our time photographing her.

Meet DEAN! Dean is one of those kids that just brings so much joy to the all of the lives around him. He was born a healthy baby boy with just a little something extra (Down Syndrome). He's always on the go, walking, climbing, running his way through life, teaching others patience, kindness, sensitivity and love!

Thank you Dean for sharing your smile with us! Let's show Dean how much we love seeing it, by being SWEET and commenting, liking and sharing his post at www.facebook.com/sweetnectarsociety



PREVIOUS SWEETIES WHO NEED MORE LOVE

Peyton's journey began at only 23 weeks of pregnancy when he came into this world weighing only 15oz, and is the only surviving triplet. He suffered from fluid on the

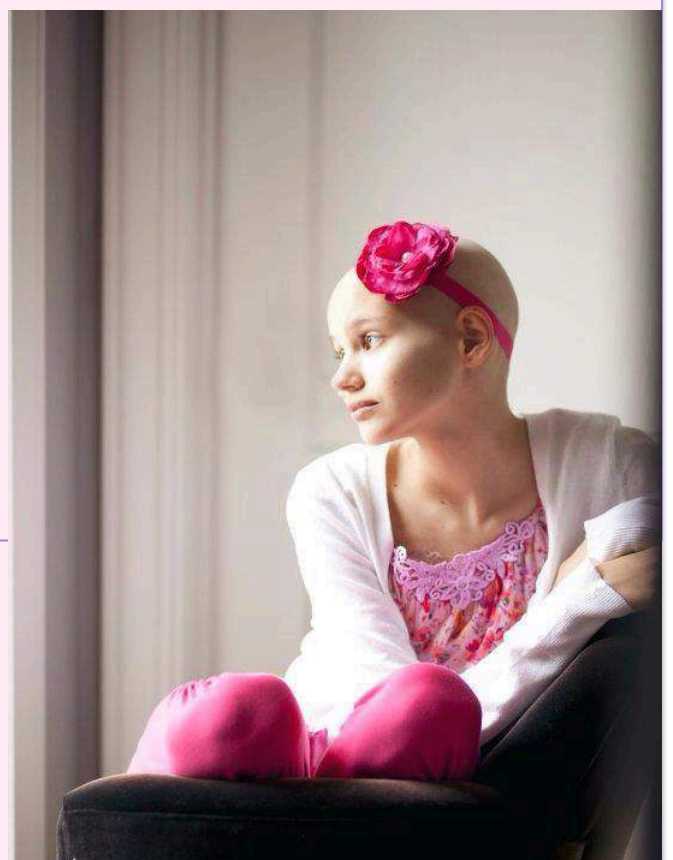


brain at birth causing extensive brain trauma. Peyton struggles include hydrocephalus, cerebral palsy, seizures, and global delays, due to the pressure. Peyton has such determination and has worked hard to stand, crawl, and interact. Despite the difficulties he endures, this little man knows no boundaries. Peyton was recently admitted to Children's Hospital Central California to the PICU for a very serious lung infection. He is in serious condition but the family has been

told there is some improvement in the infection in his right lung. Please send Peyton and his family some love at www.facebook.com/sweetnectarsociety.

Our love is with sweet Emily after being diagnosed with cancer again. Emily recently completed treatment for an aggressive undifferentiated pediatric sarcoma and was cancer free. She was recently taken to the ER for swelling gums and not feeling well. After having blood work done, she was just diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (likely caused from the chemotherapy to treat her original cancer).

Leukemia cells are packed in her bone marrow and she has a long fight ahead of her. We know she is a strong girl who can beat this- please join us in encouraging Emily and her family!!!!



Recent Events

A special thank you is in order to Sarah Soghomonian, Project Coordinator for Valley PBS (and her colleague Oscar) for supporting the Sweet Eats Program and other local families, with this amazing video of Opening Day of the Sweet Eats Family Kitchen at Children's Hospital Central California.



<http://video.valleypbs.org/video/2365214723/>

Thank you Alex Delgado and Lindsey Pena at KSEE 24's Central Valley Today Show for showcasing Sweet Nectar Society in April. If you missed Brittany and Carrie talking about the program and the upcoming gala event, here's your chance to check it out. Great interview, as always :)



<http://www.yourcentralvalley.com/story/d/story/sweet-nectar-society/29975/fNclto7lpkC84MxXwcifHA>

Can you donate a bag of groceries to a family at home?

The Sweet Eats Program donated another 4 bags of groceries to families in need in the outpatient clinic. Any items that the program receives that cannot be cooked in the microwave or that cannot be used in the Sweet Eats Kitchen are donated to families attending the clinic. Nothing donated ever goes to waste. If you or your organization would like to put together grocery bags of items for families in need, please contact me at eats@sweetnectarsociety.org.



April 26th-Sweet Nectar Society attended the **Kingsburg Cancer Volunteers**, Benefit Dinner. This is a great organization that helps patients from Kingsburg (and their families) that are dealing with cancer. They provide things like food, gas cards, transportation to treatments, and lots of love and emotional support. Thank you for letting us be a part of this great event.

Recent Events (Cont).



Our photographers of Sweet Nectar were very busy bees in April. Along with photographing 9 new “sweeties”, they also found time to provide free photography for other community programs. They attended this great camp for families dealing with a disability, sponsored by Joni and Friends Central California.



Family Camp at Wonder Valley | 2014

photos provided by:



SWEET NECTAR SOCIETY

April 16th - [The 1 Year Anniversary of Hendrix's Passing](#)

Thank you to all of our friends, family, and supporters who sent us photos, emails, and words of love and support. Art and I spent part of the day at the Tollhouse cemetery reading over some of his “Hendoisms” together and remembering him. Later we cried together as we watched videos of him playing, heard his laugh, and could almost feel him back in our arms. He is still loved and missed by many. Thank you Hendrix for loving us!



Heart of GOLD Award

This month's Heart of GOLD award goes to young Natalia. She made her own friendship bracelets, sold them at her NO MO' CHEMO party for cancer, then donated the funds (totaling over \$250) to Sweet Nectar Society. A true inspiration for all of us! Thank you to our “sweetie”.



MAY EVENTS

May 1st-Sweet Nectar Society (SNS) will be providing free photography to the Down Syndrome Association Group and their families.

May 2nd-Brittany Wilbur of SNS will be speaking at Clovis Rotary.

May 3rd-SNS co-founder, Carrie Miranda, will be speaking at the Visalia Assembly Church for Garden Tea at 9 am. Brittany Wilbur, the other co-founder, will also be speaking at 9 am at the Garden's at Cal Turf (photo courtesy of Jennifer Eileen) in Tulare.



May 16th-Sweet Nectar Society has been nominated for **Non-profit of the Year** by Visalia Chamber of Conference. Our interview will take place on May 16th. This is a great honor just to be nominated. PBS will also be making a highlight video of the nominees for the event. **Hip, Hip, Hooray! Hip, Hip, Hooray!**

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