

Chapel Hill siblings remembered through silent auction

BY KRISTEN CRESANTE
STAFF WRITER

Top of the Hill will host a fundraiser tonight that honors the memory of two Chapel Hill students.

The event will be a silent auction sponsored by JP's Caps for Courage and the Johanna Alyse Minta Yearbook Fund and will run from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

JP's Caps for Courage was founded by Johanna and Kelsey Minta in honor of their brother, Jon-Paul, who died of bone cancer

in 2004, just before entering his freshman year at Chapel Hill High School. The organization raises money to buy gifts and diversions for young patients at the N.C. Cancer Hospital.

"When we lost our son, Kelsey and Johanna wanted to start a service club at the high school that makes life better for sick kids," said Diana Minta, their mother.

A few months later, Johanna Minta, a member of the high school's yearbook staff, was killed in a car accident.

In her memory, Tom Stanfa, the school's yearbook advisor, created the Johanna Alyse Minta Yearbook Fund.

"We use the funds we raise to buy yearbooks for students who just can't afford one," Stanfa said.

The money raised at tonight's auction will go to both groups.

The Yearbook Fund's goal is to give out 35 books each year. Depending on how much they raise tonight, a portion of the money will go toward reaching this goal, and the rest will go to JP's Caps for

Courage.

Stanfa said the two groups raised \$2,600 at the auction last year.

Tonight's auction items will include a basketball signed by Roy Williams, a football signed by Butch Davis and gift certificates to local businesses.

Top of the Hill is hosting the event as part of its Charity Tuesday program, in which the restaurant chooses one beer and gives \$1 to the charity for every pint of that beer sold throughout the day, business manager

Rebecca Tomasini said.

"We try to give back to the community as much as possible," Tomasini said.

"This is a great way to help them raise awareness in the community to other customers and people in the community."

Stanfa said there also will be donation jars for those who want to donate more or who are underage.

"This is the year Jon-Paul was supposed to graduate, so a lot of his classmates will be there," he said.

ATTEND THE SILENT AUCTION

Time: 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. today
Location: Top of the Hill


Minta said the fundraiser is a good way for her children's friends to honor their memory as well as raise money for a good cause.

"It keeps the memory of our children alive," Diana Minta said.

"They were both very giving and caring and sharing people."

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