



August 1, 2013

Dear Friend,

**You can make a difference in a young teenager's struggle to live a normal life. There are many different ways you can help; from making a monetary donation, to a donation of products from your business for our basket raffle. The possibilities are endless.....and no donation is too small.**

On Sunday, February 19, 2012 Vanessa Haynie, a 15 year old high school student told her mom, Tracy, that she wasn't feeling well. Her mother took her to the Kenmore Mercy Hospital emergency room thinking maybe she had a bug and possible dehydration. After some testing the doctor came in and said Vanessa has to be transported to Children's Hospital, she was having kidney failure. She was at 5% kidney function...that started the first ten day stay in the hospital. On February 22, 2012 she was diagnosed with Lupus Nephritis with Stage 4 kidney disease.

In an attempt to settle the Lupus into remission, Vanessa began undergoing kidney biopsies and chemotherapy. She had approximately 30% function when they left the hospital, and a few chemo treatments later the doctors were out of options. Over the course of the next month, Vanessa had started on a daily routine of over thirty various medications and injections. This is when Vanessa's monthly trips to Children's Hospital began.

Due to all the steroids and medications, Vanessa gained over 50 pounds in a month. This lead to many complications ranging from pneumonia to excessive fluid retention. As a result, Vanessa had to sleep upright for six months because fluids would build up in her lungs if she lay flat. At one point the Nephrologists called and said to immediately get her to the hospital and that her recent labs shows her kidneys were at critical. This resulted in a three week stay, hemodialysis three days a week, and complicated surgeries. After which she contracted C-Diff which resulted in seizures due to uncontrollable blood pressures. The seizures then caused a swelling on the brain which had to go down so Vanessa could regain certain brain and physical functions.

Vanessa is still on over 30 medications a day and after a nasty blood infection that almost took her life, she is receiving peritoneal home dialysis for 10 hours a day. Recently Vanessa was put on the list for a kidney transplant, but cannot have the transplant unless her Lupus stays quiet.

Throughout all her treatments, complications, and several brushes with death, Vanessa's smile and positive attitude have never faltered. Her courage and strength have helped her and her family make it through every day, and never giving up hope. Vanessa is an inspiration and a joy to everyone she comes in contact with.

Vanessa Haynie is a 17 year old high school student who is fighting for her life, and is also feeling the stress of the financial burden that comes with this illness. Her whole family has pulled together to provide around the clock care and assistance for Vanessa. This care has caused more stress due to the extensive time from work that's need. The bills keep coming and at this point, there is no end in sight.

On Sunday, September 29th from 1-3pm, the ZUMBA Instructors at Payne Avenue Christian Church are hosting a Zumbathon in Vanessa's honor to help relieve some of this financial strain. Our Zumbathon represents the hope that those who were lost to Lupus will NEVER be forgotten, those who face Lupus will be supported, and that one day there will be a CURE.

We are grateful for any contributions that you and/or your business can give. Donations of gift certificates, products from your business, etc. would be extremely appreciated. Please contact Tiffany Turnwall (716-335-1276) for your donation. Thank you for your consideration in supporting our endeavor. To all those that know her, Vanessa is **"an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."** (Christopher Reeve).

Sincerely,  
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