

Honored Hero – Ashley K Drew

We hope that many of you remember our daughter and your peer, Ashley K Drew, who passed away nearly four years ago at the end of her eighth grade year. Her departure was very sudden due to complications from a very aggressive form of leukemia.

After all that, Ashley's spirit continues to motivate us, and also many of you, to help others.



You may recall that it started in the 3rd grade, when Ashley saw a news clip reporting on how cold the homeless were during a particularly frigid November day. She was inspired to help these folks in some way so she decided to organize a blanket drive at school.

Through a presentation at a school board meeting and encouraging her peers, they collected more than 70 blankets and donated those to the Portland Rescue Mission.

After Ashley's passing we organized Ashley's Closet, a project with youth from OC United

Methodist Church, to promote community outreach efforts and activity. Our first project was a clothes closet for homeless youth in Oregon City. Since that time, we helped local citizens with house painting, yard work and moving. Of course, our symbol was the red high heel.



To build on the success of Ashley's closet, we set up an Oregon Community Foundation fund in Ashley's name. When fully funded (later this year) we'll be supporting organizations that help youth become leaders in their community. An

organization that we'd like to help would be Girl Scouts. This seems like a natural fit since Ashley was a scout and felt deeply connected to the girls in her troop and the work they completed together.

Last year, Koreena asked us to speak at an event she organized for her senior project. We were touched that she asked us to speak at her event called "A Benefit in Remembrance," which was a benefit concert in remembrance of Ashley that raised money for LLS. A couple months later we had the opportunity to participate in the Light the Night walk in Downtown Portland. Koreena and Emily created and carried the colorful banner you see here in this picture.



Through these events and others like them, Ashley's friends and family members have raised more than \$5,000 for LLS to help them help cancer patients and their families. Now you can help too. Pennies for Patients is an opportunity for you to contribute, and to encourage others to do so as well.

To learn more about how Ashley's spirit continues to call us to action, visit her website: www.ashleykdrew.com.

- Nick and Sara Drew