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Simi teens seek \$50,000 to honor friend

Money to build a Habitat for Humanity house

By Daralyn Schoenewald dschoenewald@VenturaCountyStar.com Monday, November 26, 2007

To help

- Visit www.1l2l.org to purchase items or donate money. The organization accepts major credit cards or donations via PayPal accounts
- To find out about volunteer opportunities, e-mail volunteer@1life2live.org.
- Contact Habitat for Humanity, 485-6065, and tell officials you are interested in volunteering in memory of Tyler Broberg.
- All donations go to Habitat for Humanity in the name of Tyler Broberg.



Broberg



Ask a group of Royal High School teens why they are working to raise \$50,000 toward a Habitat for Humanity home and they'll tell you about their friend who loved to laugh, wanted everyone around to be happy, and who died too young.

They know the task is daunting, but in the three months since 16-year-old Tyler Broberg drowned in a Las Vegas pool, the Simi Valley students have raised more than \$6,000 toward the \$50,000 needed to begin construction on the home.

"For Tyler to know that his passing meant that a family could have a home would have meant the world to him," said Pam Moberly, a longtime friend of Tyler's mother, Debbie Broberg.

Moberly also serves as the adult support for One Life to Live, the organization founded by the teens to raise money for the home. The group started with a letter written by Emilie Mateu, a friend of Tyler's.

"We all had the feeling that we wanted to do something, and her letter gave us direction," Moberly said.

In the letter, the 16-year old struggles to make sense of her friend's death.

"Just like a load of bricks crushing down on my lungs, it hit me that I wanted to make his life worth something," she wrote. "I saw ... over 1,000 people attending his celebration of life ... and this is when my idea began to form because I needed to find something that would help Tyler carry on and leave a legacy in his name."

To raise funds for the construction project, the teens have established a Web site, www.1l2l.org,

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which is set up to take credit card donations via PayPal. The site also sells sweat shirts, T-shirts, wristbands and car decals bearing the logo of the organization.

The funds raised from selling the items are deposited into Royal High School's donation account and will be sent to Habitat for Humanity, said Alex Safford, 17.

The teens hope to raise the entire amount by the one-year anniversary of Tyler's death, Aug. 1. They realize they will only be able to raise a minimal amount from their peers and are working on approaching businesses and charitable groups for further donations.

"We're planning to approach businesses for in-kind donations that will help reduce the total amount we need to raise," Mateu said.

Moberly said that after the holidays the group of eight teens will begin speaking at Rotary and Kiwanis club meetings.

Once the funds are raised, Mateu said there will be opportunities for physical labor in building the home.

"We want people to be able to see that their efforts are going somewhere," she said. "It's amazing to think that we will be able to drive past this home forever and think of Tyler's smile."

Comments Posted by jaesmom on November 26, 2007 at 9:45 a.m. (Suggest removal) What a a great way to remember a good friend!! Good Luck to you guys! RIP Tyler Posted by BeaHappi on November 26, 2007 at 10:29 a.m. (Suggest removal) What a great group of kids and what an awesome way to honor the memory of their friend. Posted by finnmcgowan on November 26, 2007 at 1:16 p.m. (Suggest removal) Beautiful tribute to a great kid. Post your comment (Requires free registration.) Comments are the sole responsibility of the person posting them. You agree not to post comments that are off topic, defamatory, obscene, abusive, threatening or an invasion of privacy. Violators may be banned. Click here for our full user agreement. Username: Password: (Forgotten your password?) Your Turn: Preview comment

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