

Dear Community Members and Business Leaders,

We are looking for Vendors and individuals who are willing to donate raffle baskets for an upcoming fundraiser to assist one of our Bowling family members Marisa Garcia.

Marisa is 17 years old and a Senior at Grant High School. . This fundraiser is aimed to give her family support during this difficult time as they face medical bills and the loss of income because her parents won't be able to work full time as they help her through this ordeal. Here is Marisa's story:



Last week on Wednesday morning 7/24/19 I had planned on (hopefully) sleeping in. Having a nice relaxing day with good news from the doctor. And when I was woken up at 9 am by both of my parents sitting on my bed, I instantly knew something was up. I assumed it wasn't about me. It was early. It couldn't be about me. But when I saw my dad crying and then my mom look over at me and say "we have to tell you something" I knew this was about the biopsy. My mom told me I had Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Explaining that it was cancer. It was the last thing I expected to hear. I thought it might have been an infection in my lymph node, or something on the minor side, but when I heard "cancer" I felt myself freeze up. This couldn't be happening. Not to me. We all think that right? Not to me. We feel bad for others and we take normal for granted until we're walking in the shoes of the people that we were thinking we would never be in. I thought about my mom, about how she had just been through cancer and it all hit me at once. I am going to have to go through chemo. I am going to lose my

hair. I am going to be sick. How am I sick? My body feels fine. And that's the thing about cancer, you feel fine but your body, inside, that isn't fine... I called a few of my friends to tell them what was happening. It felt like a nightmare. A horrible nightmare. And then I was off to Lurie's Children's Hospital in Chicago. I met the doctor, and the PA, and had a CT scan done. I didn't stop crying that entire day. I cried the 2 hour car ride to Chicago and the 2 hour ride back. Everything didn't feel real. Sometimes it still doesn't feel real. It's been 10 days since I've been diagnosed. It is curable. It is stage 3. It is not in my bones. But that still doesn't make it any less scary. Sometimes I just try and forget about it. Everything. I love my friends and I love just hanging out with them and forgetting about all of this. But I know I'll have to go back to the hospital and face this all. And fight it. I know I am going to have to be strong. Stronger than I ever have been. I am going to have to deal with this. And I will deal with this.

The Fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday October 20, 2019 from 1-4pm at Lakes Bowl in Round Lake. We would like to have all the wonderful donations gathered by October 5, 2019. If you are willing and able to donate a basket/item/gift card for the raffle to be held at the fundraiser please contact us. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the fundraiser, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for taking the time to read about our fundraiser and considering a donation for Marisa and her family.

Thank you in advance,

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