

# Group offers help for cancer victims

A volunteer group based in Colby is offering to help cancer victims in the nine counties of northwest Kansas.

Danielle Freeman, a fund raiser for the Northwest Kansas Foundation of Hope, was in Oberlin talking to the Rotary Club recently about the effort.

The group offers \$750 grants to cancer patients to be used for travel expenses, medications, payments to doctors or hospitals and even for rent, mortgages and utilities. There is no income requirements, she said. The only stipulation is that the patient live in one of the nine counties in the northwest corner, be under treatment for cancer and that the bills are current.

She said that the group supports the work of the American Cancer Society and many members are former volunteers for that agency's Relay for Life. However, she said, the money raised by that group goes out of town for research and doesn't help a person trying to pay huge medical bills and keep a household going.

"People wanted money to stay local," she said, "to help those needing help out here.

The group has no paid staff, she said. Her mother is the president and she helps raise the money. There is little spent on administration and only a minor amount on the group's big fund raiser each year — a New Year's Eve gala in Colby with a dinner, dance and auction — as most expenses are covered by donations.

The group also puts on a wine

tasting and a Walk of Hope at the Colby Community College, accepts memorial donations and gets help from Pheasants Forever and Kansas Quiclubs in Colby.

In 2010, the group gave out one grant in Decatur County, she said, and in 2011 two. At that time, each grant was for \$500, but the amount was raised this year.

Patients can only get one grant a year, she said, but the group will help people find other sources of aid.

Ms. Freeman said that she got interested in the work of the Foundation partly because she expects to get cancer some day. She said that she knows of 12 relatives who have had the disease, including her sister, both grandmothers and a grandfather.

"The best thing that could happen to us is that we run out of money and have to raise more," she said. "That would mean we've served our purpose."

Applications for the grants are available at area hospitals and clinics, she said, or through the group's web site at [www.nwks-hope.org](http://www.nwks-hope.org).

In Decatur County, the group Helping Hands offers help to anyone, not just cancer patients, with a medical bill they can't pay. That group works only with Decatur County residents and offers up to \$500 in help, said Carla Depperschmidt with the group.

Applications for Helping Hands, also an all-volunteer group, are available at the Decatur County Hospital.

## Annie, get your gun



SHOWING OFF AN ANTIQUE gun for sale this weekend was Shane Wyatt, one of the vendors at the Sappa Creek Knife and Gun Show. Mr. Wyatt, a co-owner of S&S Gun Works of Norton, said he trades in guns and is a certified instructor for Kansas concealed carry classes.

— Herald staff photo by Stephanie DeCamp

# \*Pool to go to vote

(Continued from Page 1A) it to a vote," one member said.

Brown wasn't at the meeting, but later confirmed his views on the subject.

"Well I can't say that it will or won't hurt me," he said later. "I mean, the only way we're going to know is to let the voters decide. I don't know of anybody personally (that opposes it).

"I can't predict the future. I can't say it won't hurt business. But the voters will tell you if they're willing to (pay the increased tax).

"And yes, we need a pool. I do know that."

# Group asks for city help

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP [sdecamp@nwkskans.com](mailto:sdecamp@nwkskans.com)

The Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center asked the Oberlin City Council to help pay for free services it offers for children in this area, but which the city has never paid for.

David Fyler, a family therapist and co-founder of the agency, said the center does child-friendly interviews in cases where children are sexually assaulted. They follow up with the kids, he said, with three therapists on staff visiting every other week.

They employ a nurse trained in handling sexual-abuse victims and a nurse practitioner trained in sexual-assault exams, so that those can be done in Oberlin instead of having to take a child to another county.

"We collect about \$80,000 a year at present from donations," Mr. Fyler said. "We are asking for \$5,000, which is the average for (city) donations. If you don't give us anything, we won't go away. Our passion is to help these kids."

The center has been working with victims in Oberlin since 2007, he said. In larger towns, Mr. Fyler said, there is usually a separate police unit to handle cases involving children and assault. But police agencies in this area, he said, lack that kind of training.

"We help kids testify in a kid-friendly place," Mr. Fyler said. "285 children were hurt in western Kansas last year, and that's up 25 percent."

He said the agency has never charged a dime and doesn't want to.

"The police rely on them heavily," Police Chief Wade Lockhart said. "These people do not hesitate any time, day or night. They will be here in a heartbeat.

"If there is any way possible to support these people, then we need to do it. I can't stress it enough: We need to support these people."

No decision was made on the request.

# \*Dads are the best, according to their children

(Continued from Page 1A) That is why my dad should be Parent of the Year.

Clayton Carter  
Jess Carter will received a \$50 gift certificate good at the Oberlin Business Alliance businesses.

The other letters submitted included:

My dad should win parent of the year because he is always there if I brake my go-cart. He is always there to fix it. He takes me hunting whenever I want to. He taught me how to hunt. He was the one who taught me to love.

Kelli Brown  
Sixth Grade

Dear Dad,  
You are the best dad in the world! You are very funny with your jokes and such. I also like your mustache. I love the fact that you went to WSU (Wichita State University) and that you love the Chiefs and the Royals. I also love the fact that you are a math teacher. I've realized that you are a lot like me. You are also helpful, cool, active, hard working, sporty, and very smart. I love you. You deserve to be Parent of the Year.

Your son,  
Kole Breth  
Sixth Grade

My dad should be parent of the year because he loves me and always makes time for me. He takes me places and buys me stuff. He's always fun and nice. I love it when he takes me out and he's always fun to be with. He is always nice to me and my friends. He always supports me in everything I do. He is always there for me. He makes me laugh and is there when I need him most. He understands me and my feelings. He loves me and would do anything for me. And I love him.

Celianna Shobe  
Sixth Grade

I think my dad should be Parent of the Year because he is way awesomer than everyone else's parents. He is very funny and nice. He gives me and lets me do anything I want. He is also very generous. He will help anyone that is in need of help. He cooks for me all the time. He and I look a lot alike. He is very unique. The reason why is his name, Ora Elton Gillespie Jr. III. I love my dad very much and that is why I think he should be Parent of the Year. He also likes everybody and does not judge people.

Cassidy Gillespie  
Sixth Grade

My Dad should be the Parent of the Year because He helps build houses for people. He is the greatest parent ever. He is also very great. He is very nice too. He also helps me do my homework. He is also very helpful. He is the greatest dad ever.

Mason Mumm  
Sixth Grade

My Dad should be parent of the year. My dad and me work together a lot. We like building stuff like a go-cart. It is a lot of fun. We also

like to fix stuff a lot of stuff. We shoot bb guns. My dad is the best dad ever.

Aubrey Johnson  
Fifth grade

My Dad should be parent of the year. My Dad could crack a joke in the most boring place. He takes me camping, fishing and hunting. He even took me and my family to Las Vegas. He helps me out a lot too.

Alexander Hayward  
Fifth grade

I think my dad should be parent of the year because he is helpful and nice.

My dad fixes my stuff when they are broken. My dad gets me a turkey every year. And makes me turkey jerky.

My dad is the nicest person I know. That's why I think that my father should be parent of the year.

Lindsey Eskew  
Fifth grade

My dad is the greatest of all. He provides stuff for me. He provides a house so I have something to live in. My dad is awesome. My dad should be parent of the year.

I like my dad, because I like him and he's a farmer. At his work he gets to drive a sprayer, athing that holds corn, wheat and milo. He comes home somewhere around 6 to 6:30 p.m. He also coaches football and basketball. Football he coaches 1.5 hour and basketball he coaches about the same.

He provides food for me every time. When I'm sick he checks my temp. He's also an emergency medical technician. He's out at midnight for his emergency call. Dad comes home in the morning.

I like my dad, he always takes care for me every time. He provides everything for me. He practices football with me. He gets home and he's tired from it.

David Waterman  
Fifth grade

My dad is the best. He gives us hugs or makes jokes when we are down. He takes us fishing whenever he can and if he doesn't he'll take us hunting. He is so cool. He even fixed the go-cart, ATV and car so we could have fun. That is why my dad should be parent of the year.

Reegon Witt  
Fifth grade

My dad is amazing! He takes us golfing almost every weekend. My dad and I love building stuff together. We might build a set of chain mail together this summer. He improves other's houses for a job. He lets me go with him to work. It is really awesome what he does and if I help him at work, he pays me. He loves playing with us and it is really awesome when he does. My dad always cares for me when I am ill or injured. He is going to take us to Wyoming for two weeks this summer! I love my dad. He is amazing!

Jack Mumm  
Fifth grade

My dad is the greatest! Dad works hard for us each day so we can have a roof over our heads, food on our table and clothes on us. He wouldn't miss work even if he was sick, unless we really wanted him at something like a swim meet, a basketball game or whatever we have going on.

My dad is always there for us to catch us when we fall. I know my dad loves us more than anything in the whole world. He wouldn't ever harm us in anyway.

My dad also teaches not only us but anyone he knows about the love of God and our savior Jesus Christ. He teaches people that there is one way and only one way. I believe my dad and trust in God.

My dad is a great man and I believe he is worthy of parent of the year.

He knows some people's lives aren't the greatest and even not the happiest so he talks to them and tries to help them through it. He tells them about Jesus' love for us and that it will get better but it may take time.

I love my dad so much and I think he is the best dad in the world.

Ever since I was little I knew my dad would always be there for me and my family. I don't know what I would do without him in my life.

My dad does get mad at me sometimes, but I understand why. He is just trying to teach me right from wrong. I wouldn't know what is right or wrong to do or say if there wasn't discipline when I do wrong.

My dad is a kind and loving person and is always fair.

I really love my dad and I know he loves me and my family too.

I couldn't have asked for a better dad.

P.S. Dad, if you read this... I love you.

Danielle Rouse  
Fifth grade

My dad can help with kids who have homework, he can show you how to do it. He taught me how to drive a four wheeler, a car and a pick-up. He also teaches me about guns and helps me build stuff and helps with my chores. He also teaches me how to farm. And he taught me to fix some things.

Taylor Brown  
Fifth grade

My dad is the best. He takes me golfing which is awesome and fun. The coolest thing is that my dad works for the state and some times helps my uncle move heavy objects. Oh, and my dad is my golf instructor. He is really cool and awesome and that is why my dad should be parent of the year.

Mason Berry  
Fifth grade

I nominate my dad for father of the year. I am Erin. My dad is Roger May.

I nominate him because he works very hard every day. He earns money to pay for our phones, electricity, and for my lessons.

He also helps pay for our college funds. He takes me to some of my activities when mom isn't here.

He works from about 8:30 in the morning to about 7:30 at night.

I love my dad so much. He's the best dad in the entire world.

Thank you,  
Erin May

I would like to nominate my dad for Father of the Year, because my dad Dan Meitl cares for me. He tells me what is bad and what's good to do. He will ask how I do in school he loves me and he gives me good credit for my awesome grades. If I have bad grades, he believes I can get them up to a better grade. I try my best and never let him down. He makes me smile and laugh a lot. He tucks me in every night and when I lie, I get in trouble. He cares for me and is so important to me.

Thanks,  
Alana Meitl

My dad is so cool. His name is Darren Wentz. My dad is gone cutting all the time. He has done a lot for me like buying me a 600 dollar horse. Although he is gone all the time he still calls every day. He deserves this because he has graduation and prom to deal with and this would get rid of all the stress.

Thank you,  
Amy Wentz

I would like to nominate Seth Lohoefer for father of the year because my dad is always there for me. My father would be great father of the year because my dad likes to go out side and through the football, play soccer, play catch and so much more. I can't list them all. My dad likes to watch t.v. with me. That is why my dad should be father of the year.

Thank you,  
Sage Lohoefer

I would like to nominate my dad Krent Townsend for Dad of the Year. He does so much for me, like buy us go-carts, an xbox 360 Kinnett and an awesome bicycle. He does so much for me I know that no matter what he will always love me.

Thank you,  
Kalen Townsend

I would like to nominate my dad Doug Brown because he takes me to school and helps me with my homework when I am having trouble. He built me an arena to ride my horse Otis in. He also loves me whatever I do. He loves me yesterday, today, and tomorrow too. I love my dad!

Thank you,  
Skyler Brown

My dad should be parent of the year because he's the best! My dad is the best because he does so much for me!! He helps me learn new things and he explains things when I'm confused. He talks with me when I have problems, and helps me through them. He supports me in whatever I do and encourages me to do more. He laughs and jokes with me. He takes care of me and



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