

\$2,000 collected for Burke family

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May 12, 2011 - Just over \$2,000 was deposited into the COTA for Madeline Burke fund after last weekend's fundraising efforts on the square. Many people visited the square Saturday morning and afternoon to contribute to the Burke family by participating in the various events. These events were planned with hopes of collecting the last money needed for the family.

Volunteers sold pizza by the slice from Ratti's Pizza - who donated 25 pies for the event, refreshing drinks and candy for those looking to fill their sweet tooth. Starting at noon, The Blandelles cranked up the music for those gathered under the shade trees of the city lawn. The listeners enjoyed and sang along with some rock 'n roll oldies that had toes a tappin', hands a clappin', bodies swaying and even some rug-cuttin' - or grass-cuttin' - from some of them.

Those purchasing food or drinks received tickets for each dollar donated, and tickets were also sold outright, for a chance to win several door prizes given by area businesses and individuals. The ticket holders placed their tickets in designated boxes for each item, and then the winners for each item were drawn throughout the concert by The Blandelles. There were between 35-40 items donated for the prizes. Donations were also collected during the concert.

When given a chance to address the crowd, Madeline's brother, Scott, said, "None of this is going unnoticed. Thank you very much, from our family."

Scott and his father, Will, were present throughout the day, and expressed their thanks to those participating.

All total, the event raised \$2,087 of the \$5,100 that was left to raise before the event. The funds are all going to help the Burke family while Madeline is on the transplant list for a new set of lungs due to cystic fibrosis. Madeline and her mother, Mary, have relocated to Houston to be within 30 minutes of the hospital and it is estimated that the family will need \$40,000 for living expenses incurred before, during and after the transplant. Madeline and Mary have been in Houston since Dec. 5, 2010.

Anybody wishing to donate to the remaining \$3,000 needed may do so at American Bank of Texas.