
FLEX FOR KAL

Save the Date! November 14th , 2020 Fundraiser! | Children's Project

What:

I am hosting an art auction to raise funds for Kal Hamilton, a local kiddo in need of specialized treatment for his Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. You can read about him and his family in the letter below. **The artwork to be sold will be made by YOUR kiddos! Your child can participate more than once!**

How to sign up!

Pre-register your child's participation by Oct 1st by emailing:

Lindsey Preciado-Weaver at ARTflexforkal@gmail.com or by calling/texting 559-676-0288 with your child's name and school.

PLEASE VIEW THE PARENT INFORMATION FLYER FOR ART SUPPLY PICK-UP DATE, COMPLETED ARTWORK DROP-OFF DATE AND EVENT DATE

How you can help!

I believe in community and I believe in teaching young people how to give back. What better way to do that than to have our children directly help another child in our community!

I am requesting that students from our local schools (**OES, OCI, WASUMA**) participate in the creation of artwork to be sold at our event. Parents can pre-register their children and will be given all of the materials needed for the artwork. **Cost is \$3 per child/art kit.** I will be purchasing the materials up front and the \$3 will go towards the cost of materials (I will cover any additional cost). Each participant will be given an 8X10 canvas, paint brushes and acrylic paints for their creation. Each canvas will have a pre-drawn image of Yosemite and participants can paint them however they'd like (they can add other materials in there as well). I thought images of Yosemite would be appropriate for our theme of "community" and the pre-drawn images will give participants some guidance while still allowing for creativity.

It is my hope that each school will have 50 participants and our goal is to sell 150 paintings! 100% of the proceed's will go to Kal's treatment! Each participating school will have a booth set up at Oakhurst Giftworks on the day of the event (outdoors ,with social distancing and safety measures) for the community to shop from. All paintings will be priced at \$30 (with the option for the purchaser to donate more, of course). Artwork that does not sell on the day of the event will be posted online (Facebook/local) for sale.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THE LETTER FROM KAL'S DAD ON THE NEXT PAGE. LET'S ALL STRIVE TO BE GIVERS AND HELPERS.

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD ON November 14th 11-4.PM AT OAKHURST GIFTWORKS PARKING LOT. RAIN OR SHINE!



Our Family

We are a family of 4 living in Ahwahnee, California, where we have a small family farm. I (Rick Hamilton) am originally from Ahwahnee, and my wife (Nancy Hamilton) is from Queens, New York. **My wife and I honorably served in the United States Marine Corps.** Our son Kalel (7) was born in 2013 at Balboa Naval Hospital while my wife was still on active duty. Our daughter Olivia (2) was born in 2017 after our move back to my hometown of Ahwahnee. **Our son is fighting a terrible disease called Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD).** Due to this awful disease our son is fighting, we have chosen to organize our lives so that every effort we make is a step towards saving his life. **Our son has a ton of fight in him and it amazes us every day with the actions he takes to help his body fight.** He insists on taking his supplements every day (29 pills), doing his stretches, getting in his hyperbaric chamber, eating healthy, and being tough during his IV infusions. We have been upfront about what he is facing from the beginning and he has taken it like a champ. We like to think that he has a lot of toughness to draw from, the mean streets of New York, mountain living, and 5 Marines in the family. Not to mention he was named after Superman.

Diagnosis At the age of 5, Kalel was diagnosed with DMD. DMD is a fatal rare genetic muscle-wasting disease primarily found in boys. Every muscle in the body is impacted by an inability to produce a protein known as dystrophin. Life expectancy is late teens to early twenties, with most who suffer from this disease succumbing to heart or lung failure. Most boys will lose their ability to walk around the age of 10. There is not a cure for DMD, but we are working hard to change that.

Therapy Our family began fighting hard for Kal as soon as we received his official diagnosis at the end of 2018. February 2019, about 2 months after diagnosis Kalel started receiving stem cell infusions. He has been receiving the infusions every 3 months since then. We are hopeful that these infusions will buy Kalel time until a cure is found.

Cure Rare Disease/Currently the focus of our fundraising.

This year we began a partnership with a non-profit called Cure Rare Disease. The founder of this organization, Rich Horgan, has a younger brother with DMD. He has recruited world-renowned researchers and clinicians to help develop custom therapeutics tailor-made for individuals who have rare diseases. If Kalel can have one of these custom therapeutics made for him, it would mean that his body would begin producing the protein, dystrophin, which he currently lacks. This would mean that Kalel's muscles would no longer be wasting.

To enable Cure Rare Disease to begin working on a custom therapeutic for Kal, we need to raise \$25,000. Once we achieve this goal, Kal will be in line for Cure Rare Disease to begin work on his life-saving custom therapeutic. Our work will not be done at this point, but it is a fantastic start to a life-saving journey. Along with Kalel's custom therapeutic being started, once we raise \$25,000, our family will become Cure Rare Disease Ambassadors. As Ambassadors, we will be responsible for raising \$25,000 annually, writing blog posts for Cure Rare Disease, and helping to inform others about the fantastic work they are doing. **Each therapeutic takes 2-3 years to create and costs around \$2 million.**

What we like about Cure Rare Disease.

They openly share their work in hopes of advancing science.

Working alongside insurance companies to help reduce the cost of their therapeutics.

They can do what is right for patients rather than make decisions based on profit.

They are forming partnerships with companies that are critical for developing their therapeutics, which will help to lower the cost of the therapeutics.

They are very transparent about where and how donor money is spent.