

Former North Enders write & illustrate children's book

Leah Orr, the daughter of former North End residents Josephine (Musto) and Americo Lepore has written and published a children's book entitled "Kyle's First Crush," a heartwarming story of a little boy's crush on a beautiful girl who is afflicted with cystic fibrosis.

Orr's book is beautifully illustrated in full color by her mother who works as an art teacher at the

Nazzaro Community Center in the North End. Both the story and artwork will bring smiles to the faces of the young and old.

In the book, Kyle falls in love for the first time in Miss Irene's pre-school kindergarten class. The girl he loves, Ashley Elizabeth, is a very special girl who melts his heart. Ashley has cystic fibrosis

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Kyle's First Crush

I love Ashley Elizabeth



Illustrated by
Josephine Lepore

by Leah Orr

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Former North Enders create children's book

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and Kyle learns from his teacher how this illness affects her. With help from his mom Kyle finally summons the courage to tell Ashley how he feels about her.

Since the book was published on October 12, 2006 close to 500 books have been sold. Orr's goal is to sell a million within 3 years. Orr the mother of three children, the youngest, 3 year old Ashley was born with this dreadful disease. Orr plans to donate the proceeds of her new book, the first in a series of 7, to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to help find a cure in our lifetime. She plans to write a book every year until a cure is found.

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive systems of



Ashley Elizabeth

about 30,000 children and adults in the United States (70,000 worldwide). A defective gene causes the

body to produce unusually thick, sticky mucus that:

- clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening lung infections; and
- obstructs the pancreas and stops natural enzymes from helping the body break down and absorb food.

In the 1950s, few children with cystic fibrosis lived to attend elementary school. Today, advances in research and medical treatments have further enhanced and extended life for children and adults with CF. Many people with the disease can now expect to live into their 30s, 40s and beyond.

Kyle's First Crush can be bought online at www.kylesfirstcrush.com or in bookstores Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com.

