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Monday, March 10, 2008

Once In a Lifetime Gala and Auction

Contributed By Brooke Desserich

CINCINNATI- The Cure Starts Now Foundation announces the "Once in a Lifetime Auction & Gala," Friday, March 28, at historic Music Hall. The Cure Starts Now Foundation is a non-profit organization founded by the parents of Elena Desserich, a local 6-year old stricken in 2006 with brainstem glioma, a rare form of pediatric brain cancer. The foundation's goal is to fund research to cure pediatric brain cancer.

"Elena taught us that something as simple as reading a book to our daughters was to be celebrated. She taught us that a trip to Skyline Chili was the best thing in the world as long as you got extra cheese. She taught us the power of a smile as she embraced a dolphin or rode to the top of Kings Island's Eiffel Tower," says father Keith Desserich.

At the center of the event is a month-long auction, available on-line from March 1-28 culminating in a gala on March 28. The event includes a sit-down dinner and program beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$100 each or five tickets for \$400. Ticket buyers will be automatically enrolled in raffles for tickets to Cincinnati Enquirer Lecture Series with backstage passes to meet Maya Angelo and Isabella Roselinni, a chance to win the use of a BMW Sportster for the weekend, and more.

Auction items, inspired by Elena Desserich's spirit and grace, include:

- A chance to make your own Graeter's Ice Cream flavor and tour the factory. Then the flavor will be sold at all Graeter's local locations to raise money for CSN.
- A chance to go on a VIP tour of the Cincinnati Zoo with Thayne Maynard and be a zookeeper for the day. Race cheetahs, wash elephants, and feed manatees. Then receive your very own elephant-painted art masterpiece.
- A skydive with Dad on father's day. Take a leap from 12,000 feet on a tandem skydive to celebrate Dad's special day complete with a lunch upon landing.
- A family portrait created by nationally renowned artist C.F. Payne for a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience.
- A romantic hot air balloon ride with your special someone and see over the plains of Ohio on a sunset cruise complete with a picnic basket and wine. Prior to that, indulge in a VIP experience at the MidFirst Ohio Hot Air Balloon Challenge as honorary captains of a hot air balloon team.
- A trip to a 4-star spa resort in Arizona for 4 nights of pampering complete with dining and spa treatments.
- VIP tour of the Newport Aquarium and personally meet and help care for their own king penguins: Simon, Randy and Paula.
- A ghost tour of St. Augustine, Florida. Stay for 2-nights at a haunted inn, eat at a haunted restaurant, take a tour of a haunted cemetery and swap ghost stories with the area's top 3 "ghost writers".
- Attend Cincinnati Reds batting practice from an on-field vantage point at a game of your choice and then



Elena Desserich's spirit inspired go towards p

watch the game from box seats near home plate.

· An evening with Amy Tobin for a dinner party for 12. Amy will create a menu that will sparkle with fresh new flavors, vibrant colors and gorgeous presentation for a dinner party plan that takes entertaining from "how?" to "wow!"

Please visit www.thecurestartsnow.org to view all the auction items and to buy tickets to the gala.

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