

**S SPOTLIGHT**



KELLY MCBRIDE/STAFF

Shane Robbins scoops strawberry ice cream for

**soups and scoops**

which was the specialty of Anton's, which occupied the space previously.

"But customers begged me to keep it," he said. So he included it in the menu.

Soups are made fresh daily, and selections include beef barley, chicken harvest, chili as well as the chicken noodle and cheddar broccoli.

"Here, you can get good fresh food fast," Robbins said.

"Sandwiches take only a couple of minutes," he said of the toasted subs.

The ice cream is Hershey's, the kind his predecessor served.

Robbins said he offers catering, as well. Customers can get more information or place orders at 769-1718.

He also donates food to homeless shelters downtown, and sponsors local youth groups.

Winter hours of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and noon to 7 p.m. Saturday are still in effect, but when it warms up outside, he'll be switching to summer hours of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day.

**post serves fundraiser**



W Post veterans, Sharouville tents to

# Book, Gold Star helping to cure cancer

You may have read the best seller "Notes Left Behind" or you may have seen Brooke and Keith Desserich on television or read about them in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

What began as a private journal became a *New York Times* best seller and almost a way of life through the non-profit "The Cure Starts Now Foundation."



**Evelyn Perkins**

Community Press columnist

Keith is the owner of Coit Services and RestorAid. He graduated from Finneytown High School, and Brooke is another gift to us from Pennsylvania. They've lived in Wyoming for eight years.

When their daughter, Elena, was diagnosed with brain cancer at age 5, he read extensively about cancer and noticed a thread that may lead to cures for many cancers. Keith's blogs to family and friends were meant to keep them abreast of Elena's health, preserve the family environment and to create a memory for her younger sister, Grace. Little did they know that Elena was secreting her own handwritten notes and drawings for them around the house. She died in 2007.

Encouraged to share their experience in a book, the family demurred because it was so personal. Someone suggested any proceeds could be given to charity. Keith did not expect the book to sell much, but decided to self-publish for a good cause. Two weeks later, it broke all records and is now released in 20 different languages. The foundation grew from the book, and is now in 20 locations around the world.

To quote Charlie Howard, Gold Star Chili's vice president of marketing, "The Cure Starts Now Cancer Research Foundation ... is dedicated to a 'home run' cure for all cancers, starting with one of the most deadly and difficult cancers - pediatric brain cancer. Many experts believe that the lessons learned from fighting pediatric cancer may in fact provide us the critical first



EVELYN PERKINS/CONTRIBUTOR

Keith and Brooke Desserich and daughter, Grace, with Gold Star Vice President of Marketing Charlie Howard, at the Springdale Gold Star Chili Restaurant. On the counter are Drop A Dollar collections boxes for contributions to support The Cure Starts Now Foundation.

step in winning the battle against all forms of cancer, both pediatric and adult."

Charlie is also a Wyoming resident. His granddaughter, Parker Kellner, has been valiantly fighting pediatric brain cancer since last Memorial Day. Wyoming resident and relative, Nancy Axmacher, was one of the first people to offer help to the Desserich family.

Gold Star has "Drop A Dollar" collection boxes in their restaurants to make it convenient for you to contribute for the next two months. They are a silver sponsor for the foundation's March 19 "Once In A Lifetime Gala," catered by the Gold Star Chilimobile during the event's silent auction. People can bid on a Cincinnati-style block party for up to 100 people, a trip to the Australian Outback or a treasure hunt at the Atocha shipwreck site in Key West, Florida with the son of famed undersea explorer Mel Fisher. A Montana dinosaur dig under the auspices of the Cincinnati Museum Center will also be

auctioned. Proceeds go to the foundation. Some kind souls even donate their winnings to cancer patients for a once in a lifetime experience.

In partnership with WKRC-FM Q-102's Wednesday Party on the River, Gold Star will have its Chilimobile at Yeatman's Cove for "Coneys For The Cure." Beginning May 4 and every other Wednesday at all nine parties/concerts, sales from cheese coneys will be donated to the foundation.

Keith says, "Gold Star came to us, rather than the other way around. They have a heart for the community and are just wonderful folks who did so much more than we planned." Many additional charitable and philanthropic initiatives from Gold Star Chili are in the works for 2011.

Evelyn Perkins writes a regular column about people and events in the Tri-County Press area. Send items for her column to 10127 Chester Road, Woodlawn, 45215, or call her directly at 772-7379.