

AREA NEWS

GALA, AUCTION TO BENEFIT THE CURE STARTS NOW

The Cure Starts Now Foundation presents the Once in a Lifetime Auction & Gala on Friday at historic Music Hall.

The foundation is a nonprofit organization founded by the parents in memory of Elena Desserich, the Wyoming 6-year-old who died in August 2007 of brainstem glioma, a rare form of pediatric brain cancer. The foundation's goal is to fund research for a cure.

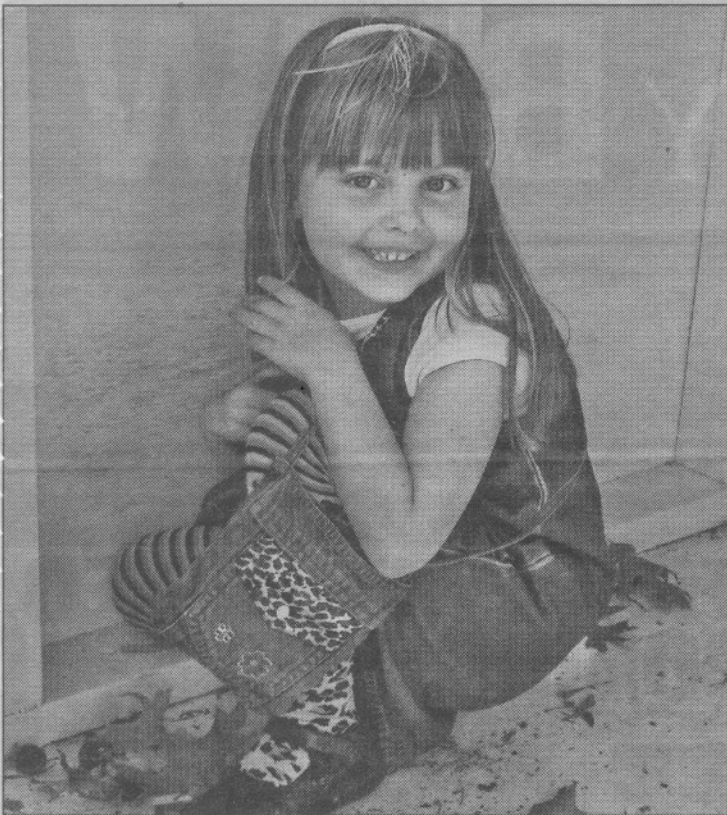
"Elena taught us that something as simple as reading a book to our daughters was to be celebrated," father Keith Desserich said. "She taught us that a trip to Skyline Chili was the best thing in the world as long as you got extra cheese. She taught us the power of a smile as she embraced a dolphin or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

At the center of the event is a monthlong online auction running through March and culminating in Friday's gala. 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 the Enquirer Smart Talk Women's Lecture Series with backstage passes to meet Maya Angelo and Isabella Rossellini, a chance to win the use of a BMW Sportster for the weekend and more.

For a full list of auction items or to purchase tickets, visit the curestartsnow.org.

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Provided photo

The Once in a Lifetime Auction & Gala Friday was founded by the parents in honor of Elena Desserich, a 6-year-old who died in August 2007 of brainstem glioma. "Elena taught us that something as simple as reading a book to our daughters was to be celebrated," father Keith Desserich said.