

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser A big Success!!

By Connie Jenkinson (last paragraph was omitted last issue, oops, ed)

Our daughter Christina is 25 years old and has Huntington's Disease. Her father passed away from this illness in March 2003. I'm ashamed to say that "until Christina became sick with Huntington's Disease", I never knew what it meant. Or maybe more so, I wasn't interested in taking the time to understand an illnesses that didn't effect my life. I think so many of us are probably guilty of that. Not meaning to be disrespectful to people, but just being so wrapped up in our own lives, that we don't take time to look around at others and maybe lend a helping hand, that would maybe help us to understand someone's illness or why they are a little different. But, our eyes were opened wide on August 9th, 2002 when we heard those dreadful words "HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE."

We try to read on Huntington's Disease, and as hard as it is to prepare for the future, do everything we can to make each day a "great day" and build memories. I know that GOD holds the deck of cards for Christina's life, and everyone else that has Huntington's Disease he already has their hand played. But it doesn't mean that we can't keep trying, and fight, fight, fight for the cure!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Believe, and never give up! Hold tight to faith, and reach out to each other. You're not alone, none of us are even though I know there are many times that we feel like we may be.

Christina asked me one day, why they try to raise money for cancer, heart disease, MS, etc., but why she never hears about things for Huntington's Disease. We know that there are people out there working towards research for Huntington's Disease, so we decided that we wanted to do a dinner to help raise awareness of this illness and raise money for research. So, thanks to Elba Township Hall in Lapeer for donating the building, we put our heads together and we were off and planning to hold our first fundraiser!

We held our first Spaghetti dinner fundraiser on February 23rd, 2008 to help raise awareness on Huntington's Disease and money for the research. We didn't really know what to expect with this being our first time trying to plan something this big and not really knowing where to start. Thanks to everyone's hard work and the hundreds of donations we received, we had a wonderful turnout. Besides the spaghetti dinner that evening we held a silent auction on several items that were donated for the event and we also had 109 gift certificates that were donated as well. We collected \$3,470.00 at the dinner, \$1,322.00 from the silent auction, \$780.00 from raffle tickets sold for the gift certificates, \$27.00 for HD merchandise sold that evening and \$1,997.00 from donations collected from people that could not attend the dinner. Making that a total of \$7,596.00 that was collected for research! We were so excited to see such a great turnout.

This event brought tears to our eyes and joy to our heart to see so many people that cared. I saw Christina's eyes sparkle and that look of hope upon her face, and that picture in my mind is priceless and made every moment and every effort for this fundraiser even that much more important to keep moving forward. Don't stop, don't give up, don't forget the words "Fighting For The Cure". Thanks again to everyone that showed up, volunteered their time, collected donations and for the friendships that we have found at the Huntington's Disease support group.