

Dimensions of living

Recipes raise for Grace's rec

4th-grader at helm of fundraising efforts for cancer-stricken 2-yr-old, including sale of family cookbooks

By URSULA MÓORE

Emmet Stone, a fourth-grader at RJO Intermediate School, decided he could not allow his sick baby cousin Grace to die. So he started taking donations on Grace's behalf in the main lobby of the school.

"What inspired me is I want the best for Grace," Emmet said of his 2-year-old cousin, who has Stage IV Neuroblastoma, a cancerous tumor. "I want nothing in return. I just want her to get better."

Grace was born a healthy baby girl until one day, a slight swelling on her right jaw was noticed. At first, it was assumed to be a normal child's ailment. But then a devastating diagnosis of cancer was made by doctors.

Neuroblastoma is a unique cancer in many ways. It is one of the few cancers in children that release hormones that can cause strange changes in the body, such as constant diarrhea. It can also cause changes in some functions of the brain.

Said Emmet: "Grace has one of the worst cancers in the world."

The cause of Neuroblastoma is unknown, though most physicians believe that it is an accidental cell growth that occurs during normal development of the adrenal glands. Symptoms may include persistent diarrhea, rapid heartbeat, trembling gait and irregular, rapid eye movements.

Even though Grace is still an infant, she has already experienced major surgery, and another is planned in the near future. The prognosis of this disease is a relatively low survival rate, so Grace must go to Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital for antibody treatments to prolong her survival. Neuroblastoma makes up six to 10

percent of all childhood cancers, and 15 percent of cancer deaths in children.

Another way Emmet is attempting to raise funds for his cousin is by selling cookbooks compiled by Grace's mother and father.

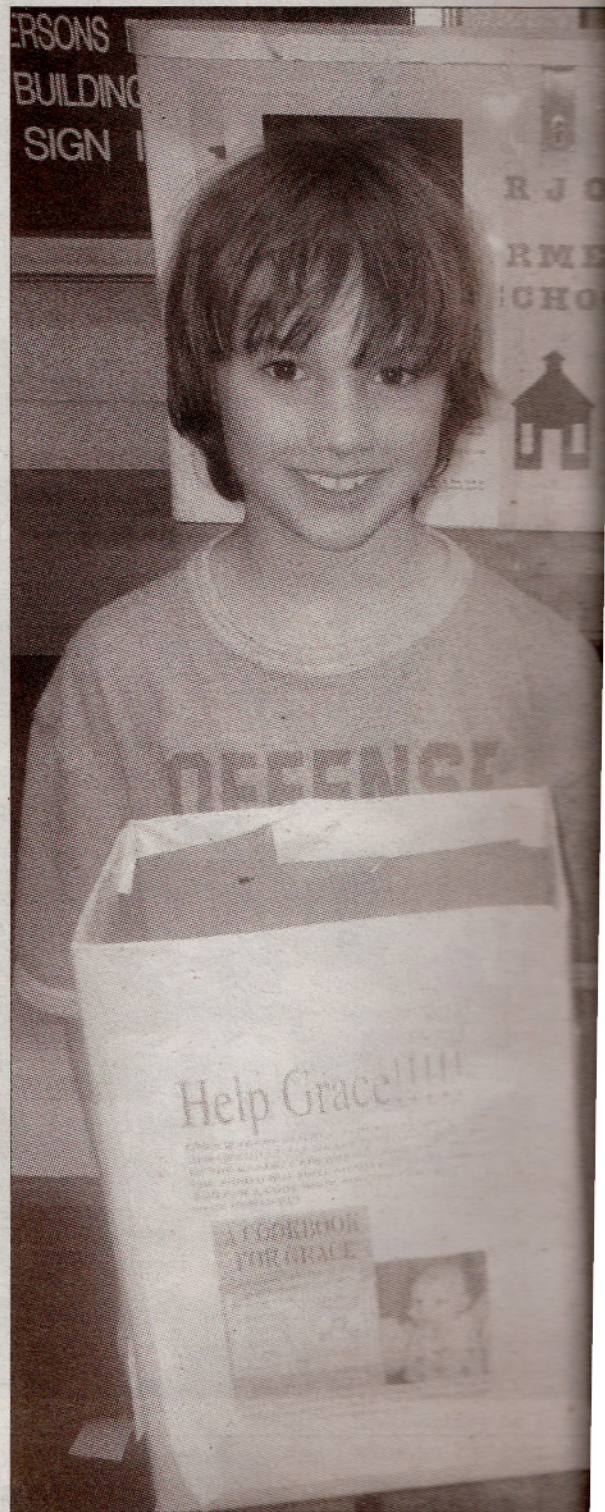
"Emmet captured a piece of my heart," RJO Intermediate School principal Rudy Massimo said. "It is wonderful to see all that he is doing for his cousin."

These cookbooks—a collection of over 200 family recipes—can be purchased at RJO Intermediate School or at www.graceogorman.com, and the proceeds go to supporting Grace's expensive treatments. The overall treatment is costly, and the final bill will likely be over \$800,000.

"So far, since I started two to three weeks ago, I raised \$500," said Emmet, who sees Grace quite often and shared how proud his family is of his admirable efforts. "They think it is very nice what I am doing. My family is very proud of me."

Emmet, who loves to play tennis and swim, knows that every little bit counts.

"It is okay if someone donates \$5 or \$10. If you don't have \$20 for the cookbook, you can still donate something to help Grace."



GRACIOUS GIFT: RJO Intermediate School fourth-grader Emmet Stone is using the boxes he is using to help raise funds for his cousin Grace, who is battling Stage IV Neuroblastoma. Family cookbook donation.

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