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End of cancer treatment is something worth celebrating

By SARAH HITE
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Hair loss is a common part of chemotherapy. The thought that 18-year-old Jenna Woychick would lose her deep chestnut brown hair - which "ran down to the bottom of her spine" - left her panicked says her mother, Darlene.

Jenna researched ways to preserve her locks and presented them to her doctor. She gave him a thick packet of information which included an article about a cap that freezes hair fol-

licles during treatment. She was determined, but wasn't expecting the answer she received.

"You can't do that - people are just going to make fun of you," Dr. David Greenwald of Medical Oncology Associates in Kingston said.

After five wigs and some slow hair growth, Jenna is coping.

The Dallas High School graduate was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in February and is currently in remission. The family celebrated her graduation and end of treatment with 130 guests on Sunday, Aug. 15 at the

Swoyersville American Legion. At the celebration were motivational speaker Eva Grayzel, Dallas High School Principal Jeffrey Shaffer and state Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Lehman Township).

Six months of homebound tutoring prepared Jenna to graduate with the 2010 Dallas High School senior class. Though she was in the hospital three days prior to commencement, she was released in time to walk across the stage to receive her diploma.

Of the party, Darlene says it wasn't supposed to be as large

as it was.

"We were going to have immediate family and a couple of friends," she said, laughing.

Darlene found a video on YouTube about a "Striking the Bell" ceremony and found it to be symbolic to commemorate the end of Jenna's treatment. Friends Jenna had made while receiving treatment were also celebrated at the event - Mallary McClintock and Jessica Ras, who graduated from Wyoming Valley West; Corey



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Jenna Woychick celebrates her cancer remission at a party in her honor.

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Cassie Atherholt, of Dallas, shows off some of the vegetables she grew at The Lands at Hillside Farms as part of the LIU Dream Green Team.

Farm continues Hillside's mission

By SARAH HITE
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Cassie Atherholt loves radishes - but not for their taste. The self-proclaimed artist loves the shades of red, from deep burgundy to bright fuchsia, she sees as she pulls weeds from a garden at The Lands at Hillside Farms.

Atherholt and four other students from Luzerne Intermediate Unit (LIU) 18 participated in a project called The Dream Green Farm at Hillside, a program designed to provide occupational skills to students in addition to continuing Hillside's mission of educating the public on sustainability.

Participants grew vegetables in greenhouses, transplanted them to a one-acre space at Hillside Farms and picked and sold the fruits of their labor at the Farmers' Market on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre on Thursdays.

Students, program directors, job coaches and members of the community gathered for a cookout at the dairy store on Hillside Road on Aug. 6 to celebrate the program's end. Nearly 100 people attended.

"We wanted to give (the students) at least a week of a break before they went back to school," said JoAnn Bierziewski, Special Education Supervisor at LIU 18.

Nineteen-year-old Atherholt, of Dallas, doesn't see an end in sight. The student is so enamored with her job, on-site staff members say she'll work weekends, nights - even during the school year.

"I feel like if I stop, I'll be pulling the grass out of my front yard," she said.

Atherholt's affinity for weeding is unprecedented in the program.

"She just loves it and she does it with perfection," said Bierziewski. "When she gets done weeding a row of radishes, it's perfect."

The task gives Atherholt the confidence to plan her own career in art and agriculture. In addition to aiding in all aspects of the farm, she designed posters for the vegetable stands and decorated bags for customers.

"Maybe (these skills) might

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Suzanne Kelly
Director of Advancement at The Lands at Hillside Farms

motivate me to make my own art business while I continue to work up here," she said.

Michael Brown and Andrew McDonald, both 17, enjoyed trips to the Farmers' Market most. Although money from stand sales is reinvested into the program, funding LIU and The Lands at Hillside, Brown was able to make a little extra cash on the side.

"I liked getting tips," he said. "I knew a guy named Jake and he liked (the stand) so much, he gave me \$4 as my tip."

The smiles on customers' faces were enough for 19-year-old David DeJesus, of Shavertown.

"I liked going to the Farmers' Market when we actually sold things," he said. "It made me feel good."

Suzanne Kelly, Director of Advancement at Hillside, hopes the project will have a similar effect

on students all over the country.

"It's educating our local community about what can happen in a positive way as far as partnering with various educational institutions where perhaps some of the students need additional job skills," she said. "We are the model."

Kelly plans to present other educational organizations with photos and statistics about the program to encourage more participation.

"It's a completely holistic type of learning experience, not only for the students but also for us at The Lands at Hillside Farms as well," she said. "The students teach us as much as we're able to teach them."

Coordinators plan to continue and expand the Dream Green Farm next year.

"We're just getting started," said Kelly.

Pauly Friedman is remembered

By SARAH HITE
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OVERALL WINNERS

Female walker: Christine Snarski, Kingston, 33:00

Male walker: Tom Cheffinsm, Carlisle, 30:24

Female runner: Jennifer Heck, West Wyoming, 21:43

Male runner: John Martino, Dallas, 17:24

John Heinz Rehabilitation Center was one of the sponsors of the event and 43 employees formed a team to walk, winning the Answer the Call Traveling Trophy with a donation of \$2,800.

The Second Annual Pauly Friedman Family Walk/Run was held at Misericordia University on Sunday, Aug. 15 with nearly 200 people participating in the event to raise funds for "Help Line," a program of the Family Service Association of the Wyoming Valley.

"Help Line" is a professionally staffed hotline available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help those in need, according to Mike Zimmerman, executive director of the Family Service Association.

"They provide information referral on just about any kind of human or social service need," Zimmerman said.

Callers can receive information from the hotline from tenant rights to emergency heating services to reports of child abuse. Zimmerman says the line receives about 90,000 calls a year.

"It really runs the gambit of needs," he said.

Pauly Friedman, the walk/run's namesake, was one of the volunteers who helped found "Help Line" in 1972.

She was also on the board of the Friends of the Family Service Association.

"We think it's wonderful - it's perpetuating her memory and all the good things she's done for the community," said Rob Friedman, Pauly's son.

He and his two daughters, Diane, 8, and Haley, 6, have

participated in the event for the past two years.

"It's a great honor for my mom," he said.

John Heinz Rehabilitation Center was one of the sponsors of the event and 43 employees formed a team to walk, winning the Call Traveling Trophy with a donation of \$2,800.

This was the first 5K event of the year for John Heinz employee Flo Kuhar, of Mount Zion.

"I just do it for the community service," she said. "At John Heinz, we participate in a lot of community activities."

Zimmerman was very appreciative of the sponsors and participants who came out for the event on a cloudy Sunday morning.

"It's for a great cause," he said. "The money is very much needed in these economic times."

Fundraising results could not be tallied at press time, but Zimmerman says he is confident that this year's run raised more money than last year's event, which brought "Help Line" nearly \$10,000.



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Husband and wife team Jennifer and Alex Piczon, of Dallas, get ready for the Pauly Friedman Family Walk/Run at Misericordia.



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