

# The VILLAGER

## Legislators sell themselves to benefit local family

*Lunch with state and local lawmakers will be up for bid at Band Together's silent auction.*

**BY NICHOLE TARON**

Colorado legislators are putting themselves up for bid to help a local family dealing with ALS.

Policymakers, ranging from senators and representatives to the local sheriff, have signed on board to do their part in raising funds for Band Together.

Band Together, an organization benefiting local resident Lisa Nichols and her family, was formed by a group of neighbors in Greenwood Village. Nichols, 45, was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) in January.

The group will host a family festival and concert to benefit the Nichols family, Aug. 29, at Village

Greens Park in Greenwood Village. At Nichols's request, at least 10 percent of the proceeds will be donated to other families affected by ALS.

A highlight of the fundraiser will be the silent auction. That's where the politicians come in.

Band Together committee member Rick Spoor was having lunch one afternoon at the Metropolitan Club in Greenwood Village when he had an idea.

"I thought it might fly and it did," said Spoor.

He asked the restaurant's manager if they might be interested in donating some type of service to the Band Together event.

They agreed and suggested that if Spoor could get a few elected officials to donate their time for

lunch, they would pay for it.

Spoor, a friend of the Nichols and active Band Together member,



**Band Together**

began making phone calls and asking state legislators to get involved.

"I didn't have to ask any of them twice," he said. "Our elected officials are really accessible. They're available for their constituents, for conversations and issues. This is a perfect example of that."

At the festival, community members will have the opportunity to bid on a "lunch date," subject to scheduling, with the official of their choice.

So far, participating officials are Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton, State Treasurer Mike Coffman, Senator Wayne Allard, and Congressmen Bob Beauprez and Tom Tancredo and Sen.

John Andrews.

"I'm pleased to be a part of [the] effort to help a Coloradan in need," said Allard. "It is truly inspiring to see how the communi-

ty has united around Lisa and her family."

"ALS is a horrific disease that is financially burdensome on families," said Norton. "I want to ease the weight of their struggles in any way that I can."

Local officials have also gotten involved. District 38 Representative Joe Stengel, District 39 Representative Nancy Spence, Arapahoe County Commissioner Bernie Zimmer, Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder Nancy Doty, and Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson will also be up for auction, so to speak.

Spoor has a simple explanation for his dedication to Band Together and the Nichols. "This is what friends do," he said.

For more information on Band Together, or to make a donation, call Katie Kleeman, 303-741-2421, or visit online at [www.ccvillagenorth.org](http://www.ccvillagenorth.org).