

How a GV neighborhood bands together

What makes us want to help? Band Together members sat down to talk about why they've decided to get involved with helping a local family

BY NICHOLE TARON

In an age of online banking and shopping, pay-at-the-pump and the countless other impersonal aspects of our day, we still need human contact. We may need it more than ever.

Whether it's a personal experience or a story heard through the grapevine, people are coming together to help a family in need.

A group of neighbors in Greenwood Village formed Band Together, an organization to benefit Lisa Nichols and her family. Nichols, 45, was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) in January. Band Together will host a benefit concert for Nichols and other families affected by ALS, Aug. 29, at Village Greens Park in Greenwood Village.

I sat down with seven members of Band Together to talk about why they've chosen to get involved.

"People always say 'call me if you ever need anything,'" said René Parish. "This is a real-life opportunity to help."

Parish has met Lisa Nichols, but she doesn't live in her neighborhood.

Parish, who works at Xerox, has taken an active role in fundraising for the group. So far, she has gotten both Xerox and individuals to donate "thousands" of dollars. Xerox is also helping with printing needs.

She credits Toby Tobin, Xerox vice president, with getting the ball moving.

"He's very supportive of community involvement projects," she said.

Although Parish has experience with fundraising, she said she's never been involved with "anything at such a grassroots level."

"I've never felt compelled to get involved in anything like this," said Heather Bisset. She's donating her time to set up and work on the

group's Web site.

"I feel more inspired now to get involved in other causes," she said.

Everyone said they aren't involved to get recognition.

"We're all doing this from the heart," said Darci Cox.



Band Together

Cox has a 4-year-old son, the same age as the Nichols's youngest child.

"When I heard about this," she said, "I cried."

"What touches us the most," said Parish, "is that we may all walk in those shoes at some time."

Bret Reynolds, owner of Angie's Pizza, is already familiar with the scenario.

He spoke of when his dad died a few years ago.

"What I wouldn't give to have more time as a family with him involved," he said.

Reynolds is donating pizza for the Band Together concert and is actively involved in organization for the event.

He has never met the Nichols family.

Reynolds convinced Mile-Hi Harley Davidson to donate clothing for the silent auction and has been working to recruit local bands to play at the event.

Now, he's working to organize a day or weekend trip for the family.

"I just want them to have time as a family," he said, "to give those kids lasting memories with their mom."

Rick Spoor, a neighbor, talked about the loss of connectedness and the loss of the extended family.

"Everyone is from different places," he said, "and many times we just don't feel connected."

"We don't subscribe to the local paper, we don't know what's going on," he said.

Jean Reidy said she sees a breakdown of that disconnectedness.

"We're breaking these artificial barriers, such as community and religion and socioeconomic status," she said.

Reidy views the whole process as a "coming together" of different backgrounds.

"There's something more there," she said, "that's drawing us to be involved."

Regardless of the reason, neighbors and strangers are coming together to try and make a very real difference for a family facing a very real loss.

"This could happen to anybody," said Shelly Goss. "How could you not get involved?"

For more information on Band Together, call Katie Kleeman, 303-741-2421, or visit online at www.ccvillagenorth.org.

Cookbook to benefit Nichols family

A local couple is seeking submissions for a community cookbook.

The proceeds will benefit the family of Lisa Nichols and others affected by ALS.

BY NICHOLE TARON

Barbara and Tom Dorsey need your recipes. They've set a goal of 150 recipes by July 31.

They've only received a few and those came from their daughter.

"I guess if no one sends any, I'll use all of my own recipes," Barbara said.

The Dorseys aren't hungry and they aren't opening a restaurant. They are putting together a benefit cookbook, in conjunction with Band Together, for the Nichols family.

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nosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) in January. Band Together will host a benefit concert for Nichols and other families affected by ALS, Aug. 29, at Village Greens Park.

"It's not going to be fancy," Barbara said of the cookbook. "The recipes can be silly or fun. If someone has a special recipe for play-do, we'll take that."

The Dorseys live just down the street from the Nichols and Barbara said they just wanted to do something to help out.

"She's just such a nice lady,"

said Barbara. "I want to do as much as I can for her, which I don't think is enough."

The Dorseys have put together a few community-type cookbooks in the past and so they decided to try their hand in the benefit realm.

Barbara seems to be a little unsure that they'll receive enough submissions in time to organize the book, have it printed and make it available for sale at the benefit concert.

To accommodate for the slow start, they extended their due

date to July 31. Currently, they don't know how many will be printed or what the book will cost. But, Barbara said if anyone "wants a bunch to sell, we'll have 'em ready for them."

Recipes can be e-mailed to cookbook@ccvillagenorth.org or sent to 4524 S. Alton St., Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

For more information on the Band Together benefit concert, call Katie Kleeman, 303-741-2421, or visit online at www.ccvillagenorth.org.