

Small Contribution = Big Difference

In preparation for our 2010 tournament, we ended up crossing paths with a coach who ended up being motivated to make a difference in a sick child's life by two separate entities.

The 14U Brick Bombers Green, a participating team in our 2010 tournament coached by Amy Evans, first contacted me on January 26, 2010 inquiring about a spot in our tournament. Multiple emails were exchanged over the course of the next few months and she eventually signed her team up to play in our tournament although she would have rather seen both teams from her organization sign up. On May 19th, 2010, Amy emailed me saying "that she had sent the paperwork and I should be receiving it soon". She continued to say "that her and her team are looking forward to our tournament and a couple days before our tournament, her and her five year old daughter were going to donate their hair for children with cancer." The following is an excerpt from that email:

"My full name is Amy Evans & my daughter is Tierney Evans. Just to give you the whole story when Tierney was 3 yrs old she saw a commercial for St. Jude's hospital & they had a girl on with no hair. She asked me about why she didn't have hair so I told her that some kids when they get sick have to take medicine that makes their hair fall out. She asked if it would grow back & I told her sometimes it does but in the mean time some people get wigs & some of the wigs are made from real people's hair. She said Mommy I want to donate my hair to someone so since that day 2 1/2 years ago her & I have been growing our hair. When I saw your tournament & we decided to go into it I said this would be a great time to do the donation. We don't have money to give but to me this is just as good, giving a part of yourself to someone in need :)"

She then went on to say:

"It was my daughter's idea so she is the one who encouraged/inspired me to do this, amazing how much influence a 5 yr old can have on you & have such a good heart to do this for others. I wish both teams could be in as well but we are having issues fielding 2 teams lately with all the girls' schedules this summer."

I felt the need to share this with everyone as the actions of Amy & Tierney Evans echo the meaning of our tournament. Donations of any size can make a huge difference in someone's life. I've had people say to me "why do you spend 6 months out of your year to plan an event that is over in 12 hours?" My reply is simple – it helps someone in need. I myself have been very fortunate and healthy throughout my 37 years. I look at children in particular that are sick and/or disabled and it makes me realize how lucky I really am to be who I am and to be able to do the things that I do. So, I follow up my answer with "6 months of my time doesn't even begin to stand up to what that child will experience in a lifetime."

It doesn't matter what you do to help someone in need, as long as you help.

Todd Cloward

Sunshine Fastpitch Tournament Director