



Brittany Fields An Amazing Kid

BY LAURA PAGE

A long-time family friend of the Fields, Chester C. Nicholas, nominated Brittany as this month's Amazing Kid. He said that when he learned from a friend about the "Amazing Kid Award" he immediately thought of Brittany as a candidate.

Brittany demonstrated her commitment to making the world a better place as Junior Team Captain during last June's "Cure Kids Cancer" march sponsored by Six Flags and the Children's Miracle Network. The march was intended to help raise community awareness of the plight of children who are ill and recovering from various forms of cancer, and to raise funds for research.

Even though Brittany fell ill on the day before the scheduled march, she still managed to get out of bed and participate with the other members of her team, raising more than \$3,600 in donations for the Oakland Children's Hospital & Research Center. She and her team located an organization that was willing to provide 50 Butterfly Bears that she gave to Children's Hospital in August.

Chester noted that Brittany's commitment to helping others stands in refreshing contrast to some young people who seem to become so involved with entertaining themselves through various forms of social media that they become unaware of the things they could do in order to serve their schools, community, and the world.

Besides her efforts in helping others, Brittany was an honor roll student during her years at Antioch Middle School. Chester noted that the remarkable young woman has maintained excellence in

"Her illness has taught Brittany the valuable lesson of never taking life for granted."

service to others and her academic progress, in spite of the fact that she has suffered from a severe asthmatic condition since she was a young child. She spent last Christmas Eve in the hospital because of severe difficulty in breathing. During what should have been a time of joy and celebration, Brittany's mom, Angela, spent eight days of her family leave to remain at Brittany's bedside during her daughter's time of convalescence.

Perhaps Brittany's own medical complications have served to fill her heart with compassion for other children who are suffering. Since Brittany knows first-hand what it is like to be lying in a hospital while family members and friends stand and sit by the bed, she wants to do whatever she can to help other children avoid debilitating illness, such as asthma or any of the diseases that strike children.

Whatever the source, we are glad to acknowledge Brittany's courage in facing her own illness and the compassion that motivates her to work for the health and well being of others. Brittany's acts of stepping out into her community in order to make a positive difference in the lives of others is an example for other young people, and for the rest of us, as well, to follow.

Brittany said that she is continually stirred and heartened by the generosity of so many people who, often without a pause, reach into their pockets and purses to support her various projects of helping

others. She says that she was particularly encouraged by the response of others to the Cure Kids Cancer Walk as she saw even homeless people donate money that they really couldn't afford towards the effort of finding a cure for the life-threatening disease. Charitable contributions were also received from BART Board of Directors who collectively donated \$1,000, from their own personal incomes, to benefit kids who are recovering from cancer.

Her illness has taught Brittany the valuable lesson of never taking life for granted. Her acts of service have further taught her that it is fun to help others. She has learned never to give up in her determination to continue supporting the cause of medical research until a cure is at last found for cancer's dreaded threat.

Brittany doesn't limit herself to helping children; in September she walked in San Francisco as the leader of a Help Brittany Help Stop Alzheimer's team.

We are impressed with this young woman and are glad to honor Brittany Fields as November's Amazing Kid. **110***

Do you know an "Amazing Kid" between the ages of five and 18 years old that is worthy of this award? To Nominate an "Amazing Kid" go to www.110mag.com and click on The Amazing Kid Nomination link.