

IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT TO MAKE A MEMORY

On May 25, 2008 a tornado ripped through the town of Hugo, MN. My heart goes out to everyone in Hugo, but one family, the Prindles have a special place. They lost their son, Nathaniel, who was taken from his father's arms by the force of the tornado and found in a nearby pond. Annika Prindle, age 4 still remains in the hospital with severe brain injuries. Gerald, their father was also seriously injured and hospitalized.

Just moments before the tornado hit, I received a phone call from my daughter, Amy and my granddaughters, Bella and Adriana were visiting some friends in Hugo. They saw and felt the force and damage from the tornado that night. Bella and Annika Prindle are good friends and attend daycare together.

Being a mother, grandmother and a daycare provider for 21 years and realizing that my daughter and granddaughters could have been out of my life in a matter of seconds made me feel the need to become more connected to the Prindles.

I have worked at the Hampton Inn, Shoreview for 5 years and in the past few years we have grown into a team that has become one big family. I decided to approach the General Manager, Julie Fuller, for her approval and support to raise funds for the Prindle family. Her response of course was "Let's Git R Done". From there we got busy and involved the whole team.

Tammy Hillyard (the AGM) and I put together a letter to put in the guest rooms taking about our cause and asking for donations.

Kory Lesnick (the DOS) and I drew up a plan for hands that could be posted on the walls behind the front desk. We also created a saying to go inside the hands that stated "FROM THE HAMPTON HEARTS TO THE PRINDLE HANDS". With each donation a hand went up.

Julie Fuller, as part of her donation had T-shirts made for all of the staff to wear the month of June that also had the hand and the saying on the front and on the back our shirts said TEAM HAMPTON. Jullie also suggested that we take advantage of the back to the 50's car show registration that we have hosted for the past several years. We set up a booth and had several team members donate their time for selling raffle tickets.

I went to several neighboring companies to ask for donations for our raffle. I was very successful. Land O'Lakes, which is our #1 customer here at the Hampton, is also my #1 company for donations. They donated several large ticket items and many small. Several Land O'Lakes employees helped sell tickets for the raffle. I was amazed at their donation success.

Several of the TPI properties gave gift certificates for rooms. Sherry Tollette, the DOS from the Hampton Maple Grove donated an afternoon to come and sell raffle tickets for the car show.

Holly from the Staybridge Suites, Eagan did an excellent job in helping us out by hosting a bar-b-q dinner for her guests and employees, in 2 hours Holly and her team raised \$705! YAY!!

I also went to the GM at the Green Mill and the Hilton Garden Inn Shoreview and asked if we could place donation boxes and support for donations. Everyone was willing and ready.

My 3 children took time off work, and my grandchildren spent the day at the raffle table.

Our front desk team helped out alot by helping out with updating the letters for the guest rooms and cutting out hands for the wall. They were all very supportive and right on it. One day I walked into the front office and all the managers were sitting at their desks cutting out hands.

Marge Hallin (manager of housekeeping) reached out by getting prizes for the raffle and also making sure her staff was on top of putting letters in guest rooms.

We are all experiencing hard economic times, however Torgerson Properties donated a generous amount to match a portion of our total.

I drive the van for the Shoreview campus, which gave me the opportunity to talk with guests in regards to the Prindles. I received a lot of donations every day. All my tips went in the box. A lot of people were very generous with their tips to help the cause.

A few people really touched my heart and made me realize that it is a very small world. The ATM guy donated \$50 and then told me that his best friend is the man that pulled Nathaniel Prindle from the pond and tried to revive him. Then there was the man that was using the public restroom at the hotel and saw our letter and gave \$40 and the woman who was looking for some money in her pockets...and wanted to help so bad...I pulled \$5 out of my pocket and gave it to her to enter the raffle...two days later I got called down to the front desk, and there she was with her daughter and my \$5. Or maybe it was the guy that gave \$40 and when asked for his name he said "my name is Prindle!" I also approached our postal carrier, "Mr. Postman", he took my letter back to his post office and a few days later he came to me with \$114 from his team members!

It was a huge learning experience for all of us, family, friends, and team members. Our team had a lot of fun and we all made huge connections. We have never done this before. In three weeks, we made it happen. All of our hearts were in it and our donations are in the Prindle hands.

Whatever it takes we ALL have the power to make MEMORIES and MOMENTS!

THANKS to EVERYONE,

Dona Jungwirth