

# Down-home hoedown benefits cancer patients

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by Erica Schmitt



SOUTHINGTON — Eight-year-old Bryon Schiffres and his mother Linda danced the afternoon away at Cadillac Ranch Sunday for a cause that's close to their hearts.

They were joined by family friend Mary Goehring, CEO of Transcription Plus, LLC, in Bristol, which celebrated 25 years in business with a Hoedown BBQ at the restaurant, to benefit the Connecticut Sports Foundation.

When Bryon was diagnosed with brain cancer at the age of 2 1/2, his parents weren't sure where to turn. Since that time the foundation has given him a folding wheelchair, made his home bathroom accessible and helped the family through financial difficulties.

"They stepped in early on," Linda remembers. "Now Bryon gets to do normal kid things he wouldn't really be able to."

Paying for medical bills is just the beginning of challenges families face after a cancer diagnosis. The foundation provides financial relief with these and other daily expenses like mortgage payments, utilities and transportation costs. While there are several charities with similar missions that help families who have a child with cancer, the Connecticut Sports Foundation serves both kids and adults who have been diagnosed.

"It can really take a toll on a family — financially and emotionally," Linda said. "You can't do it alone; you need help from people who have been through it before. They're there to give you a boost before you even know you need one."

Inspired by Bryon's story, Goehring and her husband Michael decided to dedicate their 25th anniversary to the foundation.

"If somebody asked me who my hero was I would say Mother Theresa, but if you get closer to home, my day-to-day heroes would be Linda and her husband Rich," Goehring explained. "The love and the effort they put in to make sure Bryon has the best quality of life he can possibly have is just amazing," she continued. "I respect them so much and I just wanted to take the goodness of my company and pay it forward to make theirs and other families' daily lives just a little bit easier."

Transcription Plus, at 40 Acorn Lane in Bristol, employs 25 and has been in business since 1989. It provides transcription services for clients all over the country.

If you missed Sunday's benefit, you can still make a donation to the cause by calling Mary Goehring at (860) 583-2818 or by sending an email to [transcriptionplus@comcast.net](mailto:transcriptionplus@comcast.net).

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