

Craniosynostosis Benefit For Mikayla Love Harbord a Hit

TOWNSHIP OF TOMS RIVER – Craniosynostosis families tore up the dance floor, enjoyed fine fare and supported each other all afternoon at the Mikayla Love Harbord Benefit Sunday.

Mikayla Love Harbord, a 15-month old resident who recently underwent extensive surgery after several misdiagnoses for the rare disease that inflicts 1 out of every 2000, children causing their abnormal head shape and facial features. However, even after having the surgery up to 7 months after she should have, Mikayla came out with resilience and even more beautiful than she went in.

"I was so glad to see other Cranio families to know we are not alone," said Liz Harbord of the benefit that brought out families as far as Wisconsin to be part of the day and Awareness.

Though Mikayla's surgery was a success, the unpaid doctor bills have bore a burden on Mikayla's parents, who hosted a benefit in their daughter's honor to both raise awareness and funds for the rest of medical finances occurred from her procedure at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Coming down from Westfield, Cybil Phelan, mother of Thomas Phelan who was properly diagnosed with the disease at two weeks old, having his surgery at 3-months-old, said she found out about Mikayla from the www.mikaylalive.wordpress.com Blog.

"Liz inspired me to begin my own Blog, www.thomasjoseph@weebly.com," she said, noting though that Thomas and Mikayla suffer from the same disease, Mikayla's late diagnosis makes her recovery that much more of a miracle.

"She stood up and said something is wrong with my daughter even when the doctor's said there was not. Her surgery winded up being so extensive and that could have been avoided if she was diagnosed earlier," said Phelan, adding, "Catching Cranio early is huge, because the child's skull is still soft."

Aside from other families



All the Craniosynostosis families together taking a picture at the Mikayla Love Harbord Benefit held at the Vanity Fair December 6.



Mayor Thomas Kelaher reading a proclamation to Liz and Michael Harbord, parents of Mikayla Love Harbord who recently underwent surgery for Craniosynostosis, a rare disease that inflicts 1 out of every 2,000 children.

attending the benefit, old friends of the Harbord couple came out of the woodwork to show their love. "The overwhelming support we received was amazing. I had a friend come whom I haven't seen or spoken to since seventh-grade...She read about Mikayla's story from Facebook and wanted to come and be part of her day," she said, adding both her and husband had friends from high school that they both haven't seen in twenty years show-up to the benefit. "One of our friends even brought a donation from PBA Local 113. Their generosity is overwhelming"

Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher came to show his support for the Toms River couple, handing off a proclamation on behalf of the township, glorifying the family's faith

and bravery in face of their worst fears. "Mikayla and her family are an inspiration to us all," read the mayor.

For those who could not attend the event and would like to make a donation,

please send all endowments to Mikayla Love Harbord at 2041 Brookewood Drive, Toms River, NJ 08755, or visit Mikayla's Blog at www.mikaylalive.wordpress.com, call (908) 910-0573 or e-mail elizabethharbord@aol.com

visit Mikayla's Blog at www.mikaylalive.wordpress.com, call (908) 910-0573 or e-mail elizabethharbord@aol.com

Tona Rosa Italiana

RESTAURANT CLUB
EXCLUSIVE DINE-INS
FULL SERVICE BISTRO
ENTERTAINMENT VENUE
CATERING & SPECIAL EVENTS

1000 Park Avenue
Asbury Park, NJ 07705
Tel: 732.923.0721
Open 7 Days a Week

Ocean County Calls For Continued Federal Help For Beach Renourishment Projects

TOMS RIVER – With 44 miles of oceanfront coastline helping to fuel Ocean County's economic engine, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders this week urged the federal government to continue to fund beach nourishment and maintenance programs. Ocean County Freeholder Joseph H. Vicari, who serves as liaison to the county's Tourism Advisory Council, noted that statewide, the tourism industry accounts for an estimated \$38.8 billion in economic activities, of which \$3.1 billion is generated in Ocean County.

In addition, New Jersey's coastal economy returns over \$3 billion per year to the federal government in tax revenues, which fund programs, including disaster relief throughout the nation. "It's important the federal government continues to assist with beach nourishment projects in Ocean County and throughout the state of New Jersey," Vicari noted. "Tourism provides an economic benefit to the entire state, not just beachfront communities and the beaches serve as a centerpiece to federal funds required for beach nourishment and protection measures," the Freeholders stated in the resolution. "This Board continues to express its support for federal funding of beach nourishment and maintenance projects and it urges the federal government to continue with more than \$1 million to help cover the cost of the required to implement beach nourishment and maintenance projects in Ocean County."

Freeholder Director John C. Bartlett Jr. noted that the Board of Freeholders recently provided Harvey Cedars with more than \$1 million to help cover the cost of the municipal share for its beach renourishment project. "Preserving the coastline

of beach nourishment and maintenance projects and it urges the federal government to continue with more than \$1 million to help cover the cost of the required to implement beach nourishment and maintenance projects in Ocean County."

Freeholder Director John C. Bartlett Jr. noted that the Board of Freeholders recently provided Harvey Cedars with more than \$1 million to help cover the cost of the municipal share for its beach renourishment project. "Preserving the coastline