

Sellersburg teenager gives back to Relay for Life through Bracelets for Bravery

Written by Administrator

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Clark County's Relay for Life has a bracelet making teen on their side for 2013...Olivia Pacciano, of Sellersburg, Indiana and her neighbor, Kelly Brooks, have teamed up to make a difference. Bracelets for Bravery was founded in July 2012, by cancer survivor, Olivia and her neighbor, Kelly Brooks. Profits from select bracelets as well as a certain percentage from other bracelets go to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

In January of 1999, Olivia was diagnosed at age three with a form of leukemia. For two years, she would endure painful procedures, chemotherapy, and even a blood transfusion in order to restore her health. In June of 2001, she was pronounced in remission, three months before her sixth birthday.

In July of 2012, while babysitting Kelly's son, Olivia decided to start making what are known as "friendship bracelets" and selling them for funds for the 2013 Relay for Life. The next day, Kelly learned the trade of bracelet-making, and on July 9, 2012, Kelly and Olivia started a Facebook page, under the title Bracelets for Bravery. In the first twenty-four hours, they received orders totaling nearly \$40!

Olivia has been in remission for eleven years, and knows that the reason for her health is to - as the Relay for Life's motto says - FIGHT BACK. She believes that God saved her life with the hands of many doctors and nurses in order to help others join the army against cancer.

Together, Kelly and Olivia (along with their number one supporter, Olivia's mom) are gathering warriors to help those in the battle zone - the medical professionals who rely on the funds from the American Cancer Society's generosity to overcome a common and devastating disease known to us as cancer.

On August 10, 2012, they were honored to be invited to attend a benefit dinner for a child with Cystic Fibrosis, Conner Aaron, in Charlestown, Indiana. They were able to make and sell bracelets and donate a portion to the Connor's medical expense fund.

While the main goal is to help support Relay for Life, these ladies are dedicated - ultimately - to making life better for people suffering from cancer - as a cause near and dear to Olivia. But - as all people with HUGE hearts know, being brave comes in many forms, whether you face cancer, cystic fibrosis, autism, diabetes, or any other life threatening or terminal illness, the main purpose of Bracelets for Bravery is to show support for these warriors. If you would like to show support to your own warrior, or would like to have Bracelets for Bravery attend your fund-raising event, please visit Bracelets for Bravery on facebook at [facebook.com/Bracelets For Bravery](https://www.facebook.com/BraceletsForBravery) or on the web at braceletsforbravery.weebly.com.