

January 13, 2010

Dear Friend,

I would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to review the information on a very important matter.

Let me introduce you to Kathy Stedjee. Kathy is a mom in her 50's and who is need of a lung transplant. Kathy and her husband, Lars, were married in 1973 and have two sons, Patrick and wife, Kristie, and they have two sons, eleven year old Derek and seven year old Logan. Vernon and wife, Chris, have two sons, twelve year old Dylan and Kyle who is nine. Kathy and Lars have lived in the rural Black Creek area since they wed. Kathy stayed at home raising the boys and later worked at a cheese factory in Black Creek until 1989 when her health began to dictate her future. Lars is employed as farm laborer and is a twenty-nine year veteran member of the volunteer Nichols Rural Fire Department giving his help freely whenever needed.

Kathy was told she had emphysema in the late 80's when her health prevented her from working. In 1993, doctors discovered Kathy was missing important enzymes and determined more was wrong than just emphysema. In 2006 doctors confirmed diagnoses of Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AAT).

Alpha-1 Antitrypsin (AAT) Deficiency-Alpha 1- is an inherited condition in which there are low levels or no levels of AAT in the blood. AAT is an enzyme produced by the liver and released into the bloodstream. One of the primary roles of AAT is to protect the lungs from Neutrophil Elastase (NE), an enzyme released by white blood cells. Neutrophil Elastase can attack healthy lung tissue if not controlled by AAT. Individuals with AAT deficiency are at high risk for developing emphysema. In addition, approximately 10% of infants and 15% of adults with AAT deficiency experience liver damage. The American Lung Association estimates that there are about 100,000 people with AAT deficiency in the United States.

Lars learned how to administer Aralast NP Therapy weekly in July of 2006 and continues to provide primary caregiving. **While the therapy has helped slow down disease progression, the damage to her lungs is extensive and a transplant is required to save her life!**

We are in desperate need of your assistance! The Black Creek Lions Club is being assisted by the Community Benefit Tree, Inc. for a Celebration of Support event for Kathy Stedjee on March 20th, 2010, from 1 pm – 6 pm at the River Rail in Shiocton, WI. We are asking for your help in any way possible. Monetary donations, in-kind contributions are needed for Raffles and Live Auction. Any item is greatly appreciated! Or even if you would like to help out with this event.

If any questions, please contact Lion Dave Sievert - COS Event Chair
H: 920-749-0469 Cell: 920-366-7175 or Email: ddsievert@gmail.com

To learn more about Kathy's Celebration of Support event or to donate online, please go to the Community Benefit Tree website at: www.communitybenefittree.org

Sincerely,

Black Creek Lions Celebration of Support Committee

Lion Dave Sievert, **COS Event Chair**
Lions Les and Tammy Van Eperen
Lion Troy Kranzusch
Sandy Beyer
Pat Nachtwey

Event Supported By:



Lions Bion and Tammie Ward
Lion Kathy Kline1
Lion Bert Poi, Jr.
Mel Schampers
Ann Wege, Community Benefit Tree Coordinator

