

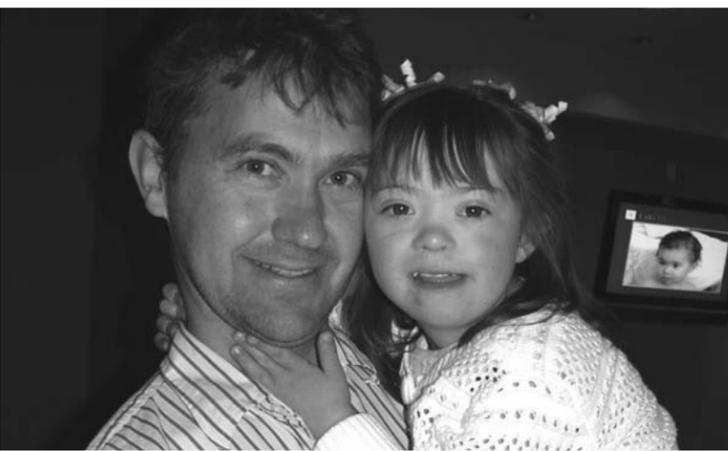
Community Insight



Lyn Schaffer with Child Protection Team director, Dr. Andy Sirotnak



Dr. Dunbar Ivy



Tom Whitten with daughter, Sophie Whitten, the Sie's granddaughter



Kelly and Dan O'Leary



Emily Fairbairn, age 7



Patient, Sydney Fairbairn

Cardiac patients parade Talbots clothes for Little Hearts Luncheon

BY GLORY WEISBERG

The annual Little Hearts Luncheon and Fashion Show, benefiting The Children's Hospital Heart Institute, is one heart-warming moment after another for three hours.

Held at the Pepsi Center Ridge-line Club, more than 350 people come to see childhood and adult cardiac patients parade adorable Talbots Kids clothes. Many of these children are attached to oxygen tubes until just moments before they are presented, then reattached quickly after they are photographed by paparazzi and parents.

South Metro Firefighters escorts are as excited as the patients as they get to meet their charges when they get down chicken fingers, chips, Rice Crispies snacks and melon. By the end of the luncheon some of the escorts and children were good buddies and will have memories to warm them for the rest of their lives.

And it's all thanks to **Lyn Schaffer** who chairs the Little Hearts Luncheon every year. She plans it meticulously, from coordinating the emcee, **Kim Christiansen**, to lining up firefighters, physicians, hospital execs and civilians, to planning a heart healthy chicken menu with Levy Restaurants.

The Anna and John J. Sie Foundation was presenting sponsor and the Sie's granddaughter, **Sophia Whitten**, 4, was among cardiac patients modeling.

"I like to help people see the gift of life, health and potential in every-



Madeline and Megin McElroy with Meghan Parker and Lt. Scott Richardson

one," she said.

She also loves swimming, dancing, drawing, reading and tea parties, which she enjoys with friends and baby brother, **Patrick**.

Jessica Ostrand of Littleton is only 3 years old, overflowing with energy after a heart transplant. She runs where there's space and took off like a shot to discover the entire Pepsi Center after her modeling stint. Some day she's going to qualify for Mensa, with her extensive vocabulary and go on to the Olympics with her athletic ability, thanks to her heart transplant.

Among 30 other child models were **Jonathan Sagel** of Centennial, **Sophie Kramer-Pavelich**, **Alexander Bigner**, **Lulu Davis** and **Kelly O'Leary** of Littleton, **Elsie Halvorsen** of Cherry Hills Village and **Emily Fairbairn** of Englewood.

Among those making this luncheon a popular party were the Lowry Little League, **Scott and Louise Richardson**, **Aimee and Meghan Parker**, **Sara** and **Dr. Michael Schaffer**, ABC Nannies (who cared for the kids,) Great Clips that did girls' hair in fancy up dos, and **Jesse Lujan**, who donated his time and talent for the many photographs he took throughout the three-hour benefit.

Adult models: **Dr. Jeff Darst**, **Kari Christiansen**, **Jim Bauer**, **Sue Dunn**, **Dr. Tom Fagan**, **Steven Halvorsen**, **Dr. Dunbar Ivy**, **Leigh Ann Kelly**, **Frances Owens**, **Dr. Andrew Sirotnak**, **Michelle Houchens**, **Dr. Francois Lacour-Gayet**, **Jesse Wolff** and myself. After each such event we get in the car and say a little prayer of thanks for these cardiac specialists and our own healthy families.



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