

BUSINESS OWNER JOHN O'MALLEY IS COMMITTED TO HELPING KOSAIR KIDS



Louisville business owner John O'Malley recalls chatting with a customer whose son was dying. The customer told a tear-filled story about his experience with Kosair Charities and the help his son received that saved his life. "He couldn't even finish, he got so choked up," said O'Malley. "But I hear stories like that all the time from customers and friends."

O'Malley and his customer share stories at The Peppermint. Tucked in the Iroquois Manor Shopping Center in Southwest Louisville, The Peppermint has been a neighborhood tavern for 62 years.

Last September, the bar hosted a Kosair Charities fundraiser in honor of one of its patron's daughters, Debbie Pryor who died in an auto accident. It was Debbie's

love for children that inspired O'Malley to partner with Kosair Charities. The event raised \$5,000 in its first year.

However, O'Malley credits the idea for his partnership with Kosair Charities to his girlfriend, Rebekah Ashcraft. Together, they planned the initial fundraiser and have come up with ways to continue collecting money for Kosair Kids. But, O'Malley says, "Rebekah's in charge of the details. I just want to help the kids, and she helps me get it done."

Today, the staff at The Peppermint continue their commitment to Kosair Charities with holiday contributions from customers who decorate the bar with \$1 ornaments for Christmas and shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day.

"We consider ourselves lucky to have a business, to have our health. These are gifts to us," said O'Malley. "It's important for businesses to give back to the communities that support them and that's why we support Kosair Charities."

WAGGENER HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTS PLAYHOUSE TO BENEFIT KOSAIR CHARITIES

On April 11, the second annual Westport Village Outrageous Derby Hat Contest was held to benefit Kosair Charities.

The focal point of the day's festivities was the unveiling of the Kosair Charities Churchill Downs Playhouse. This replica of Churchill Downs, is 12-foot-long, 10-foot-tall playhouse with 6-foot-tall twin spires and was constructed by the pre-architecture class at Waggener High School in Louisville. The playhouse will be displayed at various Kosair Charities' events and auctioned off later this year.

The construction project is part of a two-year Youth Advisory Board Grant given to Waggener by State Farm Insurance in support of its "Building Bright Futures" program.

"The playhouse is a capstone project for seniors in the program," said Gary Eisenmenger with Waggener High School. "It gives students the opportunity to apply what they have learned in the previous three-and-a-half years, while also helping the community."

For more information on how your business or organization can contribute to Kosair Charities, contact Vicky Weber at (502) 637-7696 or vweber@kosair.org.

