

NAFA News

A Resource and Support Group for Your Adoptive Family

A bi-monthly publication of *Northwest Adoptive Families Association*,
P.O. Box 25355, Portland, OR 97298-0355 • NAFA Phone Line: (503) 243-1356
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Rebekah and her family need our help!

One of NAFA's own needs all the prayers, love and support we can give to them. Rebekah Adams, daughter of Scott and Frances Adams, is undergoing chemotherapy for a rare form of cancer — Ewing's Sarcoma. Rebekah is only three and half years old.

You may already know her parents. They are the ones who make the homemade donuts at the Campout every year. Her father Scott is also an adoption attorney who often has volunteered his time to help out at NAFA's Adoption Options classes.

Scott tells Rebekah's story best: "In March 2005 Rebekah had a bump on the side of her head that we believed was from a fall. It did not go away as her doctor suggested it would and, in mid-April 2005 it grew "overnight" into swelling throughout the entire side of her face. A trip back to the doctor started a solid week of CT Scans, PET Scans, an MRI, Surgeries, etc. The final result was that Rebekah has a cancerous tumor in her face, head and neck that has been diagnosed as Ewing's Sarcoma. Ewing's Sarcoma is a bone tumor that can extend (and has extended) into surrounding soft tissue. It is very rare in the head and even more rare in children of Rebekah's age."

"Rebekah's cancer had spread so much that it was not operable. The hope was that a 12-week regimen of intensive chemotherapy would shrink

the tumor to a point where surgery could have some positive effect.

"With 12 weeks of chemotherapy complete and another round of Scans, the tumor has shrunk to nothing (described as "gone") and surgery is not necessary. This is a miracle for which they thank God. However, radiation will be required for six weeks to treat the entire area where the tumor originally existed.

"Although the prognosis is clinically not very positive (although the prognosis is a little better with the good results from the initial chemotherapy), we have a great faith and belief that the skill of the doctors combined with the

power of prayer will bring Rebekah successfully through this ordeal. We have already started to see miracles taking place both in Rebekah's life as well as in the lives of those she has touched. We have also had another perspective shift and instead of 'the next few weeks' we have now learned how important every hour of every day is with our loved ones.

"Even if you don't know us or Rebekah, we ask that you feel free to cry with us, to laugh with us, to love with us and to pray with us. And whatever you do, go home and love your own family and little ones just that much more."

Rebekah spends one week in the hospital, then is home for two weeks, but often during the "home" periods,

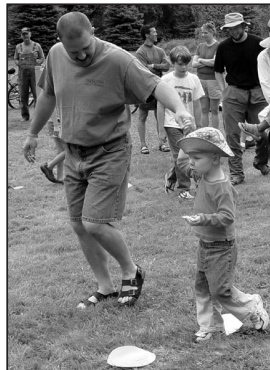
she has to return to the hospital. Scott and Frances now use their travel trailer as a second home parked just outside Legacy Emanuel Hospital. The strain of the treatment regimen is hard on their family, which includes her baby sister, Sarah. Rebekah has a web site, which lists ways we can help the family — everything from coming to the hospital to give Rebekah rides around the halls in her wagon to shopping for groceries to mowing their lawn to cooking up a few meals.

Please take a moment and check out the site. You can find it at: www.helprebekah.com/index.html.

NAFA members have always stepped in to help out others in need. This is a perfect opportunity to volunteer to do what you can to help Rebekah's family. They are stretched about as thin as possible. Anything you can do to help will be truly appreciated.

NAFA Campout was a huge success!

Sixty families were registered. This year's campout was perfect — perfect weather, beautiful children all playing and getting along, unsurpassable hotdog roast, fun craft project, entertaining fashion show, a yummy potluck, successful scavenger hunt, a movie in the park with popcorn, 21 kids over 13 years old participated in a terrifying spook trail, dozens of donuts at the best bed-head contest, and then sadly good bye until next year. You'll find more on page 2 plus photos on pages 6-7.



Rebekah (right) with her dad enjoyed the games at the NAFA Campout.