



H.O.W. Motto

One woman giving \$10.00 can buy another woman lunch.

Ten women giving \$10.00 can buy another woman's groceries.

One hundred women giving \$10 each can make a real difference in another woman's life

Fresno Chapter

August 2010

Who is Melissa McKenney?

Melissa and I met last year when her youngest son, Carson, was in my son's kindergarten class at Century Elementary. She was instantly a warm smile and sweet personality that drew people in. Through class parties, field trips, and play dates, I learned that she was a 3rd grade teacher at Freedom Elementary. Her older son, Dustyn, is outgoing, funny, and athletic. We also spoke about her husband, Dallen McKenney, who had been in a car accident two years ago and was in a coma for 5 weeks. You may have read about him in the Fresno Bee "Ex-Clovis Racer Battles Cancer." They felt so blessed that he was well and they were leading as normal as possible life.

That was a really tough time for Melissa... a mother of two small boys, a full time teacher, and a primary caregiver to her husband during a long and painful recovery...how quickly a family's daily life can be turned upside down. She lived in the hospital for five weeks, wondering if her husband was going to come out of the coma. She tried to keep her family's life as normal as possible for her two small boys, while balancing physical therapy and doctors trips.

Now we fast forward to mid-July 2010. Dallen feels like he is getting the flu...not normal when it is 100 degrees outside. It is not the flu, it is Leukemia.

Two days later, he is in the hospital undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Friends, family, everyone prayed that he would not need a bone-marrow transplant, but the tests came back, Dallen does need a bone-marrow transplant and needs to find a donor match. Teddy Miller, a family member, set up a blood drive/bone marrow registry for Saturday, July 24th. There were mass emails, facebook posts, and articles in the paper that resulted in overwhelming community support.

Melissa continues to do everything she can to support Dallen. Knowing this will be an uphill and long term battle, she will not give up. And in the darker moments, we hope it will give her strength to think about all of the amazing women in her community who came out on August 17, 2010, to show their love and support at the H.O.W. dinner.

~ **Helping One Woman ~**
Fresno Chapter
Invites you to join us for dinner

In Honor of
Melissa McKenney

Tuesday, August 17, 2010

At 6:00 PM

TWIST Restaurant
7835 N. Palm Avenue
Fresno, CA 93720

To make individual or group reservations
Call 559-436-9900
Tell them it is for the HOW dinner

PLEASE FORWARD THIS INVITATION TO THE MANY WOMEN YOU KNOW WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP ONE WOMAN!

Learn more about H.O.W. at
www.helpingonewoman.org

