



For Immediate Release:

A NIGHT OF MUSIC, DANCING, & JOY FOR SOME OF CALIFORNIA'S MOST DESERVING TEENS!

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL PLAYS HOST TO THE 6TH ANNUAL PROM FOR KIDS WITH KIDNEY DISEASE!

The beautiful campus of Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, California, will play host once again to an event that has become one of California's most inspirational news stories. The 6th Annual Renal Prom will take place on Sunday, January 16th. It will be an evening devoted to welcoming teens and young adults with kidney disease from all over California who come to share a night of fun and Hollywood Glitz!



In its sixth year, this prom is a labor of love for the many volunteers at Notre Dame High, who donate their time and talents into transforming the gymnasium into a Hollywood set that conveys a special theme each year. Last year's theme was "An Evening in Hollywood," and among the guests of honor were Kirsten Dunst, Alexa Vega, Mark Harmon and Pam Dawber, and Sinbad. This year the theme will be "Viva Las Vegas," and again, many surprise stars will be on hand to spark the festivities.

But it isn't just the glitz and physical beauty of the event that lifts the spirits of all who attend. Lori Hartwell, one of the founders of the event and the author of "Chronically Happy," a book that is a guide on how to live and achieve in spite of chronic illness, sums it up best. "A disease is too demanding if you don't have hope," Lori reminds us. "And what drives this special night is the fact that kids from all over California, and a few from other parts of the U.S., get a chance to make new friends and to find out that they can transcend their illness and enjoy life as much as anyone else."

Last year, 300 teens came together in an unforgettable celebration. A key part of the excitement is the fact that private and corporate donors provide hundreds of fabulous prom gowns for the girls, limo rides, free hair styling, and professional photos. This year, an even larger assemblage of teens is expected because the invitation to the prom has been extended nationally through the Renal Support Network.

From its beginnings in the school cafeteria six years ago with a handful of students to a gala celebration that rolls out the red carpet for hundreds, the Renal Prom is a tribute to the courage of the kids who live daily with illness as well as the compassion and integrity of the Renal Support Network and Notre Dame High School, who make this huge undertaking seamless and fun for all.

"These are kids who face the daily challenge of surgery, dialysis, and the illness itself," Lori says. "The prom is an incredibly fun way for these great kids to get together and share their own stories of overcoming adversity. But the best thing is, the feeling doesn't last just this one night. The kids have found out that you can carry this joy with you all year long and achieve your dreams. That's what really makes it special."

Please Contact: Tom Brennan Media @ 310.394.5256