



A Teen That Makes Every Minute Count

by Jackie Devine




The call came in on October 12, Andrew Nichols left a message telling me that Bradley Hooten told him to reach out to me about helping him promote his upcoming Eagle Scout toy drive in the Gazette. Bradley was the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society (LLS) Student of the Year for 2018 that we featured in January. In just

6 weeks, Bradley's Team Triumph raised a grand total of \$65,757!

Just pondering the possibility of covering another LLS Student candidate who was also an Eagle Scout put me in high gear. Catching up with Andrew was easy; syncing our calendars was not. It turned out that the Bridgeland High School sophomore is deeply ensconced in school activities, scouts, and runs two very successful companies—Andrew's Artisan Cakes and Andrew's Artisan Pens.

Three weeks out, the day finally arrived. Susan (Andrew's mother), Andrew, and their two beautifully groomed poodles, Autumn and Winter, met me at the door. Stepping across the threshold and into their warm, inviting home, I knew at once I was going to enjoy the interview. Little did I suspect, I would be gifted two stories, each worth investing time and the necessary resources to produce major award-winning IMAX quality documentaries.



LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY
fighting blood cancers

Toys for Teens Fighting Cancer

As part of Andrew Nichols' Eagle Scout Project (Troop 533) and Team Nichols Student of the Year Campaign, we are collecting donations for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Your donation will go directly to patients affected by cancer in the Houston Medical Center. We are counting on you and your support to make this endeavor a success!

WHY GAMES AND ACTIVITIES
Teen cancer patients spend countless hours and days at the hospital going through treatments and tests. Fun activities, both solo and with family and friends, will help the time pass more quickly and speed their overall recovery.

WHY THE 13-19 AGE GROUP
Research shows us that teens ages 13-19 are often the most forgotten for donations while going through cancer treatment. Plus, we are teens collecting for teens therefore this makes a direct impact on our peers!

WHY WE ARE COLLECTING NOW
For two reasons: we know the holidays are the best times to buy games and activities at sale prices, yet we plan to deliver the items we collect for Texas Children's Hospital in February because it is often the slowest time in the calendar year for donations for cancer patients.

HELP US HELP THE MOST FORGOTTEN AGE GROUP AT ONE OF THE MOST FORGOTTEN TIMES OF THE YEAR!

ITEMS NEEDED FOR TEEN CANCER PATIENTS

- Gift Cards (Hulu, Netflix, iTunes, etc.)
- Board Games (teen level)
- Xbox 360 Game Cartridges (available online, at Best Buy, or Amazon)
- DVD Movies (rated PG-13)
- Small Handheld Electronic Games
- Lotions, Nail Polish, Beauty Items
- Puzzles (more advanced)
- Activities (Art Pads, Colored Pens/Pencils, Adult Type Coloring Books)
- Teen Books/Comics

COLLECTION BOX REQUIREMENTS

- Place box(es) (provided by us) at your organization in a secure area for gift drop off.
- Place posters (provided by us) throughout your drop off location.
- Publicize on websites, Instagram, Twitter, organizational announcements, business newsletter, etc.

REGISTER YOUR DROP-OFF LOCATION
Send an email no later than **November 9th** to your Team Nichols contact person to register your drop off location! Posters will be dropped off for participants on November 11 & 12.

COLLECTION & PICK-UP DATES
Collection begins: Monday, November 26, 2018
Contact us for early pick up if your box is full!
Collection ends: Friday, December 21, 2018
Delivery to Texas Children's Hospital: February 24

Jumping right in, I asked Andrew why he was chosen to become an LLS Student of the Year nominee.

"As a matter of fact," he said, as if it was commonplace for a 16-year-old to get high-end coverage from one of Houston's leading media outlets, "Channel 13 ran a story on Andrew's Artisan Cakes, and part of my interview was focused on Cakes for Cancer. It seems someone working at LLS picked up on my interest in creating cakes for cancer patients and nominated me as a contender."

In September, he received an e-mail from LLS saying that he had been nominated and wanted to know if he was interested in participating.

"After they contacted me, I had a lot to consider before accept-

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ing the offer. Not only was I concerned about my school activities and running my businesses, but I also wanted to become an Eagle Scout by May. All I had left to do was my project and one merit badge. I wanted to make sure I had the time to dedicate to my Eagle Scout project.

“So, the first thing we did was ask for a meeting to find out whether it was even a possibility. We met at Starbucks and talked about the Eagle Scouts and bounced around a few ideas. Then, I spoke to my Boy Scout Leader. We discussed running a toy drive for my Eagle Scout project for kids with Leukemia or cancer.

“After researching the idea, we found that teens were the most forgotten age along with personal experiences and activities. They needed books, movies, and games for their age. It seems they get a lot of donations for younger kids age four through 12, but the older ones seem to fall between the cracks.

“It only took us a short while to come up with a plan. After we called a family caucus and agreed on the plan, we expanded that to friends and potential multi-generational team members. In the end, we decided that we could mobilize a team to help me with my Eagle Scout merit badge project, Toys for Teens Fighting Cancer Toy Drive and on the heels of that, launch the 7-week LLS campaign to raise money and awareness to fight blood cancers.”

Next came the approval process. Andrew's idea had to be sanctioned at the troop level, committee level, and Sam Houston Council. The Andrew Nichol's Eagle Scout Project (Troop 533) was approved in October.

Susan explained, “On August 20, 2014, I was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Thanks to God and my support team, I am now in remission.

“When this came along our family's first thought was, we already had the platform and an extensive support system to hopefully do some real good with this campaign. Although Andrew is the highlight and the student, we can't neglect the fact that every-body he has on his team is not just people he knows but people who have cared for us. For example, I had groups of people who had to come around the clock to give me drugs that would take two and three hours to administer. They had to get trained and would come three times a day for 3-hour stints to administer medication. Those are the type of people that are on the team.

“So, together we made the decision to be part of an initiative that can potentially find a cure and contribute to creating a world without blood cancer---and we threw our hat in the ring.”

November 11th and 12th posters and collection boxes were delivered. The collection began November 26th and will run through December 21st.

You can help Andrew in his Eagle Scout Project benefiting Teen cancer patients at Texas Children's Hospital by dropping off your

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new and unwrapped toys to a designated location:

From the Vine Ministries
HSE Medical and Associates
Jersey Mike's (Fairfield location)
Texas Children's Urgent Care (Fairfield)
Steeplechase Pediatrics (North Cypress location)
Steeplechase Pediatrics (Skinner location)

For an updated list of drop off locations please visit Team Nichols Facebook page @TeamNicholsLLS

Items Needed for Teen Cancer Patients include:

Gift Cards (Hulu, Netflix, iTunes, etc.), Board Games (teen level), Xbox 360 Game Cartridges, DVD Movies (rated PG-13), Small Handheld Electronic Games, Lotions, Nail Polish, Beauty Items, Puzzles, Activities (Art Pads, Colored Pens/Pencils, Adult Type Coloring Books), Teen Books/Comics

Drop Off Sit Locations

- Cy-Ranch Senior Women
- Cy-Ranch FFA
- From the Vine Ministries
- HSE Medical

- Jersey Mikes (Fairfield)
- Texas Children's Urgent Care (Fairfield)
- Walgreens (Fairfield)
- Strong Vision Center (Fairfield)
- Strong Vision Center (Skinner and Spring Cypress)
- Steeplechase Pediatric (North Cypress)
- Steeplechase Pediatric (Skinner and Spring Cypress)
- ReMax (Fairfield)
- Texas Children's Pediatric Center (Townlake)
- Good Shephard UMC Youth Office
- Gullick orthodontics
- Texas Children's Pediatrics (Fry Road)
- Texas Children's Pediatrics (Fallbrook Crossing)
- Texas Children's Pediatrics (Lakewood)

Contact: Andrew Nichols (713) 321-0170

Andrew.nichols@andrewsartisanscakes.com

Facebook: @TeamNicholsLLS

Susan Nichols, Andrew's mother, is the reason Andrew is eager to join the campaign. He says LLS does more to advance science and support patients than any other cancer organization. The fact that she is a participant in one of their research efforts is the reason she is in remission today. You will learn more about Susan and her journey to recovery in the Gazette's January issue.

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4 Way to Help Prepare Your Home for Winter



Winter is on its way and for much of the country that means freezing temperatures, wind, snow, ice and heavy jackets.

Preparing your home now for the colder months ahead is vital. The following tips are designed to help get you and your home ready for what winter has in store.

Invest in Weather Stripping

If you can run your hand around the edges of an outside-facing door on a cold day and feel the flow of cool air, you have an airflow problem, one that could cost you a lot of money over the course of the winter.

Weather stripping is a good way to help seal warm air in and cold air out of your home. Available in almost any hardware store, weather stripping installs quickly around windows and doors and can help prevent air leaks.

Before winter arrives, check your windows, doors, vents and fans, plumbing areas, air conditioners and any electrical/gas lines for leaks or drafts to save yourself energy and heating costs.

Evaluate Your Roof to Prevent Ice Dams

Your roof is one of the most vital protections standing between you and the harsh outside elements. Excess snow, ice and other environmental hazards can cause significant damage," said Chala Sampers, Top Dog Roofing. "The objective is to get as much of the water away from your house as possible."

In cold weather, heat escaping your home can melt and refreeze ice and snow on your roof, leading to ice dams. Evaluate your roof in advance of harsh winter weather to prevent ice damming. An ice dam in your gutter can cause water to seep into and saturate an interior wall. These block off drains, and let water and ice continually build up on your roof – and possibly under it – weakening your roof and putting your home at risk. If you're unsure of what to look for, see if a roofing professional can evaluate your roof for ice dams while cleaning your gutters.

To help prevent ice dams make sure your attic is well insulated and ventilated. Insulate the attic floor well to minimize the amount of heat rising through the attic from within the house. If your attic wasn't

built with a ventilation system, contact a trusted local professional or contractor about ventilating your attic before winter.

Buy a Roof Rake to Keep Snow from Building up

If you expect a lot of snow this winter, invest in a roof rake. As snow packs down from multiple storms it could cause a roof collapse – a roof rake can help you easily clear snow off your roof and protect your home during those blizzard months.

"Understanding the importance of checking your roof and knowing the basics of winter roof maintenance and damage can help homeowners avoid unnecessary stress and surprise costs," added Chala Sampers, Top Dog Roofing (<https://www.topdogroof.com/>).

What's even more surprising is that a new, national survey by Owens Corning Roofing found that although 70% of Austin homeowners said that damage to their roof would be stressful or very stressful, only 3% say they always check or have their roofs checked before the start of a season that typically brings bad weather. So be prepared this season and make sure to conduct a thorough roof check before, during and after harsh winter months.

Protect Pipes from Freezing

A frozen water pipe can burst and flood your house or basement.

Help protect your pipes from freezing in bitter cold weather by making sure you don't turn the heat down too much when you're out of the house. You may not be there to enjoy it, but your pipes need the heat to prevent freezing.

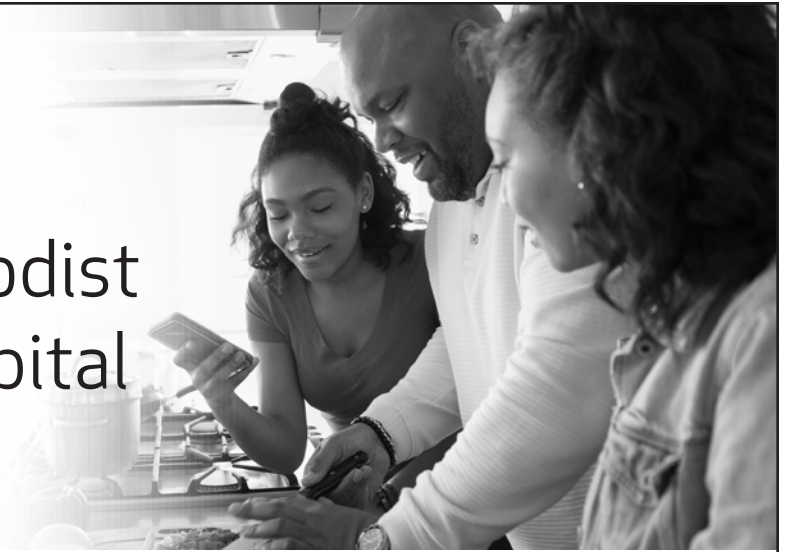
Give your home a once over for any exposed or vulnerable piping and wrap them with insulation. Hardware stores usually carry foam rubber or fiberglass sleeves for pipes, which are easy to install.

If your pipes do freeze, and water stops flowing from faucets, call a plumber immediately.

Please keep personal safety in mind when checking items off this list and connect with a trusted professional or contractor for help with anything you are unable to do yourself. For more info visit <https://www.owenscorning.com/roofing>.



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Grandmother's Sandwich Cookies



Ingredients:

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 slightly beaten egg whites
- 1/2 cup finely chopped blanched almonds (optional)
- 1/4 cup pearl sugar (or substitute regular sugar)
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup raspberry jam

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 375°. Cream together butter and 3/4 cup sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg. Sift flour and salt together; add to creamed butter mixture. Mix thoroughly.

Divide dough in half. Roll first half into 1/8" thickness on a lightly floured surface. Use a 2 1/2" round cookie cutter (or the top of a round glass) to cut out circles.

Roll second portion out into 1/8" thickness. Cut out 2 1/2" circles and then use a thimble to cut out smaller circles inside these rounds (Note: You can also use a linzer cookie cutter or a small 1/2" cutter for this).

Brush these "wheels" with egg white and sprinkle with pearl sugar and chopped almonds (optional).

Place cookies on ungreased baking sheet and bake on center rack of oven for 8-10 minutes. Remove and cool on counter.

Place a scant 1/2 tsp. of jelly in the middle of the round cookies and cover with the "wheels" to create sandwich cookies.

Yield: 3 1/2 dozen jelly cookies.

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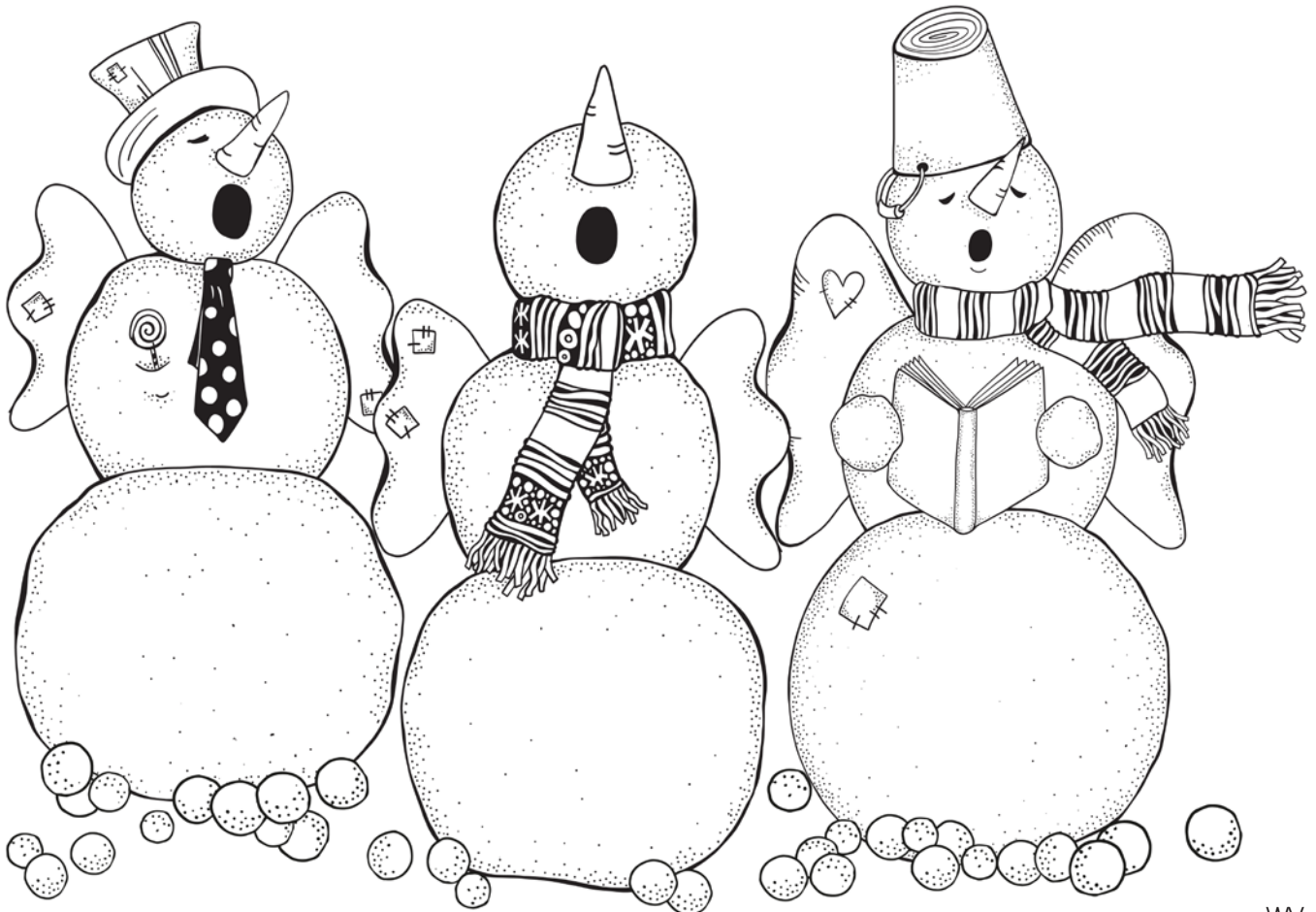
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