

Twin sisters happy to be this year's Tammys



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Twins Patricia (left) and Stephanie Leopold are the co-Tammys for this year's Easter Seal campaign. The role of the Tammy is to put a face to the campaign.

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

Easter Seals has been helping Wendy Neal for close to a decade.

Now, she and her nine-year-old twin daughters Patricia and Stephanie Leopold are happy to return the favour to the organization that aids physically challenged children.

The twins have been selected to be the local faces — or Tammys — for this year's Easter Seal campaign. Their main job is to put a face — or in this case two faces — to the good works of Easter Seals.

"It gives the community an idea of who they're helping," said Ms Neal.

The family's involvement with Easter Seals began with the diagnosis of Patricia with cerebral palsy and Stephanie with a developmental delay when they were just tots.

"They were premature," said Ms Neal. "The diagnoses came when they were very young."

"(Easter Seals) provides a better life for disabled children and their families."

DOUG KOCHER

Since then, Easter Seals has been a part of the Milton family's life, supplying both financial aid and moral support.

"At one point, they were both wearing braces," said Ms Neal. "It can get costly."

The twins have also taken advantage of the Easter Seal camp.

The girls were first contacted to be Tammys in 1999, but it was decided they were a touch too young to take on the role.

But when the call came in to be the first local campaign faces of the new millennium, the Leopold girls answered it.

"I was very excited," admitted Ms Neal.

"As far as the girls go, I think Stephanie was more excited than Pat. Pat is a tough little kid. She's more into the denial — 'there's nothing wrong with me.'"

But enthusiasm took hold in the end, and so far, the girls have made a presentation at Town Hall and helped stuff envelopes for the campaign.

The 1999 Easter Seal campaign — run by the Milton Rotary Club — took in \$19,000, said campaign chair Doug Kocher. The group is hoping to raise \$20,000 this year, and all the money will help support about 20 Milton families.

"What the money does is provide a wide array of services. We provide help aids. Walkers. Whatever they need," said Mr. Kocher. "It provides a better life for disabled children and their families."

Rotary has been helping out the Easter Seal campaign since the club's inception, he added. "All the money goes back to these families. Someone has to look after these children."

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