

# Children benefit from bash

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE  
Staff Writer

Kimberley Gadwah says her grandfather was her hero. So when he died in September, she was bitter.

"I was extremely close with my grandfather; we had dinner all the time and spoke every day," the 24-year-old Vaughan resident said. "He died Labour Day weekend and it was a complete shock." The family decided not to celebrate Christmas this year because the pain of their loss was too much.

But Ms Gadwah decided she wasn't going to let that eat her up. Instead, the recent York University graduate threw a party.

"I had some other friends who lost loved ones and I just thought it would be great to do something in memory of them," she said. "So I decided to call it the Heroes of Heaven Benefit because my grandfather was always my hero. We just wanted there to be a positive coming out of the loss of someone we loved."

With the help and connections of a few talented friends, Ms Gadwah put together a 10-band charity concert benefiting the Make A Wish Foundation. More than 300 people attended the Dec. 11 event in Toronto.

"That night I kept thinking if my grandfather didn't pass away I wouldn't be standing here," she said. "But the fact he's not here

inspired us to raise \$5,000 and all those wishes that will come true because of that money have been inspired by him."

This was Ms Gadwah's first charity event, but plans are in the works to make the Heroes of Heaven Benefit a semi-annual event in spring and winter.

In the meantime, she hopes her efforts will inspire anyone else who wants to plan a charity event to go for it.

"If you're passionate about something, do it," she said. "We just started in November so we were pressed for time, but if you plan in advance it will only take a couple hours a week and you will be raising awareness for a good cause. It's worth it."

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