

'All Star' event May 14

Date: April 7, 2011 Section: News

What began four years ago as a desire to help a young girl's family offset their increasing out-of-pocket medical expenses due to juvenile diabetes, now known as Type 1 diabetes, has since grown into a non-profit foundation known as Abby's **All Stars**. The group is hosting a silent auction and cocktail reception May 14 at Tashua Knolls. Last year's event raised \$10,000.

A number of mothers in Trumbull learned of the challenges faced by parents whose children were diagnosed with juvenile diabetes and decided to take action to help alleviate this pressure. The first child the group helped was a six year-old girl named Abby and the group decided to name the grassroots organization in her honor.

Many families such as Abby's, who have insurance, often require critical items that insurance does not cover, such as insulin pumps, syringes, glucose meters and strips.

In the past four years, Abby's **All Stars** has helped three families with their medical expenses. They also are active participants in events such as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Walk to Cure Diabetes, which aids in funding for research.

Jennifer Occhicone, president of Abby's **All Stars**, said the organization recently provided monetary assistance to the family of a 22 month-old girl from West Haven. The toddler was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes a year ago and Abby's **All Stars** paid the balance of the insurance bill for her insulin pump.

Two years ago, a 15 year old boy from Bridgeport attended summer camp for youths with juvenile diabetes, thanks to Abby's **All Stars**.

By providing "pocket money" and other items he needed, the teen experienced a memorable summer with others who have a similar medical condition.

According to Occhicone, juvenile diabetes can be one of the most expensive diseases to maintain on a daily basis and is something that needs to be maintained for life.

"Our commitment to help families in need keep their medical expenses low and in check is what Abby's **All Stars** is all about," said Occhicone.

"By doing so, Abby's **All Stars** can bring hope, strength and some ease-of-mind to kids and their families." For more information about the silent auction and cocktail reception visit abbyssallstars.org