

Local Girl Raises Hundreds For Children's Mercy

(KAIR)--An Atchison girl is using her birthday as a special fundraiser for a Kansas City hospital.

She's 10-year-old Braelynn Chartier and her mom Janafer says they've raised more than \$1,000 and the number is growing.

Janafer said Braelynn decided she didn't want any presents for her birthday, but wanted to raise money for Children's Mercy in Kansas City.

"Close to her birthday she said, 'Okay, what do we need to do to get a lemonade stand so we can raise money for Children's Mercy,'" Janafer said. "I let her take the lead. From there, it went. It's kinda blown into a bigger experience that what we ever imagined it would be."

They set up the lemonade stand in Willis, Kansas but have since had mailed-in donations, as well as online and even a local business that offered to contribute a portion of profits to the fund.

Janafer said Braeylenn's desire to help Children's Mercy is personal.

"Two years ago she was in the hospital, we found her unconscious in the night," Janafer said. "They rushed her to Children's Mercy and we spent a week in ICU. While we were there, the child life specialist would come into the room and she always felt like it was just a vacation. She was happy as could be to be at Children's Mercy and she wanted all of her money that was raised for the lemonade stand to go for games and toys for the child life specialist."

Janafer said anyone can contribute to the online fund at the Children's Mercy website.

"Braelynn had a desire in her heart to donate to kids for her birthday," she said. "She's just a very fun loving kid and always thinking of other people. It really shows who Braelynn is."

You can donate to the Braeylenn's birthday fund here:

http://give.childrensmercy.org/site/TR?fr_id=1300&pg=team&team_id=2451.