

The A-Team and Elmwood Park Zoo to Host an Event to Raise Money for Young Cancer Patient

Norristown, PA—The A-Team and Elmwood Park Zoo today announced a collaborative, family oriented event to raise money for the family of Ella Smith, an 8 year old Royersford girl bravely battling cancer. The event, named “EllapaZoola” will take place on November 4, 2018 from Noon to 5PM at the Elmwood Park Zoo, located at 1661 Harding Blvd, Norristown, PA 19401.

In 2016, Ella Smith was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare disease in which cancerous cells form a mass in muscle tissue. Ella fought hard, enduring weekly chemo for 9 months, 28 rounds of radiation, proton therapy and surgery to remove her shrunken tumor. The treatment plan was successful, and Ella was officially in remission. However, cancer is relentless. A year later, Ella’s family learned that, sadly, the cancer was back. Ella is now in the throes of her second fight with rhabdomyosarcoma, which has metastasized to her lungs.

You may have seen pictures of Ella before, while driving along 95 or in other Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) promotions. Although somewhat shy, Ella chose, when asked, to be a CHOP Ambassador to help CHOP increase pediatric cancer awareness and raise money for cancer research and treatment.

C.J. Santangelo, President of the A-Team said, “Diseases like cancer affect more than the patient; supporting a sick child is incredibly hard on a family emotionally and often financially. That’s where we, and our network and community, come in.”

Al Zone, Director and CEO of the Elmwood Park Zoo said, “We’re proud to support the A-Team by providing the amazing, family friendly Elmwood Park Zoo environment for EllapaZoola.”

Tickets for the event are available in advance via the A-Team’s website at herewecome.org and can also be purchased at the Elmwood Park Zoo on the day of the event.

About The A-Team

The A-Team (recognized as winners of the "Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce - Non-Profit of the Year 2017" and "Best of Montco - Best Non-Profit 2017") is a locally run, locally focused charitable organization dedicated to supporting families impacted by disease and disaster. The A-Team raises money to support families where the parents are challenged to maintain their typical work lives while trying to provide the care that their children need. In addition to providing financial support, the A-Team also strives to provide love and emotional support to the patient and family through the A-Team’s broad network of other families that the A-Team has supported.

About Elmwood Park Zoo

Established in 1924, the Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown is home to dozens of wild and endangered species. As a non-profit organization, the Zoo’s mission is to foster an appreciation for wildlife and the environment that will inspire active participation in conservation.