

## Eat, Play, Rock At Rocktober Feast

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By Scott Smith

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A feast of food and live-music sets fit for "Soul Train," Woodstock and just about every other genre are expected to bring many children, teenagers and adults together for a common, worthy cause this month.

The Rocktober Feast fundraiser will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 30 at Harry E. Kelley Park, 121 Clayton Expressway, and will be highlighted by some of the best local bands, a CASI Chili Cook-off, barbecue dinners, games, prizes and more, said Mike Kirby, coordinator for the event. Admission is free from 9 a.m. to noon, and \$5 per adult after noon; children 12 and younger can attend free with paid adult, he said.

"This is quite an undertaking, but it's for a worthwhile cause," Kirby said of the event. "We wanted to bring something in for the community that would also bring in people from other areas and help raise awareness for aplastic anemia."

Aplastic anemia is a life-threatening blood disorder that is found in thousands of people of various ages, he said.

Rocktober Feast will feature music by Copesetic, Bordertown featuring Pam Camp, Rain Kings, The Edge and Spur 10 and will be held in conjunction with Aplastic Anemia Awareness Day, Kirby said. Money raised from the fundraiser will be used to support Michael McCutcheon, a local 12-year-old boy who is receiving in-patient and out-patient treatment for aplastic anemia at the Rochester, Minn.-based Mayo Clinic.



"In the spring of 2009, ... Michael McCutcheon was diagnosed with having aplastic anemia," Kirby said. "Michael is 86 days post-bone marrow transplant, and is doing incredibly well."

Rocktober Feast also will feature a canine costume contest, a bounce-around, the Fort Smith School of Massage, balloon creations, a blood drive, free bone marrow registration, swab testing, an auction, face painting and more.

The Edge will play Christian rock beginning at 12:30 p.m., followed by music from The Rain Kings, Bordertown featuring Pam Camp, Spur 10 and headliner Copesetic.

The Tiffany Reeves Trio will play from 11:05 a.m. to noon in the River Park amphitheater, while Cody Kirby will play piano during the silent auction.

Gifts will be given away during the event every 100 minutes, which is symbolic of the 100-day minimum a bone marrow transplant patient must stay in or near a hospital or clinic, Kirby said. Some patients end up staying as long as six months following treatment in or near a hospital or clinic, he said.

"I would like to be able to make a donation to Be the Match Bone Marrow Registry, who is coming from Potts Camp, Miss., to do free registration and swab-testing," Kirby said. "The usual cost to register as a potential bone-marrow donor is between \$100 and \$300 per person. I feel this expense limits the amount of potential donors, then, limiting the amount of transplants, then limiting the amount of survivors."

The event was started to raise awareness to aplastic anemia as well as other unfamiliar blood disorders and to list potential donors on the National Bone Marrow Registry, Kirby said.

"This is being held to raise awareness to aplastic anemia and other unfamiliar blood disorders, and to get potential donors on the National Bone Marrow Registry," he said. "This also is to help find a bone marrow donor, a perfect 10 out of 10 match, to help in Michael's treatment and fight against (aplastic anemia)."

Kirby said he hopes to raise money to cover the costs of the day and to pay McCutcheon's medical bills for at least 100 days, and to match \$100 per donor to Be the Match. He and other organizers will be on-site to accept donations.

"Will it happen? I have no idea," Kirby said. "I am trying, with a lot of help, to coordinate the event in a flowing, organized manner. The rest is up to God and our community."

McCutcheon's progress can be seen at [www.caringbridge.org/visit/michaelmccutcheon](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/michaelmccutcheon). He can receive mail at St. Mary's Hospital, c/o Michael McCutcheon, Room 3-530, 1216 Second Street SW, Rochester, MN 55901, and he can receive prayer messages at (800) 737-1407, Kirby said.

Donations can be made to: Rocktober Feast/Hope, Help and Healing, P.O. Box 181376, Fort Smith, AR 72918.

For information, call (479) 252-0153 or visit [fortsmithparks.com](http://fortsmithparks.com).

Rocktober Feast Fundraiser

When: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 30

Where: Harry E. Kelley Park, 121 Clayton Expressway

The event is an Aplastic Anemia Awareness Day, featuring Free National bone marrow registry by Be the Match and a Blood Drive conducted by Oklahoma Blood Institute, as well as a benefit for Michael McCutcheon, who is fighting Aplastic anemia.

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