

## Ride for Home More Than Just Another Car Show

### **IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE!!!!**

## **Ride for Hope More Than Just Another Car Show**

Upland, CA - There are car shows almost every weekend in every city. Car clubs and enthusiasts spend their free time showing off their prized cars to the general public. Many shows raise money for charities in the area. But the Ride for Hope being held at Memorial Park in Upland on Saturday October 4 from 9AM to 3PM, is putting a twist on the car show. Aside from adding live music, bouncers, a pie eating contest, a rock wall and puppet shows, Steven's Hope for Children raised sponsorship dollars to bring the families they serve to the event. "Ride for Hope is a car show with lots of activities for the kids," said Sandy Cappelli, co-founder of Steven's Hope for Children. "We're a children's organization and we want to have that same feel in this event. We want to be able to have the families we assist come out and enjoy a fun day for the whole family. They are dealing with so much. We wanted to give them the chance to be "normal"."

Steven's Hope provides families with seriously ill or injured children temporary housing and other services while receiving treatment at selected hospitals and treatment centers. According to Steven's Hope President Tony Cappelli, "It's hard right now for families to make ends meet. When you throw in the extra costs of a child's battle with cancer, heart disease or nerve disorders, the stress can be overwhelming and catastrophic to the family as a whole. We try to help the family however we can to get over those hurdles and stay together. Sometimes it's a gas card, sometimes it's a car seat. Sometimes, it's having lunch on us and playing games at a car show."

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Gracie, a 7 year old from Colorado is staying in one of the Steven's Hope apartments in Loma Linda with her mother, Rebecca, and her grandmother, Barbara. "Gracie is blind because a tumor is putting pressure on her optic nerve. Steven's Hope made it possible for us to come here to get treatment for Gracie." For the next five weeks, they will be getting hyper baric chamber treatments. Barbara said, "We have a window of opportunity for her to get this treatment. Hopefully, because of Steven's Hope, she will get better, do better in school and hopefully be able to see."

The event started as a motorcycle poker run in 2003 put on by Ladies of Chrome and Leather, a women's motorcycle club from Riverside. Three years ago, the event was brought to Upland and has evolved into a car and motorcycle show. According to co-founder Tony Cappelli, "We wanted to have an event here in Upland that the whole community could enjoy and learn about us. Now that we are getting assistance in promoting the event from groups like Street Rods Unlimited, it has become a large task." But Cappelli didn't want just another car show, so activities for the kids were incorporated and despite rain for the last two years, the event has grown in popularity.

"There has been a good amount of interest from local business vendors. What we've been the most excited about is the help we have been getting from Abundant Living Church," said Cappelli. "They are stepping up and helping with volunteers and bringing games, dancers and the kid's choir to perform." The Children's Ministry at Abundant Living is lead by Pastor Mike Madrigal. "It's amazing how much they are helping us. They are passionate about helping children and have taken on this event as if it was their own and are reaching out to the community."

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Steven's Hope was formed in 2001 after the founders, Tony and Sandy Cappelli, experienced first-hand the tragedy of losing a child to a heart illness. Their son, Steven, had a fatal heart condition and lived for 32 hours. After Steven's death, the Cappelli's looked for a way to help other families that were going through similar situations. Their hope was that needy families would not be encumbered with the additional financial hardships during the emotionally challenging time of a child's recovery away from home. Their search led them to start Steven's Hope for Children, a 501 (c)(3) organization. The donations they receive help to provide housing and other support to families during their time of crisis. Over the past five years, Steven's Hope has helped hundreds of seriously ill or injured children from the Inland Empire and across the country. In 2007, Steven's Hope provided assistance to over 400 families.

Two of the programs Steven's Hope offers is Housing for Hope and Fill A Need. Housing for Hope provides a family with a temporary home away from home while they are getting treatment for a serious illness or injury, like a heart transplant or Proton Radiation treatment. For many, families have to relocate while getting this type of treatment. The second program, Fill A Need, provides other non-housing related necessities like food and gas cards, transportation to and from appointments, and other types of financial assistance during a child's extended treatment and recovery.

According to Tony Cappelli, those that want to participate in the event by showing their car or motorcycle, can registration on site beginning at 6:30 AM. Registration for cars or motorcycles is \$25. "We're expecting our best turn out ever. With the help of Abundant Living, Street Rods, and other groups like Mom's Club of

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Upland, the two Girl Scout Troops, and the numerous vendors, we should have one heckuva good event. And it's all for the kids."

To speak with Tony or Sandy Cappelli, call 909-373-0678

To speak with Pastor Mike Madrigal, call 909-987-7110

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