



**WHO'S
YOUR
FARMER!!**

Paola Farmers Market

September 22, 2012

7:30 to 11:00am

Performing in the Gazebo will be

AXEL FOLEY



Well the end is just around the corner. I am sad to say this Saturday will be our last Saturday on the square. But we will not go out quietly. Singing in the Gazebo this Saturday is Axel Foley. He comes to us from Freeman, MO and is truly a gift to us on the Saturdays he comes and sings. He has a unique way of bringing a smile to your heart with the beautiful country melodies, ballads and my favorite the "Country Swing".



This Saturday you will be able to taste the fine cooking of our Lions Group when you make a donation to their group for a heaping plate of biscuits and sausage gravy. Hmmm!!!! So bring your friends and family for a nice visit and fantastic breakfast on the square. Don't forget to bring those old eye glasses you don't use anymore as they are always collecting at the markets for them. Well just got the word that the Lions group will also be selling the large Yellow Trash bags and with every roll you buy you get a free plate of biscuits and gravy. Now

that is a fantastic deal!!!! Are you looking to do Community Service, think of others before yourself, come join the Paola Lions Club. We meet the first and third Friday morning at Circle C Café at 6:45am. Every meeting we have guest speakers. I have learned more about the history of this city since joining the Lions Club than I would of ever expected to learn.

The Boy Scouts will be joining us too with their table covered with popcorn varieties for you to purchase for those long cold winter nights of movie watching in the family living room.

Have you seen these adorable Clowns that are showing up the last couple Saturdays in a "Little Red Wagon". Well I think your grandkids or little ones would just love to have one of these waiting for them on Christmas morning and everyone knows I am a huge believer in buying LOCAL every day I can.



THANK YOU

I want to take a moment and Thank all those musicians, customers and our newly made friends this summer who made the Market such a success. A special Thank you to Miami Creek Farm for the freshly ground coffee they donated every week of the market for you to drink. Thank you to Gary Furnish of DayLight Donuts for supplying us with 8 dozen donut holes every Saturday morning for young and old alike to enjoy. We had food demonstrations by the Extension Office, Square Dancing demos, and who could go without thanking Margo Rhodewald and her amazing voice who sang all those beautiful Patsy Cline and Shania Twain songs. I'll never forget my heart stopping just a beat when she belted out her first song there by the fountain. (Margo I am coming to Branson just to hear you.) Many Thanks to the 4H Dog club, where the young people showed us what their dogs' skills and agilities were. Thank you to Josh and Mike Hursey for cooking on what seemed to me to be the hottest day of the year in support of Asher Leonard Cancer cause. You know we only had one rainout the whole summer. (I don't know if that was good or bad) Thank you to the Gallery and the Pet Supply Store for letting all the vendors use your facilities. Thank you Axel Foley for your many hours of entertainment during those horrible hot Saturday mornings. And most of all Thank you to our Vendors who work and sweat, fight the summer drought just to bring our produce ----FRESH and LOCAL. I Look forward to seeing all of you again next year at the PAOLA FARMERS MARKET....

Also this week is our final Raffle drawing for a beautiful bird wall hanging. If at all possible our guest of honor will be Asher Leonard drawing the winning ticket himself. Thank you everyone for your support of this young man all summer

long. It makes me really appreciate every healthy day my children and grandchildren have on God's green earth. Be sure and read the attached note below from Marla Bigg's and her daughter about Asher's journey thru this Cancer. It is long but if it gets even one person to share and spread awareness and make a difference, it's worth it.

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Many of you are aware of the raffle we have been doing this summer to raise money for the Asher Leonard Fund. We've drawn winners of a beautiful crock filled with Rabbit Creek products from local entrepreneur Donna Cook, a handmade denim picnic table cover/groundcloth from the Mennonite Relief sale in Hutchinson, Ks and a hand quilted Allis Tractor, What Happens on my Tractor stays on my Tractor Quilt, quilted and donated by Asher's Great Grandmother Esther Biggs from Wichita, Ks. On Saturday September 22, we will draw for the final item, The Birds in My Orchard wall hanging, hand quilted and donated by Esther Biggs and her friend Millie. All proceeds will go to the Asher Leonard Fund. You may know Asher's story, but you may not know there is much, much work to be done in finding cures for childhood cancer. My daughter Shannon has been blogging about their journey since Asher was diagnosed last October. And this month, her blog is to **RAISE AWARENESS OF CHILDHOOD CANCER**. Below is Shannon's post from September 12, 2012. Please read it and share with all your friends and family. I too urge you to spread awareness. Together, we CAN make a difference.

God bless you all,

Marla Biggs, Asher's Mema

From Shannon's blog:

I've thought through this post a million times. I wondered what statistics to include. How do I give all these numbers any differently than anyone else in order to make them really impact someone? This morning it hit me. It isn't all the numbers that really make an impact. It's the personal story, the heartache, the fear, the worry, the anger, the sadness. That's what makes an impact on someone.

The day we were told Asher had a brain tumor is one we will never, ever forget. It's the day our baby became a statistic. He became 1 of 46 children who were told that day that they had cancer.

Our family became 1 of the 46 families who had to make the worst phone calls they've ever had to make. We had to look our other two children in the eyes and tell them that their baby brother had a brain tumor. We've had some very, very hard, awful days since that first day. However October 14, 2011, the day our baby became 1 of 46 children with cancer, was by far the worst day of our lives.

My heart rate rises, my stomach hurts and I get all sweaty just thinking about the day we found out Asher had a brain tumor. I remember the night before the MRI, Jake and I were talking about how the next day would go. We were so unaware. My biggest fear that night was that we'd go through all the "trouble" of having him sedated to have the MRI and that they'd tell us there was NOTHING wrong. That we'd have to search high and low to get the bottom of Asher's neck pain. We had no clue what was lurking inside Asher's brain.

We got to Children's Mercy South early that Friday morning. We chit chatted with our nurse.

Asked how soon they usually have results from an MRI. "The radiologist will call your doctor and then your doctor will call you," she said, "It usually takes a few days, you probably won't hear anything until next week." Oh good I thought. No big deal. Again, we were so unaware. They started an IV, we watched cartoons, and then walked Asher back to the MRI suite. He willingly went with the nurse; we gave him a quick kiss and told him we'd see him as soon as his pictures were done.

Jake and I found our way to the waiting room. I read (I was still knee deep in the Pearl Jam biography); Jake checked his e-mail, read sports news on line. I don't even know that we were watching the clock. There was no need, right? This was

no big deal. They had told us it would be about an hour and a half before Asher was done, in recovery and starting to wake up, and then they'd come and get us. I do remember looking at the clock around 10:30 and thinking it had been more than said hour and a half. But I wasn't worried. I mentioned it to Jake. He gave me the typical don't worry, I'm sure it's fine look. I went back to my book. I heard heels clicking down the hall. I looked up; we were sitting just inside the waiting room door. I saw Dr. Aundria Speropoulos, one of the 4 fabulous doctors from our pediatrician's office, walk by. (I swear my blood pressure is just as high at this moment, typing these words, as it was that day. I could vomit right now.) I remember saying to Jake "Hey, I just saw Dr. Speropoulos walk by." He looked at me and kind of shook his head. I wondered what she was doing there. Was one of her kids sick? She must have had a patient that they had to bring over to Children's. I went back to my book. Jake went back to his phone. I heard clicking in the halls again. I looked up. There stood Dr. Speropoulos. "Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, I need you to come with me." I looked around.

Certainly she wasn't talking to us. I started shaking. I tried to gather my stuff. Jake grabbed most of it. Dr. Speropoulos lead us down the hall. She was asking a nurse who was walking with her if there was a private room we could go to. I started crying. I was shaking uncontrollably.

Thank God for my husband who held me up, helping me walk down the hall, while whispering to himself, "It's ok. It's fine. It's alright."

We knew this wasn't good. Dr. Speropoulos was visibly shaken. We found our way to a room, shut the door and she looked at us and said, "Well, obviously, we've found something." I'm not really sure what was said other than that. I was hysterical. I folded in half in my chair. Again, thank God for my level headed, calm husband. I remember him asking what it was, what were we to do next? It was the first time in my life I heard the word EPENDYMOMA. Really? Asher? Our family? Could this really be happening? They took us to Asher. He was still asleep and completely unaware of what was going on.

We never in all our wildest nightmares could've imagined that during the few months Asher had been complaining about his neck hurting that it would turn out like this. We didn't know anything about childhood cancer. It hadn't touched anyone in our family or close circle. We had no idea that 46 children

are diagnosed everyday with cancer. But there we were. Our baby was one of those kids. Our family became one of those families.

October 14, 2011 we started a fight that NO family or child should ever have to fight. But we weren't given a choice. This thing picked a fight with our family. So now, we fight. We fight not only for our sweet boy, Asher, who continues to battle ependymoma. We fight for all the children, 46 every day, and their families. We have to fight. The statistics will tell you that childhood cancer is rare. It's severely underfunded, for many reasons. We have to bring awareness to the awfulness that is childhood cancer. Awareness brings funding. Funding brings more treatment options. More options brings us to CURES! Please, we urge you to help us spread awareness. Share our story. Share someone else's story. Share the sadness, heartache, fear, anger and worry. It'll move someone. And that's what we need. And maybe one day, there won't be 46 families a day who are forced to fight.

If you're looking for good resources or want more information check out any of the following.

Childhood Cancer:

www.curesearch.org

www.kidsvcancer.org

www.stbaldricks.org

www.alexlemonade.org

Ependymoma: www.cern-foundation.org

Brain tumors: www.pbtfus.org

Some of the items coming this week to the Market - September 22nd

I made a special effort to go around and ask each vendor what they would have to sell at our final markets and here is a sampling of what they said they were bringing. I was so surprised when Linda Critchfield had green beans to sell again this last Saturday. And you have got to see her handmade Christmas Ornaments made from dried Okra.

Jams & Jellies

Honey Homemade Breads Friendship Breads Cinnamon Rolls

Don't forget those Custom made Cupcakes too!

CRAFTS

Wood Crafts Lanterns Garden Bricks Photography

Hypertuffa Garden stones Antiques Fresh Cut Flowers

Handmade Jewelry Recycled Feed Sack Bags Soda Can Jewelry

Lots of Farm Fresh Eggs Home grown Butchered Beef and Chicken

PRODUCE

Green Beans Tomatoes Kale Cucumbers

Onions Peppers Egg Plant Fresh Basil

Okra Apples Pears Plums

Possibly – Depending on the Weather even some Sweet Potatoes

And let us not forget Bamboo ... Looking to make a fishing pole... Last week Carl even tried to convince us it was edible...

Don't forget our website for all the latest happenings at the Market and watch in the Spring of 2013 for all the Registration Forms for next year. You can also find some pretty good recipes out there.

Hope to see you all next year at the Paola Farmers Market