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Community Goes Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month with the 2nd Annual Emmy's Evening of Hope Inspired by Local Teen

Fort Wayne, Ind. – September is childhood cancer awareness month, and a local family is helping the community come together to help spread awareness and raise funds for this important cause. On Saturday, September 17, 2022, the Jovevski family with the help of Eel River Elementary, will be hosting the second annual Emmy's Evening of Hope at Hunteertown Park from 3-6pm.

The creation of this event was inspired by Emily Jovevski who was diagnosed with Synovial Sarcoma at age 14 and bravely fought cancer for 5 years. "Emily dreamed of becoming a pediatric oncology nurse to help kids with cancer and that is why we continue to raise awareness and funds for more research in honor of her dream," said Jodi Jovevski, Emily's mother. "With childhood cancer research being consistently underfunded, it was important for us to do this in hopes we can help fund research that will lead to better outcomes and treatments for children everywhere."

Emmy's Evening of Hope is a free community event that is open to anyone in the community who is passionate about fighting childhood cancer. *The event will feature live music by the Way Back Boys, a magic show, and have kids' games and activities throughout the event. Food trucks from Chick-fil-A, Rusty's Ice Cream, and a Roma Pizza will be available between 3-6pm. The event also plans to have a large silent auction with over 35 items to bid on featuring items and packages from Coyote Creek Golf Club, a sushi rolling class hosted by Umi, Penny Drip and Copper Spoon, handmade items from local shops, and much more. There will also be a live auction for a one-of-a-kind Gold Ribbon pendant designed by Peter Franklin Jewelers.*

All funds raised through this event will benefit Gold Together which is the American Cancer Society's childhood cancer initiative. In the past five years, the Jovevski family has raised more than \$65,000 for the American Cancer Society's Gold Together movement through the Relay For Life of Northwest Allen County Schools. This past school year, team #EmmyStrong & Eel River Elementary raised over \$25,000 and finished in the top 5 Gold Together teams in the nation for Relay For Life. "We are looking forward to having a great event and hope the community comes out to support and be a voice for these courageous kids everywhere," said Jovevski. "Last year we were able to raise over \$13,000 at this event with the support from our community all of which went to childhood cancer. We hope that more people join us this year since we know that childhood cancer has impacted so many people in our community. We are looking forward to honoring Emily and all of the families in our community who have had to face this terrible disease."

The American Cancer Society is deeply committed to making continued advances that will improve outcomes for childhood cancer. Together with volunteers, ACS focuses on increasing awareness of childhood cancer, supporting families who are facing a diagnosis and raising funds to end childhood cancer. Funds raised through the American Cancer Society Gold Together initiative directly support research, advocacy, and patient support programs.

Research breakthroughs are needed as 1 in 5 children do not survive their cancer diagnosis. With 1 in 266 children and adolescents being diagnosed with cancer before they turn 20, it means childhood cancer affects every community. The American Cancer Society fund scientists who conduct innovative research on childhood cancer at medical schools, universities, research institutes and hospitals throughout the United States. As of August 1, 2022, 53 active multi-year research grants for a total of \$33 million are currently being funded specific to childhood cancer. To learn more about ACS's work to end childhood cancer, please visit www.cancer.org/goldtogether.

For more information about Emmy's Evening of Hope, please email Jodi at djjeo69@hotmail.com.

For more information, cancer support or questions, please call the American Cancer Society 24/7 at 1-800-227-2345.

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About the American Cancer Society:

The American Cancer Society is a global grassroots force of nearly 1.5 million volunteers dedicated to saving lives, celebrating lives, and leading the fight for a world without cancer. From breakthrough research, to free lodging near treatment, a 24/7/365 live helpline, free rides to treatment, and convening powerful activists to create awareness and impact, the American Cancer Society is attacking cancer from every angle. Visit cancer.org for more information.