

## Autumn\_Hope

I'm sure we all remember the Teddy Bear Drive that we did here at the post a few years back for Autumn Swank and her drive for The Snowball Express we covered the dance floor with stuffed animals. Well, Autumn wants to do it again.

Autumn Swank is 23 Years old, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and has been fighting Brain Stem Glioma (brain Cancer) since her 9th birthday. Thru her treatments and dealing with this illness, she has developed a love for kids that are sick or battling illness. She collects stuffed animals and redistributes them to Cooks Children Hospital, Dallas Children's Hospital, M.D. Anderson Hospital as well as to local Police and Fire Departments. Being from a military family, she also has a love for Veterans and their families, so she donates stuffed animals to the Snowball Express.

Autumn has not been able to continue her collecting for a few years because of her declining health. She recently received some heartbreaking news about the cancer and has stated her desire to collect and distribute one more time.

To this end, we are hosting a benefit November 4 at Post 516. There will be BBQ at \$12 a plate, raffles, auction and live music. We are trying to raise fund to help defray the cost of her trips back and forth to MD Anderson and her weeklong stays in Houston for tests and treatments. We are also collecting all the stuffed animals we can for her to redistribute. All monies and goods collected will be used for Autumn.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to make a donation and attend the benefit. November 4th at American Legion Post 516 starting at 4pm.

Thank you for your generosity and support

Here are pictures from the Nov 3, 2012 Autumn's Snowball Express Project  
<http://www.12dis.org/scrapbook/20121103autm/>

Here's the Oct 14, 2023 Autumn's bears starting point and we are finishing with a fundraiser after the Twelfth District ALA convention at Post 516.

<http://www.12dis.org/516-bears-Nov4.jpg>

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