

Hills child's donation sparks Locks of Love event

BY SUE BUCK
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A Farmington Hills 10-year-old and a Southfield beauty salon teamed up with a plan to help the Locks of Love program, which accepts hair donations to make wigs and hairpieces for children.

Charlotte Rath, who just finished fifth grade at Highmewood Common Campus, will donate her long hair after it is cut Mon-

day, June 17 at Alianza Salon, 29199 Northwestern Highway. She hopes others will join her during the event which is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The salon is located at the northwest corner of Northwestern and 12 Mile. It is tucked in the back of Franklin Plaza.

"Charlotte wanted to do it. I took the initiative and turned it into an event" said Brenda Lutman, the salon owner. "Charlotte came to us and said she wanted

to help out little children."

Lutman hopes anyone interested in donating their hair will register by Saturday by calling (248) 356-3230 so she knows how many hairstylists to have on hand. The \$40 haircuts will be complimentary.

To donate, hair should be long enough to get into a ponytail.

Wigs for kids

Children or adults can donate hair as long as it is free of chemi-

cal processing. That means no bleach or perms for at least six months. If unsure, call Lutman.

Wigs for children cost \$3,600, a high price for some families who are struggling to pay medical bills, Lutman said. "It takes eight ponytails to make one wig," Lutman said.

The hair pieces are created uniquely for children who have lost hair for a variety of medical reasons. The wigs are vacuum sealed so the children can participate in sports like swimming

and gymnastics without worry.

"It stays on until a doctor unseals it," Lutman said.

The event is evidence of one child's determination.

"This was all Charlotte's idea," said her mother Renny Rath. "She got the whole thing started."

Charlotte passed out flyers to 300 Highmewood students and also to her ballet class at Dancing Feats in Farmington.

The effort demonstrates Charlotte's personality, Rath said.

Charlotte also was the only fifth grader of 78 children to win the Principal's Award, according to her proud mother. The award honors a student who most fits the Farmington student profile and includes traits of leadership, team building, responsibility, among others.

Olivia, Charlotte's eight-year-old sister, is also considering donating her hair.

For more general information about the program, visit www.locksoflove.org.

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Hills piano teacher hosts recital

BY SUE BUCK
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A Farmington Hills piano teacher will host a special recital for one of her most accomplished students Sunday.

Margaret Koltz, 75, a Farmington Hills resident, a music teacher who retired from the Farmington School District in 1991, taught at Farmington High School and Power Middle School.

Koltz, who now has 30 piano students, has been introducing students to piano since she was 16 years old.

The recital is open to the public from 2-3 p.m. at Farmington High School, located at 32000 Shinwassee.

Kevin Steinhelper, 17, and a



Kevin Steinhelper

graduate of Novi High School will perform works by various composers including Chopin, Bach, Beethoven and Debussy.

"I'm playing 11 songs, all by memory," Steinhelper said.

He described Koltz as very supportive. "She's been helping me every step of the way."

Koltz says her student has made above average progress.

"He has done such a wonderful job with his music," Koltz said. "I don't do this for all my students. He's done so much in seven years. He's done more than most students do in 10 years. It's hard to get kids to practice."

Koltz teaches in her home.

"I never advertised," Koltz said. "I have students who come from Palmer Woods in Detroit."

Koltz's piano lessons are always scheduled for one-half hour. "But, I don't stick to a half hour," she said.

If students need extra help, Koltz admits she's not bound by the clock.

Her other students, including Steinhelper, will perform Saturday at Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, where she annually holds recitals. He'll play two songs at that recital.

OCC ceremonies

PHOTO BY TOMI SELLARS

Class of '02: More than 1,700 students graduated from Oakland Community College on Friday. The ceremony was held before family and friends at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

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