

Two Vernon Hills sisters with epilepsy work to help foundation

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Abby and Rebecca Golde are sisters who have epilepsy, a brain disorder that causes periodic seizures.

The two girls, ages 10 and 7, of Vernon Hills wanted to do something to prevent potentially life-threatening epileptic seizures among children. With the help of their aunt, Jodi Victorn, Abby and Rebecca painted bottle caps that were made into necklaces that are being sold. Proceeds are going to support the Danny Did Foundation, a non-profit organization which seeks to raise awareness about epilepsy and sudden unexplained death.

“It’s a wonderful cause,” said Leslie Golde, Abby and Rebecca’s mother.

Initially the girls wanted to do start their own charity to raise money for the cause but the family decided it would be too difficult. Instead, Victorn, who runs a small business which sells girls headbands, clips, bows and other items, asked the girls if they wanted to make necklaces out of bottle caps, with proceeds going to the charity of their choice.

They choose the Danny Did Foundation, a charity named after a Chicago boy, Danny Stanton, who died in his sleep as a result of an epileptic seizure. Abby and Rebecca and Victorn’s daughters, Mia, 6, and Makenna, 2, spent a few hours painting the bottle caps on April 23 which Victorn turned them into beaded necklaces. The necklaces are being sold for \$5 a piece on a website Victorn created, www.MMinthemirror.com, with all the proceeds going to the Danny Did Foundation.

‘Cure them’

Abby Golde said they painted the bottle caps different colors and used different designs.

“I have seizures and I want to help cure them,” she said.

“We’re making jewelry because of epilepsy,” said Rebecca. “I wanted to help do it so less people would die from seizures.”

The Danny Did Foundation estimates approximately 50,000 people die from epileptic seizures every year. Some of the money raised from the foundation goes toward the purchase of movement monitors which alert parents when their child is having a seizure.

Leslie Golde said fortunately the seizures their children have experienced have not been life threatening but seizures can be for many kids with epilepsy.

“The frequency of seizures can vary considerably,” she said. “It can be several weeks or months between seizures or twice on the same day. It all depends.”

In addition to raising money for Danny Did Foundation, Leslie Golde and her husband, Mike, along with Abby and Rebecca and Victorn and daughter Mia, took part in the Epilepsy Foundation 5K Walk, which was held for the first year in Libertyville on May 12. More than 300 people participated in the Libertyville walk at the Old School Forest Preserve.

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