

## Theatre helps in teen's fight for life



LISA ADAMS/The Acorn

**KICKIN' CANCER**—Outside the Stage Door Theatre on the evening of the Adrienne Wilson's fundraiser are (from left to right): John Ceravolo; her sister, Andrea; Mike Monteleone, Stage Door owner, Adrienne, 15; and Adrienne's boyfriend, Patrick Stein. The event generated nearly \$1,000.

**By John Phane**  
Acorn Staff Writer

The owners of the Agoura Stage Door Theatre last week hosted a fundraiser to benefit the younger sister of one of their theatre family. The evening raised almost \$1,000 to help fund 15-year-old Adrienne Wilson's fight for life against an overwhelming opponent; liver cancer.

"We wanted to do something," said Mike Monteleone, Stage Door owner. "This was the only way we could do anything that would really help. We're just glad we could do something."

In May, Adrienne, home from a day at her high school, complained of a side ache and shortness of breath. She lives with her older sister, Andrea, and John Ceravolo, Andrea's friend, and her big sister soon decided Adrienne needed to see a doctor. They did and he sent them to an emergency room.

According to Andrea, her sister underwent a whirlwind of tests, and by 9 p.m. that same day they were told that Adrienne had tumors on both her liver and lungs, and the two were sent to Children's Hospital by ambulance that same night.

They went reeling into a world of hospitals, doctors, chemotherapy, hair loss and a desperate battle for Adrienne to cling to life when she was soon diagnosed with Stage Four, (very advanced, Andrea said) liver cancer.

"They were nice enough to do this benefit for us (the Stage Door) because I've acted in one show and directed another for the theatre," said Andrea. She appeared in the comedy "Meanwhile, Back on the Couch" and directed "Norman, is That You?"

"They e-mailed me and asked if this was something that would be okay to do, and I thought, 'Wow, that would be great,' and here we are," Andrea said.

Andrea, a middle school teacher, has been forced to quit working to help her younger sister deal with the day-to-day travails of cancer-curing therapies.

"You don't get to control when the times of your doctors appointments. They tell you to show up and you have to," Andrea said. "This week we've been to the doctor three times and the drugstore another time, and that's just the errands we

have no choice about. Helping my sister is a full-time job."

Adrienne will begin her third round of chemotherapy this week.

"They consider her stable—her cancer hasn't gotten any worse—but the tumors haven't reduced in size," Andrea said. "But she's feeling better. After the first round she went 10 days without and pain, and after the second round she went 12 days, so we're hoping this round will help for a long time."

A Website has been set up to allow the girls to post updates on Adrienne's condition and progress. The site, while informative, tells the tale of a desperate battle, plagued with problem's with doctors, the side-effects of medicines — such as nausea and hearing loss — and of other setbacks.

The only two really positive notes were of a trip to the Tonight Show, complete with pictures taken with Jay Leno, and of the Stage Door fundraiser with all proceeds going to Adrienne.

If you would like to keep up with Adrienne battle, they now live in Burbank, the Website is: [www.answerfriend.com/](http://www.answerfriend.com/)

[adriennekicks cancersass](mailto:adriennekicks cancersass).

Adrienne named it.

If you would like to help, you can email via computer to: [Adriennesurvivor@aol.com](mailto:Adriennesurvivor@aol.com).

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