

Aggielife

For the Life of a child

Musicians band together to benefit Aggie family

BY BETH FOCHT
The Battalion

Aggies helping other Aggies is a practice and a code upheld here at Texas A&M. If an Aggie has car problems on Highway 6 or 21, more than likely another Aggie will come to their aid. If an Aggie needs help finding a building on campus, another Aggie will be quick to show them the way.

Eight Aggies can lend a helping hand to two of their own, Ryan and Fara Goodwyn, Classes of '95 and '96, at a benefit concert at Crooked Path Ale House to pay medical bills for their 9-month-old son Ras.

Goodwyn was born Dec. 6, 1997, more than three months premature and weighed only 1 pound 11 ounces.

Goodwyn, Ras' mother and the department of admissions supervisor for Texas A&M College of Medicine in the Department of Student Affairs, said she paid the first three months of his life in a hospital.

"The hospital bills added up with all the problems Ras had," Goodwyn said. "He was born with a collapsed lung, has had six blood transfusions and numerous surgeries."

"The list just keeps going on," she said. "The next thing we knew, Ryan and Fara had a \$3,000 medical bill on our hands."

Taylor, manager of Crooked Path Ale House and a friend of the Goodwyns, said when he found out about the medical bills, he wanted to help.

"An Aggie Goodwyn is an employee at Cafe Excel, which is owned by the same people who own Crooked Path," Taylor said. "When we found out about their \$3,000 medical bill, we wanted to come up with a plan to help Ryan and Fara as much as we could."



PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN AND FARA GOODWYN

"Ryan is a friend of mine and I felt it was important for Crooked Path to be a big part of this benefit."

He said he hopes the benefit concert will significantly cut the Goodwyns' medical bills.

"There have been several benefits in the past, similar to this one, that have done quite well," Taylor said. "Crooked Path is hoping for the same kind of success."

Taylor said he was pleased with the musical lineup of Joan and Dave, Bobby Hall and the Ice Cold Blues Band, Jay Goodin, Blue Earth and Floor.

"We have some great live bands that get a good response in College Station lined up for this event, which should lend to the kind of success that we are hoping for," he said.

Dave Duce, guitarist for Blue Earth, said this benefit concert was very important for the band to be involved with.

"Ryan and Fara are friends of the bands and we knew from the beginning about Ras," Duce said. "We really wanted to do something to help them because they are good people, so we got involved in the benefit concert."

"We hope students will be interested in the concert," he said. "The event should be a success."

The show is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. and will take place in the upstairs area of Crooked Path.

Cover is \$10 at the door and all proceeds will go to the Goodwyns, including a donation from Crooked Path.

Taylor said he hopes to reach capacity at the venue in order to raise a significant amount of money for the Goodwyns.

"College Station is a community that helps people," Taylor said. "It is basically Aggies helping Aggies that will bring people to the concert and make it a success."



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLUE EARTH

Above: Blue Earth (from left to right) Rob Chickering, Jeremy Renaud, Peyton Lowry, Dave Duce and Chuck Conser is one of the bands playing at the Ras Goodwyn benefit concert tonight.

Left: Ras Goodwyn at 9 months with his parents, Fara Goodwyn and Ryan Goodwyn. Today Ras weighs 13 pounds, the weight of a five-month-old baby.

Bottom left: Ras Goodwyn 3 months old. In February, Ras only weighed 3 pounds and was hospitalized in the Special Care Nursery at Scott and White Hospital in Temple.

Below: Joan Saslow, a local folk-blues musician, will play tonight at Crooked Path Ale House to help raise money for the Goodwyn family.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN SASLOW



PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN AND FARA GOODWYN



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