

Brady Kohn Foundation to host benefit fair

By Andrea Miller
Staff Reporter

For the Love of Brady Children's Fair will be held Saturday, May 21 at St. Anthony's in the Hills in Avondale, Pa., just north of Hockessin.

The event, in its third year, was started by Andrew and Carolyn Kohn and 100 friends and supporters, in memory of the Kohn's 2 1/2-year old son, Brady, who died from an infection following chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant to treat aplastic anemia.

The organization's mission is to raise money for research and awareness for donating cord blood. The blood has been successfully used to treat aplastic anemia and 40 other diseases.

The group has held six events, which have raised more than \$200,000 for research. About \$145,000 of that money has been awarded to Dr. John Wagner, a Hockessin native and University of Minnesota's Stem Cell Institute researcher, who used it to fund a small cord blood stem cell study. Those findings have helped strengthen his bid for an \$8 million National Institute of Health (NIH) grant.

Wagner's NIH proposal has received high marks, said foundation founder Carolyn Kohn, a veteran American Heart Association fundraiser, almost assuring some level of award.

Kohn says though she may never fully understand why Brady was taken from her, his death has mobilized a community to make a difference in an impor-



Brady Kohn died after a bone marrow transplant in 2002.

tant area of medical research.

"People cannot ignore the importance of donating umbilical cord blood. It is not some far off theoretical cure. It is coming, as sure as the cell phone or the laptop computer came and changed everything, and it will save your life and the life of your loved ones," she said. "Think about it, if there were a nuclear attack, every person's bone marrow would be destroyed, as in aplastic anemia, and it could be the only thing that would save you is cord blood transplant."

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The rain date is Sunday, May 22, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The entrance fee, which includes the cost for all of the entertainment such as music and other live stage performances throughout the day, pony rides, a moon bounce, clowns, face painting, miniature golf, games and a toddler corner, is \$4 for children and \$8 for adults.