



Kayla Nebeker's fiancé, Kyle Karhohs, videotapes the Gala for Kayla Thursday night in the Manzanita Bowl. Karhohs flew to Reno from Salt Lake City so he could bring back footage of the concert for Nebeker.

Students rock out to benefit cancer battle

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When Kayla Nebeker was diagnosed with Glioblastoma multiforme, an aggressive and often deadly form of brain cancer known as GBM, on July 22, she reacted with indifference.

"I really wasn't too worried," Nebeker recalled. "I beat it (cancer) once before and can do it again."

About four years ago, Nebeker, 23, survived stage-three colon cancer, but GBM is regularly associated with debilitating headaches.

Because of her weakened condition and the persistent headaches, Nebeker said she could no longer work and found herself unable to pay for treatment, rent and even food.

That's when she said her friends came to her rescue.

Since August, Nebeker's friends and family have raised nearly \$25,000 to help her in her battle against cancer.

Nebeker's friends, the Golden Key Honor Society and the Associated Students of the University of Nevada hosted another event on Thursday, the Gala for Kayla, that brought that total even higher.

"We thought \$5,000 was a pretty ambitious goal," Katrin Lamprecht said. "But we reached it."

Lamprecht, 23, said she and other friends of Nebeker's started planning for the event in August.

"We thought that a benefit concert would be an awesome way to help Kayla out and show her how much we love her," Lamprecht said.

The concert included a craft and bake sale, a raffle with prizes donated from places like Mount Rose Ski Tahoe and the Eldorado Hotel & Casino, and performances by local groups including Slasher, E-mic, Locus and Element.

Despite cold temperature, about 300 people attended the concert, though they were able to battle the chill with hot chocolate and donated Starbucks coffee.

According to Lamprecht, the performers who drew in the most people were the hip-hop act Element and spoken-word artists E-mic and Locus. In honor of the cancer benefit, E-mic performed a song he said he wrote about women smokers.

Lamprecht said that the \$5 entry fees and all proceeds from the concert, which was held in the Manzanita Bowl, went directly to help Nebeker.

Nebeker said she is very grateful to have such amazing friends.

"I can't imagine what (fighting cancer) must be like for people who don't have the support I've had," Nebeker said.

Thanks in large part to the money raised by Nebeker's friends and family, she was moved to the Huntsman's Cancer Institute at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City near the end of September.

"Kayla is doing much better in Utah," Lamprecht said.

Nebeker said she is now waiting to hear back from the Tumor Board at Huntsman's to decide what treatment options she has to take care of the rest of her tumor, even after 60 percent was already removed.

Although she has had unwavering help from all of her friends and family, Nebeker said that her fiancé, Kyle Karhohs, has been instrumental in her fight.

"Kyle has been huge," Nebeker said. "He dropped everything to come to Utah to be with me."

Since Nebeker could not return to Reno to attend the concert, Karhohs, 24, came to film it for her. In a tearful, brief speech, he thanked the participants for their support and said Nebeker wished she could have been there as well.

Lamprecht said that she and the rest of Nebeker's friends wanted to make an event like the Gayla for Kayla an annual occurrence.

"Kayla isn't the only person who needs our help," Lamprecht said. "Lots of people need our help to fight cancer. And besides, now we already know how to put on a (benefit) concert."