



October 2011

Beth Engen Mackey enjoys her life. She works hard at raising her teenage daughter on her own, she works fulltime as an accountant, and she spends quality time with her family and friends. In April, she began experiencing headaches that seemed to get worse over the summer.

Then in August, her life changed. Dramatically.

Beth had a painful headache that would not go away. She went to the Emergency Room but nothing was resolved. Later that week she went to her physician for a recheck and ended up going back in the ER. She was admitted to the hospital and the doctors discovered discolored cells in her spinal fluid. After many tests, the doctors concluded that she had a slow leak of fluids in her brain.

When she had three seizures in a row, the doctors in Ames realized they couldn't do anything more for Beth so sent her by ambulance to Iowa City on Friday, August 19. She seemed to be doing better and was even moved to a hospital room from her bed in the ICU. But on Monday morning Beth had a horrifying pain in her head. She had swelling and fluid and the pressures in her brain were very high. She was rushed immediately to surgery where doctors placed two drain tubes in her head to relieve pressure. She had a breathing tube inserted and was medicated so that she would sleep allowing her brain to rest and heal.

Beth spent the remainder of August and almost the entire month of September in the hospital. She's walking on her own and is slowly starting to gain back her strength. Her family is close by and has helped care for her teenage daughter, made sure her bills got paid, and cared for her home.

Beth is making great progress. She is getting stronger and hopes to eventually go back to work fulltime. But she's got a long road ahead of her, and in the meantime bills and expenses are piling up. In addition to her medical bills, Beth has a house payment and other necessary expenses that come with running a household and raising a child.

We are Beth's friends. We love and adore her and want to help any way we can. We have gotten together to organize Beth's Benefit, a dinner and auction to raise funds to alleviate some of her stress and help with expenses as she recovers and heals.

**We need your help to help our friend.** Please consider a donation for our silent auction or a gift of cash. All of the proceeds will go to help Beth with her mounting expenses.

Beth's Benefit will be held at the Ames Moose Lodge on Saturday, November 19. Dinner will be served from 5 to 6:30 p.m. with auction and entertainment following. Cost is \$5 per person. We hope you will consider a gift to help with the event and make plans to join us for an evening of food and fun to help a wonderful friend.

Thank you for your consideration,

*The Beth Engen Mackey Benefit Committee*

**P.S. If you'd like to make donation, we've set up an account at Bank of the West, 525 Main Street in Ames. Checks can be made payable to the Beth Engen Mackey Fund.**