

Friends Helping Friends



Joe, 35, and Laura, 31, will be married 10 years this October. They have 2 wonderful children, Joey, 6 and Courtney 3. Just like many people right now, they are struggling to get through this hard time and raise a family on a limited income. Unfortunately in mid November 2009 Joe was diagnosed with testicular cancer.

If getting this horrible disease is not enough, Joe does not have health insurance. Joe works very hard, he was employed full-time during the day and worked part time in the evenings, however without any benefits. At the end of 2009 his full-time employer filed bankruptcy. So now, they are faced with fighting the toughest battle of their lives this far, with the constant worry of how they are going to pay for his treatments, surgery and continue to support their family.

Laura is a stay at home mom raising her children. She has tried to get back into the workforce with no luck, but is not giving up. She would like to go back to college to receive a degree in the medical field. Laura is a very strong woman who is trying to keep her family positive and confident that they will make it through this hard time.

Joe has already had one surgery and two rounds of chemotherapy, where he spent 6 days straight in the hospital, just before Christmas and he just completed the second round last week.

He is doing well, as of right now the cancer has not spread.

Joe and Laura are always the first people to step up and volunteer when anyone needs it or have always lent a helping hand. They have a very long road ahead of them. I know they're a strong family and with the continuous prayers and support of their family, friends, and very giving strangers they will get through this. Stronger than ever!

As you can imagine the bills are mounting, the day to day expenses are growing between medical bills, mortgages and other living expenses. So, since all of this has happened, I have partnered with the "Friends Helping Friends Foundation, Inc." who are sponsoring a benefit to help Laura and Joe raise some money to get through this hard time.

We are trying to get donations in any form: monetary, gift certificates, sporting event tickets or gift baskets to auction off.

We would be so grateful for any kind of help at all. It would mean so much to a great family.



Come eat some great Mexican food and have drinks to support and help raise money for a great family in need. 100% of the food proceeds raised will be donated to the family. There will a array of raffles, auctions and a door prizes.

Date: Sunday, February 21st 11:00 am-5pm

**Place: Mixteca Mexican Grill & Tequila Bar
1390 South Eastwood Drive
Woodstock, Illinois 60098**

www.myspace.com/mixtecagrilltequilabar

**Event given by: Claudia Kriesemint owner
of Mixteca Mexican Grill & Tequila Bar**

**Special thanks to: Taylor Abitua,
Inner Peace Pilates Inc.**

www.innerpeacepilates.com

If you would like to send a donation to the family please make checks payable to: Friends Helping Friends Foundation, Inc. and mail to: First Nations Bank, Attn: Jodi Bulanda, 7757 W. Devon Ave, Chicago, IL 60631 OR visit www.friendshelpingfriendsfoundation.com
All donations will be appreciative.