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Great Valley

Margaret Mead's quote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." I agree with Mead, without a dedicated public, progress cannot be made. Over the past several years I have been fortunate enough to have participated in several organizations that have bettered the community. Every year since seventh grade I have volunteered as a soccer referee for the Special Olympics that take place at the GCVSA line road fields. I have been an active member of Boy Scout troop 76 for over eight years. What I am most proud of is Shows for a Cure, an organization that I co-founded with two friends.

Shows for a Cure is a non-profit organization that was started as a means to raise money for cancer research. It started out as a fundraiser for our Relay for Life team, but it evolved into much more. Two friends, Josh and Brendan, and I were brainstorming fundraising ideas for our team and one of us thought that holding a benefit concert would be an innovative and fun way to raise money for our team.

I have been to more concerts than I could possibly count, however I never organized one myself. We knew that the first priorities were to set a date and secure a venue to hold the concert. Fortunately, a local church was very interested in our idea and offered their gymnasium as a venue. After we secured the venue we needed to make a list of possible bands that we wanted to play. Using our connections with the music scene we made our plan known in the local music community and several bands contacted us about playing before we even had to ask them. Our next goal was to advertise the concert. Josh designed a flyer for the concert that we distributed everywhere we could. Josh and I handed out flyers at the mall, at other concerts, at our school, and at other schools. Promoting the concert was of the utmost importance. The

big day finally approached and Josh, Brendan, and I were frenetically working to make sure everything would go as planned. When the first band started playing and the crowd started dancing, all we could do was take a step back and watch in awe of what we had just accomplished.

I could not believe how well the concert went. We raised a lot of money for a good cause and it was a great success. Being part of this event gave me a great sense of accomplishment and I felt proud of what we did. We set up a concert where hundreds of people had fun and all of the money we raised went directly to the American Cancer Society. I love this music and I love helping others, Shows for a Cure has allowed me to embrace both. Since that first show May thirteenth, 2005 we have organized two more benefit concerts and raised over a thousand dollars for the American Cancer Society.