

Dear Friends and Family,

Many of you know all the trials my daughter has been thru (23 surgeries in her 32 years of life). However, for Martha it has never been a “pity party” for herself. Rather, it has been helping everyone she has met along her life’s path.

One great example was when she went in to get her “port” to deliver her medications for chemotherapy. I found her with this nurse who was thanking her profusely for giving her some cheer and courage to go on with her schooling. Stories like this one are everyday with Martha, and it is for stories like this that I want to honor her spirit.

I invite you to join me in honoring her, my little hero, and become one of “Martha’s Heroes” by making a contribution in her name to Northern Valley Catholic Social Service. Martha has always embraced what NVCSS does for her hometown, which she considers her extended family.

It took Martha 10 years to get her degree from UC Davis because of her blindness, our big car accident, all her surgeries and dealing with her father’s death. She is hoping to finish the first half of her Masters in Social Work at Chico State by the end of this May. Once again she has been delayed by surgeries and chemotherapy. Martha takes her life in halves now so she talks about how she is half finished. I’m hoping that showing Martha how many people are behind her will help “stoke her little engine” and get her to the end faster. We will present an engraved plaque to Martha with the names of all her “heroes” after July 1, 2009. The engraving will be recessed so she can read the names by touch. We may include a translation in Braille to help her practice!

You are reading this letter because I consider you an important part of my life. By making a contribution to NVCSS you will be honoring my Martha, my hero.

Anything you can do would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for being a part of our lives!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lina Hitchcock". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned at the bottom of the letter.