

Woman raises money for epilepsy

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Ann Lorenz is on a mission, and she's looking for people to join her.

After seeing loved ones battle with epilepsy, Lorenz is acting on the offensive by forming the Circle of Love and Life for Epilepsy. Through the organization, which is in its early stages, Lorenz is conducting a number of fund-raising projects to support epilepsy wellness and research at St. Luke's Hospital and the University of Kansas Medical Center.

"I'm an individual just trying to get started," she said. "We're aware there's a huge need of support and research. Community involvement is very lacking. I wanted to try to start reaching in the community and let people know there are people interested in helping to bring epilepsy out of the dark."

Lorenz now has two fund-raising projects, the newest of which relies on the donation of old cell phones. Cell phones and cell phone batteries are being collected at drop-off sites at the Olathe school district's education center, 14160 Black Bob Road, the Kansas City Neurological Consultants office, 4400 Broadway, Level 5, in Kansas City, Mo., and The Olathe News, 514 S. Kansas Ave.

"I send the cell phones off to a company who pays for them, and the money goes to the two hospital programs," she said.

Another way Lorenz is raising funds to combat epilepsy is through the sale of jewelry in the gift shops at the Uni-



JOHN PETROWIC/The Olathe News

Ann Lorenz recently started the Circle of Life and Love, which will help raise awareness about epilepsy. Lorenz also is starting a cell phone donation drive that will be used to raise funds for the cause.

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versity of Kansas Medical Center and St. Luke's South. The jewelry, known as Jerri-ca's Jewels for Epilepsy, can be custom made.

While Lorenz is looking for volunteers for the cell phone drive, she's also looking for volunteers for other reasons.

"I'm on the trail of trying to find volunteers who would be willing to sit with patients who are willing to

have a video EEG, which requires them to be (filmed) 24/7," she said. "These individuals either have no family or friends who can be there for them, or they don't have the money."

Millions of people in the United States have some form of epilepsy, a disorder characterized by recurrent disturbances of brain function that can be associated with impairment or loss of consciousness or abnormal

movements or behavior.

Notable people with the disorder include Aristotle, Charles Dickens, Julius Caesar, St. Paul, Vincent van Gogh and George Frederick Handel.

Lorenz also encourages people to make donations to support epilepsy research at St. Luke's Hospital and the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Above all, Lorenz wants to get connected with oth-

ers whose lives have been affected by epilepsy.

"If there are people who are interested in putting together a bike-a-thon or a long-distance run, that'd be great," she said.

"I can't do all of this alone. It would be a great thing to have more hands and voices."

For more information about the group, contact Lorenz at annlorenz@sbcglobal.net.