

A FUND-RAISING EFFORT ON BEHALF OF

Lisa Medina

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2010 | 6-10PM

AT THE **AMERICAN-POLISH CENTURY CLUB**

33204 MAPLE LANE (14 & HOOVER), STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN 48312 | (586) 264-7990

ADULTS: \$20 ~ 13-18: \$10 ~ 12 & UNDER: FREE
PASTA DINNER / CASH BAR / RAFFLE / PRIZES / CARICATURES

If unable to attend, donations are welcome - please send to:

LISA MEDINA FUND, c/o 2201 HAMLIN RD, SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MI 48317

LISA'S STORY...

On January 14, 1986 Lisa Medina was born with a rare birth defect known as a Tessier Cleft. The area from her top lip to her eye sockets was completely open, devoid of eyes and rendering her blind. In the womb, drowning in her mother's amniotic fluid, Lisa was fully expected to die. Doctors told her parents she wouldn't survive 72 hours. When the hours passed & she was still alive, they said she would be mentally disabled and physically weak. They were wrong.

Since then Lisa has had 65 reconstructive surgeries to repair her clubbed foot, create and build up the bone structure in her face and repair the hole in her hard palate. She is now 23 years old. She graduated five months ahead of her class in December 2003, despite defending herself from frequent vicious, and sometimes bloody attacks by a group of school bullies.

Lisa first emailed me in May of 2008, recalling a time when she'd seen Radiocraft (my band) play a show in her area. Moved by her situation, the occasional email turned into the occasional phone call which turned into near weekly 2-hour conversations, but most of all, the start of a cherished friendship. She is incredibly bright, quick to laugh & has a great sense of humor. She is one of the most enthusiastic music fans I have ever met & the most intuitive & articulate 23 year old I know.

Lisa lives just north of Flint, Michigan with her Dad, Stepmom & 3 sisters in a rural area with dirt roads making independent mobility with a cane impossible. She has many social-related strengths & has great talent & interest in writing. Most of our conversations are centered around her aspirations of living independently & becoming a productive part of society - and as of recently, she is one step closer to realizing that goal.

A recipient of social security disability, after several months of writing letters, making phone calls & interviewing with counselors, Lisa has successfully petitioned the Michigan Commission for the Blind to enroll her in the adult program at the Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB). LCB is one of only a few specialized centers in the U.S. leading the way to independent living for the blind, helping them lead normal, productive lives. At the LCB, Lisa will learn all the necessary skills to live self-sufficiently in her own apartment. She will greatly expand on her mobility & learn how to shop & cook for herself as well as enjoy monthly social activities like dining out, rock climbing and even white water rafting. Lisa was notified in early December that she has been approved to leave for Louisiana on January 18th - 4 days after her 24th birthday!

The LCB also has a Career Center, which will help Lisa explore employment options & sharpen her existing talents to aid her in entering the workplace.

Lisa's Dad and Stepmom have a loving combined family of four girls. Her Stepmom is a care-taker & her Dad is a house painter who's been searching for steady work for over a year & recently forced to travel out of state for months at a time whenever an employment opportunity arises. As a result, the family has fallen on extremely hard financial times.

The purpose of this fund-raiser is to supplement Lisa's modest disability checks & afford her the means to buy necessary household items for her apartment, help with groceries, pay off a computer loan & establish a bank account. At a time when many of us are understandably jaded by the scores of bad apples in our society unjustly living off of state-sponsored handouts, it is important to remember the sweetest ones among us, truly blameless in their plight & undeniably worthy of our compassion. People like Lisa - not a victim looking for a handout, but a friend in need of a hand UP.

Please join us for a great night of good food, good friends & goodwill!

THANKS TO OUR GROWING LIST OF SPONSORS:



American Polish Century Club

F&M COMPANIES BUILDING FOUNDATIONS



Dan-D Caricatures & Cartoons



Nick's 22nd Street