



And the Winner is

Claire

Congratulations!

Scroll to Page Two to read Claire's story.

Opportunity Drawing
for a
Handcrafted Nautical Quilt
benefiting
Challenged America
through
the Disabled Sailors
Benefit Regatta

By KC Matlock:

The very last ticket that I sold, just before the skippers left the meeting to get their boats to the start line, was to one of my dearest friends, Captain Susie Campbell. Many of you know her as a popular instructor at the Women's Sailing Convention. Susie was the very first sailing friend I met when I learned to sail 13 years ago and knew no one. She is also the co-founder of my Anchors Aweigh Youth Sailing program, and next month marks our 12 year anniversary running that program for abused and neglected teens who live in group homes. Susie is a dear soul, kind heart, and one of my all-around favorite people.

When Susie bought my last sheet of tickets, she told me they were for her niece, Claire. She asked for the 'winning ticket', and I promised her I'd sprinkle a little pixie dust on them especially for Claire.

Claire is only 8 years old, but has endured more pain and fear than anyone I've ever known. She was born with an extremely rare, painful and deadly, kidney disease. She is the oldest ever known survivor of this disease. Children born with the disease are traditionally not given kidney transplants. But Claire's family raised the money, and an angel masquerading as a man in her neighborhood donated one of his kidneys for her.

In January of this year, both Claire's diseased kidneys were removed. She was stabilized for several weeks, then given the neighbor's kidney. After several months at the Ronald McDonald house, we got word that Claire was able to go home, and a couple of months later she was able to attend a little school before the year ended.

On Saturday, after much good-natured teasing about 'Who will be taking home KC's quilt this year?', it was finally time for the long-anticipated drawing! With a big flourish, the ticket was chosen. I recognized Susie's handwriting, and discerned Claire's name on the ticket before Monique Vigeant even got her hand all the way out of the bucket! There was not a dry eye in the room, after I explained who it was who had won!

Today I delivered Claire's quilt to Susie, and on Wednesday she will be taking it to her in Wisconsin. When Susie arrives at Claire's house, they are holding a big barn dance and party to celebrate Claire's six month milestone anniversary with her new kidney. Her family and loved ones let out a collective sigh of relief when she passed that crucial mark. Please say a prayer that this is the just the beginning of a long, happy, healthy life for this little dear.

Susie told me that Claire often takes a blanket or something else snugly and comforting to her painful tests and procedures. Now she will have the quilt with the sailboats on it to remind her of her dear Aunt Susie who has a sailboat.

I could not possibly be happier to be sending 'my quilt' off to Wisconsin for little miracle girl Claire! And everyone else there in attendance on Saturday felt the same way. Everyone enjoyed sending it to Claire even more than they would have enjoyed having it for themselves.

WORSА raised \$2,000 to benefit Challenged America. By far, the lion share of the donations came from the quilt drawing ticket sales. Many thanks to all of you who supported this cause for WORSА. :)

Sunday, August 21, 2011

