

Kathleen McGrath Interview:

1. Yes, this is the third hair donation event at Batavia's Katrina Salon & Spa in memory of Brian McGrath. We have had two previous events, the first on April 6, 2008 (we had almost 70 hair donations!) and the second on March 21, 2010. We have to space them out every couple of years to allow our hair to grow long enough to donate.

We track on T-shirts we wear that day. The amount of hair that was donated by us was... April 6, 2008 - Aisling 10" and myself 10". March 21, 2010 - Aisling 11" and myself 9"

My late husband, Brian, asked that I do something charitable for melanoma. He was grateful for the research that had been done previously, that we benefited from, but we knew there was much more that could/needed to be done. We wanted to help somehow.

Brian was always striving to get back to a type of normal or routine in his life while he lived with cancer. He kept having cancer a secret from some family and friends for the first year because he didn't want to be treated differently, but soon treatments would make him look like a cancer patient with hair loss and a puffy face. Katrina, the owner of Katrina Salon & Spa, had Brian as a client. She helped him cope with his hair falling out by making him comfortable at the salon. After Brian died, my hair was long and with a little more time I could donate it! Asking others to give their hair with me seemed like a good way to involve our Batavia community as a tribute to cancer patients who may not want to give up their hair or identity. Katrina supported the idea of the event. We always pick a date close to Brian's birthday of March 25th.

2. I have been running with Glen Ellyn Runners (GER) since we moved to Batavia in 2001. Jack H. Marston II was also part of this running club and the fund created in his memory is the official charity organization for GER where "Athletes combining their marathon efforts to fight melanoma." When I donate my hair I run a marathon with Jack's Team too! Sharon Marston, Jack's widow, has created the non-profit organization with a mission that I support 100%.

3. Brian loved the simple things in life. St. Patrick's Day was his favorite holiday! He liked a good baseball game and he was proud of his family. When he walked into a room he brought comfort to everyone and was kind to the people he met on his journey. Even at 36 he had such a great understanding, about everything. His college roommates at Bucknell described said he would be remembered for his bright smile, good sense of humor and strength in the face of adversity. For those of us that knew him, we should feel blessed knowing that we were all part of the reason he went through so much and why he wanted to live so badly. For those that didn't, hopefully all we do in his memory will improve the treatment for Melanoma.

4. I have seen people in our support groups with wigs, but do not know how they mean to a person dealing with cancer. Brian went bald and did not get a wig, they were expensive. When you go through chemotherapy you don't have the choice of keeping your hair. I hope our donations help people that are living with cancer the choice to keep their identity and how they want to look.

5. To donate your hair, please call and make an appointment with Katrina Salon & Spa, they can answer any other questions about the requirements. Most of the hair organizations request that donations be healthy hair from at least 8-10" inches in length. We will give to various organizations, sometimes depending on the length you have to give or if your hair is treated, etc.

For people not donating their hair, there is still plenty to do. Katrina Salon & Spa will also be accepting appointments for skin checks with PA Shannon Marrow and GREEN hair extension are available for a \$10 donation as a way to celebrate St. Patrick's day! If there are spots available, regular haircuts can be done for a \$40 donation.

We will also have a raffle with lots of running gear and other great prizes. Enticing Cuisine is providing festive snack and Limestone Coffee & Tea hot beverages. Andy Young will be there from andrewyoungphotography.com and information from LivingWell and Fox Valley Hospice. All of our contributions from Cancer Awareness event go to Jack's fund (<http://www.jacksfund.org>).

6. In the past we have reached over 60 hair donations and up to \$4,000 in donations! No contribution is ever too small. It is nice bringing the community together and endearing for the Quinn and McGrath families each year we host this event in Brian's memory. We hope you join us!



Free Skin checks by local dermatologist
(call Katrina's to schedule appointment)

Raffle Items

Free Sunscreen

www.jacksfund.org



In Memory of Brian McGrath

Katrina Salon and Spa and The Jack H. Marston II Melanoma Fund are joining forces to raise funds and awareness for melanoma.

Date: Sunday, March 17, 2013. Time: 11 am - 2pm Phone: 630-482-2772

Brian McGrath - husband, father, son, friend:

Brian and his wife, Kathleen, had just started a family with a one-month-old daughter when they received the news on Christmas Eve of 2003.

Brian McGrath was just 34 years old when he was diagnosed with melanoma.

Brian lost the battle on October 30, 2005.

Melanoma is (add statistics)

"We envision a world where every adult and child is aware of the risks of melanoma and takes preventative measures; where those who suffer from melanoma receive comfort and healing; and ultimately, where every case of melanoma will be completely curable."

