

Dancing to Change a Life

March 31, 2012

NOURA SMILEY
Staff Writer

On Saturday March 31, Southview's ninth annual fundraiser, Dance for a Chance will be held. This year, the fundraiser will focus on raising money for sophomore Valerie Taylor who has multiple physical and mental disabilities that require her to use a wheelchair. The fundraiser will be called Project H.A.V.E.N, which stands for Home Accessibility for Val's Exceptional Needs. Valerie's disabilities make her life hard both in and out of school. She lives in a home that hinders her quality of life since it is not easily navigable with a wheelchair. This year, the members of Dance for a Chance and the Professional Remodelers Association of Ohio will come together to raise money and help improve Valerie's home life.

Rebuilding parts of Valerie Taylor's home will drastically improve her quality of life. Senior Alyssa Portnoy and member of the Ambassador Committee stated, "Valerie Taylor is a sophomore in Southview High School who is like most normal teenagers. She loves going to dances, listening to Taylor Swift, and her favorite color is purple. However, she has severe mental and physical disabilities that makes life at home and school very difficult. The house she currently resides in is unfit for her disabilities.

Along with Dance for a Chance, Professional Remodelers Organization of Ohio is building Val a new home that will be appropriate to all her needs. The money from this year's Dance for a Chance will be raising money towards the remodeling of Val's home, along with all the necessities that come along with her home."

The entire faculty is looking forward to helping one of Southview's very own students. According to superintendent Dr. Brad Reiger, "The Val highlighted in Haven is Southview student Val Taylor, a wonderfully engaging spirit that has touched the lives of educators and peers at Stranahan, Timberstone, and Southview. D4AC funds raised this year will go for improvements to increase the wheelchair accessibility at the Taylor home. Think *Extreme Home Makeover* and you get a sense of Project Haven's scope. Southview students and staff are working enthusiastically to meet the challenge."

The Professional Remodelers Organization of Ohio, also known as PRO will be helping to improve the wheelchair accessibility for Valerie in her home. PRO was established in 1968 and is made up of local businesses throughout Northwest Ohio and Southeastern Michigan with over 40 different types of home improvement contractors, suppliers and other remodeling companies that are going to improve wheelchair accessibility for Valerie. Along with PRO, the

students of Southview's construction program directed by Bob Johnson will aid in the rebuilding of the Taylor's home.

After PRO and the school's construction program improve wheelchair accessibility in Val's home, it will be much easier for her to deal with her disabilities. According to an Intervention Specialist at Southview, Holly Nartker, "Val's home provides insufficient room to allow Val's wheelchair to be accessible. There is no ramp to help her into the house, and when she is inside, the living room is

for a Chance activities," said junior Melissa North.

North is not the only one excited to participate in Dance for a Chance this year. According to junior Mitchell LeStrange, "Dance for a Chance is definitely one of my favorite Southview traditions. I look forward to it every year. Not only are the games and competitions fun, but it is always rewarding to see how much money we made after coming together to help someone in need. The fact that the person that we are raising money for goes to Southview is just icing on the cake."

Students do not have to be dancers in order to participate in Dance for a Chance. Junior Richa Agarwal who is a member of the Activities Committee will not be dancing this year, however, she will still come to Dance for a Chance to volunteer and show some support. "I am really disappointed that I did not end up being a dancer for this year's Dance for a Chance. I have danced every other year and always enjoyed it. But even though I am not dancing, that will not stop me from volunteering and helping the cause in any way possible. I will direct some activities and still be a part of the Dance for a Chance spirit. I am really looking forward to seeing what Southview can do for a fellow student that needs our help," said Agarwal.

D4AC
DANCE FOR A CHANCE



PROJECT HAVEN
Home Accessibility for Val's Exceptional Needs

the only room in the house her wheelchair fits in. Her family needs to lift her up and carry her into every other room in the house."

The students that are participating in Dance for a Chance are more than excited to raise money for Val this year. "Raising money for a fellow Southview student will be really rewarding. I love Dance for a Chance and all of the opportunities that it gives to help others. I know that we will all get together and raise as much money as we can for Val while still having fun and participating in all of the fun Dance

Team dinners at The Village Inn as well as Buffalo Wild Wings have already been held in order to raise money for Valerie's cause. According to the Sylvania Township news, "Students have already begun to hold fund-raising events for the benefit of their 16-year-old classmate and her family. If the house can be constructed for little or no money, funds raised will be used for furnishing the new home and providing any special items which may be necessary to make it fully accessible."

All the hard work will pay off on March 31 and Val will be presented with a home that is fit for her exceptional needs.

