



NEWS RELEASE December 3, 2013

Santa Maria Is About To Get A Little Brighter

The People for Leisure And Youth, Inc. (PLAY, Inc.) and the City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department welcome the community to the second annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Friday, December 6th starting at 5:00 p.m. Guests are invited to gather around the 24-foot-tall tree with hot cocoa, cookies, and the sweet sound of Christmas carolers, as they watch the official flipping of the switch by 5-year-old Jillian Garcia.

Jillian has been diagnosed with Ph+ALL which is Philadelphia Chromosome Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, a cancer that begins in the bone marrow. In Ph+ALL, the body makes too many abnormal lymphocytes (a type of white blood cell that helps fight infection). As a result, there is not enough room for other kinds of blood cells to develop. For more information about Jillian, please visit her Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TeamJillyBean>.

A special thanks to the following sponsors for making the purchase of the tree possible: PLAY, Inc., Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor & Convention Bureau, Altrusa International Inc. of Santa Maria, Dignity Health, the Santa Maria Times, KCOY/KKFX, the Santa Barbara Foundation, Golden State Water Company, JD Humann, Donna Kreibel, Santa Maria Noontime Kiwanis, Select Staffing, Altrusa International Inc. of the Central Coast, Santa Maria Energy, Alan Johnson Performance Racing, Santa Maria Rotary Club Breakfast, Alex Posada, Snow Construction, Santa Maria Sunrisers Lions Club, Walmart, Community Bank of Santa Maria, Cindy Hoskins, Dennis Smitherman, Celeste and Bailey Hudson, Frances Walker, Marjorie Gjerdrum, and Phil Sinco.

For more information, please call the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department at (805) 925-0951 extension 260.

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