

ICE CREAM with Papa

By Calla Turnbull



Who else but your grandfather could get away with taking you out for ice cream for breakfast? It was just one of many good times that made Hayley Christensen's relationship with her 'Papa' so special. The two loved spending time together – spending hours boating, watching hockey, making Christmas shortbread together, and playing pranks on people. Hayley's grandfather, a wonderful storyteller, also entertained his granddaughter with stories of his childhood and his days as a commercial fisherman on Vancouver Island.

So it was a tremendous blow when Hayley's grandfather was diagnosed with lymphoma. After an eight-month battle, her beloved papa passed away. A month later, the 12-year-old Calgarian asked her guests to bring donations for the Canadian Cancer Society instead of presents to her birthday party – she raised \$765. This success served as a catalyst for the next two years of fundraising she would undertake.

"After seeing her papa go through what he had to and seeing how it affected other family members and friends, she doesn't want other people to experience what we went through and still struggles with it to this very day," says Hayley's mom, Alena.

On Father's Day that same year, Hayley held a bake and book sale on the family's front lawn. She made cookies and handmade posters, while friends and family donated their books to the cause – all of which helped raise more than \$600 for the Society. But Hayley wasn't done yet.

More recently, Hayley used social media to run a hugely successful bottle drive – exceeding her goal of \$800. By the end of her six-week fundraiser, Hayley had hit nearly \$1,300.

One of Hayley's favorite quotes is, "Perhaps they are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down and let us know they are happy." If this is true, Hayley's attitude and efforts for the Canadian Cancer Society are creating a lasting legacy for her grandfather, one which certainly would make him shine with pride. +

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