

## *The Family Story*

Let me introduce you to a special family. Karen is the single mother of beautiful 13 year old triplets. Teens Kylie, Megan and Tyler and their mom are a regular family in every sense of the word with some big exceptions and they need your help.

Two of the triplets, Megan and Tyler, were diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at birth and recently with another neuromuscular disorder called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) which is a form of Muscular Dystrophy. SMA is a degenerative motor neuron disease which affects all the voluntary muscles in the body such as those used for walking, climbing, head and neck control, and swallowing.

Megan and Tyler use wheelchairs to allow them some mobility, but the modest home they live in is not accessible for individuals with disabilities. Simple things like brushing your teeth, taking a bath, microwaving some popcorn, or getting a drink of water take on a whole new meaning when you can't reach the counter or get around an obstacle like a narrow doorway.

Their mother, Karen, is an amazing woman who tackles more in one week than most people could handle in a lifetime. That being said, Karen has had her own battles to contend with in the past year as she has been fighting breast cancer.

Last October Karen was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer and had to undergo eight weeks of chemotherapy right from the start. The next step was to have a mastectomy over the holidays. By springtime she had to begin a six week course of daily radiation therapy. All this was accomplished due to the strength and the spirit of a devoted mother whose single objective was to remain healthy enough to care for her children by herself.

As a single mother, who works full-time as a pre-school teacher in the community, it will take the commitment and dedication of many hearts and hands to assist this family. With your help we can make a miracle happen for Karen and her three kids.

*Won't you become a Hometown Hero too?*

