

## **AIDAAN.org Day**

May 7, 2009, now known as “AIDAAN.ORG Day,” was a day of celebration to recognize that big heart of one little boy, Aidan Immroth. Aidan is the Creative Director of AIDAAN.ORG, “Angels in Disguise Are Always Near.” AIDAAN.ORG is an organization that makes life in the hospital easier for children who are faced with extended stays. Aidan and his organizational founders, his mom Hallie Immroth, and Kelly Porter, do this by donating iPods and personalized music/movie downloads to children who face extended hospital stays.

In August of 2009, the Cisco ISD Board of Trustees took formal action by adopting AIDAAN.ORG. The purpose of this action was to encourage student groups throughout the district, when looking for service projects, to think about this remarkable young man. This is just what the students of Cisco ISD did.

On May 7, representatives of Cisco ISD student groups, teachers, administrators, and community members came together to celebrate AIDAAN.org. They met with its Creative Director, Aidan, and Co-Founders, Kelly Porter, and Hallie Immroth, via the Distance Learning Network through Cisco ISD, Region XIV Educational Service Center, and M.D. Anderson hospital in Houston. Aidan, along with several of his teachers and classmates at M.D. Anderson, had the chance to meet the Angels of Cisco ISD and receive heartfelt gifts and accolades.

The day began with Mayor Hal Porter reading the Mayorial Proclamation that deemed the official day. Chief of Police Larry Weikel was on hand to name Aidan as a policeman for the day. Next, representatives from student organizations presented gifts and spoke with Aidan. Members of the Cisco High School Art Club raised over \$600 for AIDAAN.ORG, and the Library Media Club raised over \$400. Members from the Health Science and Technology classes then spoke, announcing that during the recent Relay for Life, HST students raised approximately \$7000 for the American Cancer Society. Next on the agenda was Cisco Fire Chief, Walter Fairbanks who honored Aidan by making him an honorary member of the Cisco Fire Department.

Kelly Porter then introduced Mrs. Barbara Luster, recognizing her as one of the first Angels in Disguise and presenting her with a hand-made scarf. Proceeds from scarf sales are donated to brain tumor research. The next introduction was of Michelle Binger who had given the proceeds from crosses made by her loving hands to AIDAAN.ORG. The Cisco High School Student Council and the Honor Society then met Aidan. These two organizations raised funds for AIDAAN.ORG by holding a Hats-Off-To-Aidan Day, during which students gave donations for the privilege of wearing a hat to school all day. Mrs. Rulene Berry’s High School and Junior High Teen Leadership Classes then spoke with Aidan and showed off the student artwork that was auctioned for AIDAAN.ORG. Mrs. Berry read a heart-warming, original poem she had written entitled “Heroes” about Aidan’s impact on the lives of those he met.

Aidan then had the privilege of meeting the Angels at Cisco Elementary. Elementary Principal, Mrs. Hearne, along with the second grade classes all met in the Davis Learning Center at Cisco Elementary to visit with Aidan via the Distance Learning Network.

Students at Cisco Elementary raised funds by having a change drive and earned enough to help donate iPods to several children. Students also helped by collecting items for Pride Kits. Pride Kits are bags of necessary items that Aidan puts together and delivers to the homeless in Houston. The second grade students performed a song for Aidan and his classmates from their recent performance of "Seussical the Musical". The second grade students asked several questions of Aidan. They were anxious to know what his favorite Dr. Seuss book is and his favorite subject in school.

After the link was switched back to Cisco High School, Aidan, who wore his "Lobo Tough" shirt for the occasion, was introduced to members of several Cisco High School Athletic teams. The Varsity Boys' mile relay team, who has qualified for the regional meet, talked with Aidan to tell him that when they compete in the state track meet in Austin, they will be wearing Aidaan.org armbands in his honor. The Lady Lobo regional qualifiers met with Aidan next and presented him with an autographed relay baton. The Lady Lobo relay teams will run their relays with the AIDAAN.ORG emblem on their relay batons. The Cisco High School Varsity Cheerleaders performed a cheer for Aidan and presented him with Cisco Lobo t-shirts. Finally the cheerleaders gave a history lesson about the meaning of "The Big Dam Loboes" and named Aidan an honorary member of "The Big Dam Loboes."

It was a privilege and an honor to these groups to be able to meet and talk with their inspiration and hero, Aidan.