

**For Immediate Release...**

**Giggle Box Project Delivers Its First Gigglebox! Laughter Just May Be the Best Medicine!**

*Nixa, Missouri - September 7, 2013* – The Giggle Box Project a Springfield, MO based not-for-profit announces they are entering into Phase 2 of their mission to reawaken the life-giving power of Joy, through laughter and play for children with cancer. The first Gigglebox will be delivered to Owen Keene for his 10th birthday. Owen is the son of Bryan and Brianna Keene, formerly of Nixa, currently living in Reeds Springs, MO.

The first Gigglebox will be awarded by Susan Dempsey, founder of the Giggle Box Project, during Owen's 10th birthday party and fundraiser on Saturday, September 7th at 5:30pm at The Bridge Baptist Church located at 308 W. Mt. Vernon, Nixa, Mo.

*According to Dempsey, "The Giggle Box Project team is so grateful to the Keene family for allowing us to donate our first Gigglebox to Owen. He is a wonderful boy and we couldn't be happier to present him with our gift of laughter and joy on his birthday. This is just the beginning of what all of us and our supporters have been working toward; bringing laughter and joy into the healing process through a tangible tool, especially for our little ones."*

Giggleboxes are boxes of creative and imaginative toys, donated to children diagnosed with cancer, and to their families. Dempsey pointed out that laughter has been scientifically proven to offer healing benefits during illness, and the Giggleboxes are intended to help sick children and their families relieve the stresses of living with cancer, and to provide joyous moments that lead to healing.

Owen's 10th Birthday Party and Fundraising event is a community fundraiser intended to offset the major expense of hospital and medication bills that the Keene family faces now. Owen is Autistic and was diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma in June of 2012. The event hours are from 4-7pm at The Bridge. There will be games and bounce houses for the children, the Giggle Bus will be there with face-painters and dinner will be served at 5pm for the first 300 attendees. A live and silent auction will also be taking place. A \$10 donation for adults and \$5 for children is requested.

More information about Owen's Party may be obtained on Facebook at "Join Owen's Journey" or <http://www.giggleboxes.org> and donations may be made to Owens family at the event or through <http://www.moautismreport.com/events/>.

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