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GIVE BLOOD, PLAY HOCKEY

Helping out those in need. It's why we do what we do!

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Casey Strale, a 12 year old member of The 949 Roller Hockey club who joined at age of 6, rests today in the ICU floor at CHOC.

The GBPH tournament organizers learned late yesterday that this vibrant boy was diagnosed earlier this week to have a large tumor on his kidney and was rushed to CHOC for further examination and treatment. According to a family representative, doctors had scheduled surgery yesterday but later postponed that surgery as they felt the size of the tumor was too large to operate on at the time. Earlier today, examinations revealed yet another tumor, this on Casey's aorta. Casey will undergo surgery tomorrow while father Chris, mom Traci and his family remain close by his side.



Earlier in the month and still recovering from what was described as a lung infection, Casey was competing in an Iron Man tournament but became weak and could complete only two games. Casey remained with his team to cheer them on until the event was completed. Just last week he was back on the rink for club try outs. Ultrasound results earlier this week showed a tumor on his kidney the size of a baseball, according to the representative.

Casey proudly sports the number 5 on his Plaza Vista Jr. High Varsity roller hockey jersey, is a member of the Irvine Anarchy PeeWee travel team, and has played on travel club teams, including the Mission Jr. Raiders and the MPC Bulls.

Knowing of their mission to support the children treated at CHOC in their annual Give Blood Play Hockey fundraiser, GBPH tournament organizers were contacted to help rally support from the local roller hockey community, and now for a member of that community who needs prayers, help and support.

News about Casey and his family is in-the-making and the volunteers associated with the tournament are scrambling to help as the news evolves.

It's children like Casey why these dedicated volunteers do what they do and who they do it for. They're all pulling for Casey. Won't you, too?

ABOUT GBPH.

The 3rd Give Blood Hockey Inline Hockey Charity Tournament will be held October 9-11 at The 949 Roller Hockey Center in Irvine. The mission of the event organizers is to help our community: to Give Back and to Pay It Forward. Through a vigorous campaign of awareness directed at the hockey community and beyond, chief among our goals are to enhance donor awareness and the need to give life to others, and to help innocents in need. Blood Donations will be taken on Friday from 2:30 p.m. to 9 p.m, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Representatives from Be The Match and BAHBAD representing the National Marrow Donor program will be on site on Saturday and Sunday. The event offers a carnival-like environment with food, raffles and entertainment. Special exhibitions on Saturday include the Mission All-Stars Skills Challenge, a wheelchair hockey match, visits from the Anaheim Ducks' Wild Wing and Power Player cheerleaders, and much more! Proceeds from the event go to the organizer's pledge of \$100,000 to CHOC to build an Oncology Patient Care Room in the new wing of the hospital. The public is encouraged to attend. There is no charge for admission. More information can be found on their web site, www.GIVEBLOODPLAYHOCKEY.org.

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