

LOCAL

# Students donates strands of hair to Locks of Love

By Cassie Crawford

As junior Heather Berryhill sits in the chair at Total Image Hair Salon and hears the buzzing of the clippers, she feels as if she might come to tears seeing the 11 inches of her hair to be chopped right from her head. Click, it's over. The hairdresser hands the ponytail to Heather and she remembers why she was doing this -- for anyone who can't grow their hair -- for Locks of Love.

"I feel that hair is just hair," Heather said. "And to be able to give something to someone who isn't as fortunate as me is just a great cause."

Heather has always wanted to donate her hair to Locks of Love, an organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis.

The children's hairpieces range from \$3,500 to \$6,000, so donating helps.

"At first I thought I was going to cry like a little kid, but after she handed me the ponytail I felt OK, a little relieved actually," Heather said. "My hair will grow back, unlike the kids whose hair won't grow back at all."

When she got the part of Rizzo in Grease, it seemed like the perfect time to finally cut it.

"Mrs. Spears insisted that I get my hair cut, so I would fit the part more," Heather said.

Heather was a good candidate for donation because her hair was so long. Because of how the hair pieces are made, 10 inches is the minimum donation length. She sent in the hair on the same day she got it cut on Nov. 22, with pictures of her getting it cut.

"I was extremely excited with the overall finish of the

hairstyle," Heather said. "I'm not sure if I'll grow my hair back or just keep trimming it."

Locks of Love, which has helped more than 2,000 children, provides custom-made hairpieces because most wigs are made for adults and don't fit children well. The hairpieces form a vacuum seal, so the kids don't have to worry about other children pulling their hair off or losing it at recess. They can continue doing normal activities again.

"I feel that every girl deserves to be able to feel beautiful," Heather said. "And if that means giving my hair to a girl who needs it then I'm all for it."

If you want to know how to donate your hair or more information about Locks of Love, visit [www.locksoflove.org](http://www.locksoflove.org).



## CHECKLIST

Continued from Page One

daughter set it up for me.

My Facebook page has my picture on it because my kids also know how to use digital cameras. I can take pictures, but so far I can't seem to get them off the camera. I am planning to learn how to transfer pictures off of my camera eventually. Someday.

Probably the same day I learn to use Facebook. Anyway, I made the mistake of mentioning that I didn't have any friends. On Facebook, you understand.

"I look like a Facebook loser," I complained to my daughter.

Later that same day, when I opened my email, I had over 75 messages. I realize this is nothing compared to some people who have hundreds of messages to sort through everyday, but I lead a quiet life. I get excited if I have an email that is not from a person related to me by birth or marriage.

Seventy-five emails! Imagine my surprise.

It turns out that to be a friend on Facebook involves emailing the person for permission. It took me two days to figure out which of my children sent out the message that I was desperate for friends.

Of course, the children thought this was highly amusing. Almost as funny as my son deciding it would be hilarious to text both his sisters and all their friends from my phone. Something I would never do myself.

I'm sorry. I like human voices. Plus, texting involves spelling in odd, abbreviated ways. I have a grand total of 17 unopened texts still. If you sent one, feel free to call. I found out that my son was texting when he suddenly became a fount of information about all his sisters' friends. Apparently, he was letting them in on the joke because they were all so

surprised to see my phone number associated with a text.

I have to admit, I think it is funny, too, at some bizarre, ironic level. It is so much like something I would do myself. If I only knew how to work all these new-fangled modern gadgets. Just for the record, I have 22 friends on Facebook now. I guess I accidentally deleted the others.

Cathy Krafve, aka Checklist Charlie, lives and writes with a Texas twang. Comments are invited at <http://checklistcharlie.blogspot.com> or [cathykrafve@gmail.com](mailto:cathykrafve@gmail.com).

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