



NEWS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release

**Contact: Ken Dey**  
**(208) 381-2894 (office)**  
**(208) 631-5322 (cell)**  
[Deyke@slrmc.org](mailto:Deyke@slrmc.org)

## **St. Luke's Children's Hospital Starts Construction on New Teen Room**

-- Room Inspired by Boise Teen's Courageous Battle with Cancer --

**Boise** – A teen room at St. Luke's Children's Hospital will soon be a reality thanks to more than \$60,000 raised through a donation effort that gained national recognition including a \$15,000 grand from the Alicia Rose "Victorious" Foundation in New Jersey.

The money raised is enough to start construction on the teen room. Planning and construction started this month with an expected completion date this fall.

Designed by St. Luke's architects, the nearly 400 square-foot room will occupy a portion of an existing waiting room. The glass-walled room will be fully decorated and outfitted with the latest electronic "teen" gear including a big screen television and video games.

The teen room was inspired by the efforts of Garrett Schramm, 13, who was being treated for cancer at St. Luke's Children's Hospital. Garrett's dream was to have a place at the hospital where he and other teens could hang out together.

A panel of teens, some of whom knew Garrett, will be meeting tonight (August 20) at St. Luke's Children's Hospital to decide on how to decorate the room and to decide what equipment should be purchased.

The fundraising effort began in September 2008 when Garrett, an avid Boise State University Bronco football fan, auctioned off two tickets he had to attend the BSU-Oregon State game. Garrett, who was too sick at the time to attend the game, contacted a local radio station to help him auction the tickets to raise money for the room.

Garrett's ticket auction spawned a flurry of donations to the radio station that raised more than \$8,000. A month later, Garrett lost his battle with cancer, but his dream for the room lives on, thanks to our generous community.

That initial effort spawned even more fundraising projects and donations, everything from a T-Shirt sale that raised \$9,000 to an effort by one of Garrett's former classmates and friend that raised \$600 from schoolmates. Garrett's story was also highlighted on CBS television and donations came from as far away as New Jersey.

"It's so gratifying to know that many compassionate people in this community and nationally have embraced Garrett's dream," said Dr. Jerry Hirschfeld, Administrator of St. Luke's Children's Hospital. "We now can work toward making this dream a reality, and further establish Garrett's legacy."

Dr. Hirschfeld said the \$60,000 is enough to complete the room and outfit it for use by teen patients.

But the fundraising efforts aren't going to stop at \$60,000. Ongoing money will be needed to replace items like electronics and video games when they break or become obsolete, and to work toward building a larger teen room.

"This initial teen room will help give our teen patients a private place to call their own and share with friends, but our ultimate goal is to provide a larger space to better meet the needs of this growing population of patients," Hirschfeld said.

Monetary donations for the teen room effort are still being encouraged to sustain Garrett's vision. To donate, visit [www.stlukesonline.org](http://www.stlukesonline.org) and click on "how to help."

-end-

Editor's Note: Artist renderings of teen room are available at <http://www.stlukesonline.org/news/releases/documents/TeenRoom.pdf>

**EDITORS NOTE: Media is welcome to attend tonight's (Aug. 20) meeting with the teens who are deciding on how to decorate and equip the room. The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Children's Hospital. If interested in attending please call me at 381-2894 (office) or at 631-5322 (cell). Thanks, Ken.**