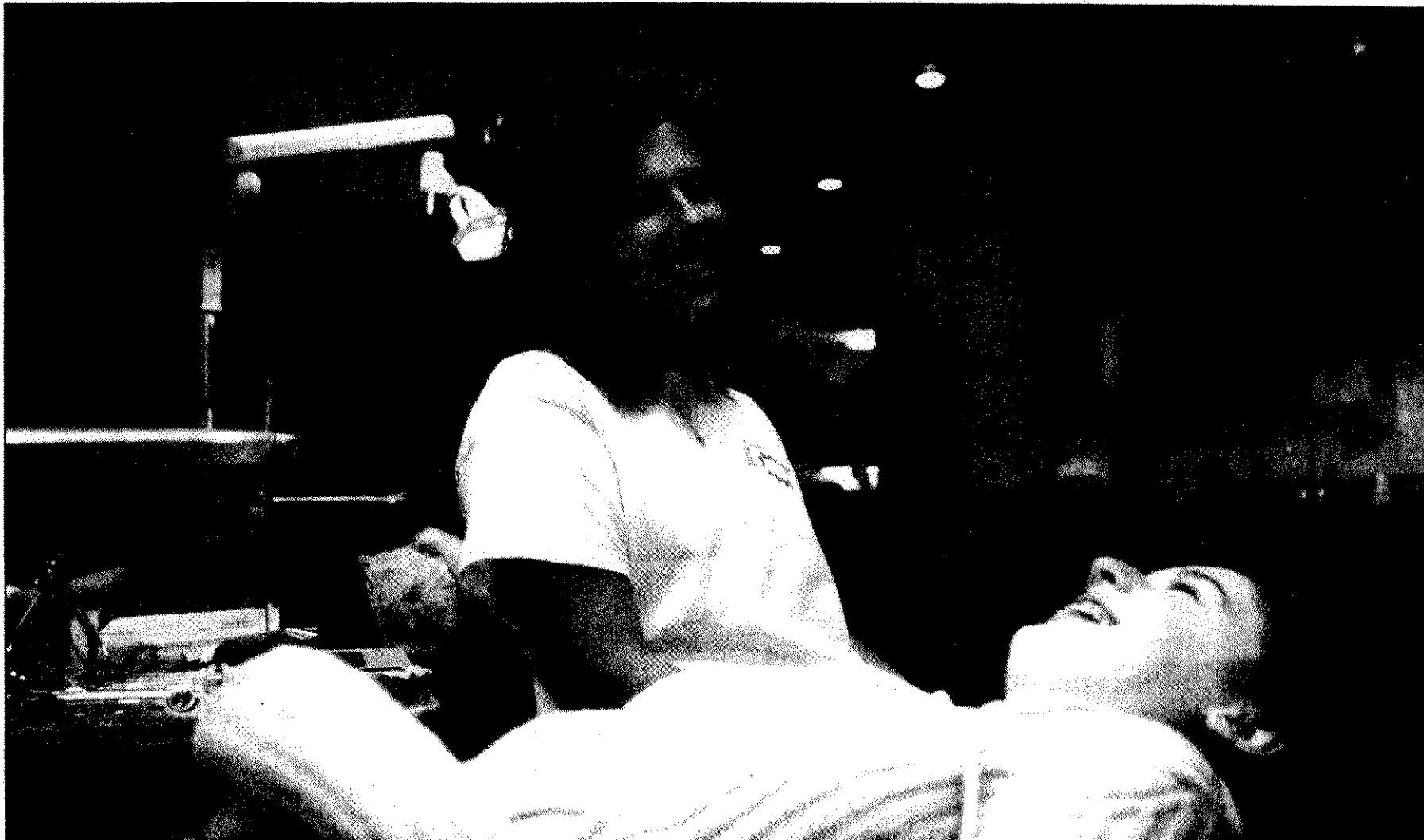


LOCAL

Saturday, June 21, 2008

Midland Daily News

Pucker power





Daily News/KEVIN BENEDICT

Sarah Brenske, orthodontic assistant, chats with Faith Neeb, 13, at Robert Klomparens Orthodontics on Tuesday. Brenske and other employees wore T-shirts they purchased in support of Alex's Lemonade Stand, an organization that aims to raise money for childhood cancer research. Dr. Robert Klomparens said he was looking for something that his office could get involved in for the whole year. "Everybody on the staff's really embraced it" Klomparens said of the charity. For more information about Alex's Lemonade Stand, visit www.alexslimonade.org.

Orthodontist fighting cancer with lemonade

BY KELLY JEROME
for the Daily News

In 2000, a 4-year-old cancer patient in Pennsylvania had a dream of curing childhood cancer. Now, Midlanders can get a taste of that dream while giving to a cause that has raised millions to fight the disease.

Cancer patient Alexandra "Alex" Scott wanted to help the suffering children she saw in cancer hospitals, so she set up a lemonade stand in her front yard to raise money for research.

Although Alex lost her own battle to cancer at age 8, her dream inspired thousands across the nation to construct Alex's Lemonade stands, including one that can be found inside orthodontist Dr. Robert Klomparens' office, 810 W. Wackerly St.

Staff members at Dr. Klomparens' office had been looking for a way to extend their traditional Christmas giving into a year-round program when they learned about Alex's Lemonade Stand.

"We have a lot of families come through, and we see some of the heartache that's out there," Klomparens said. "It was an excellent fit for us."

Patients visiting the office, or anyone off the street, may donate at least \$1 and receive a can of

Alex's Lemonade Stand

*To learn more about the group's
fight against cancer, go to:
www.alexslimonade.org*

cold lemonade and a lemon-shaped paper cutout to sign and tape on the wall. Last year, the office raised \$829, all of which was sent to Alex's Lemonade Foundation.

The staff also wears Alex's Lemonade T-shirts on certain days of the month to promote the fundraiser. Financial coordinator Mary Siefert and her husband build a colorful, scaled-down lemonade stand that sits near the office's entrance, and the entire office has been decorated in a lemony theme.

Klomparens has fit the stand into an incentive program he has for his patients. If the patient is courteous, has especially clean teeth or meets other goals, he or she receives "Klomparens' Kash," which can be saved and used to purchase anything

from candy bars to \$10 gift certificates.

Orthodontic assistant Amy Bauer said she's been amazed watching the children choose to donate their 'kash' rather than spend it on something for themselves.

"Even the littlest kids know what it's about. Almost all of the adults save up 'kash' to donate," she said. "I think even the youngest kids really take it to heart that this little girl did something really unselfish."

Scheduling coordinator Peggy Rock recalled a little girl who wasn't tall enough to see over the counter stretching her arm up to make the donation.

"The money came up and she said 'I want to donate a dollar,'" Rock said.

Bauer said she's really surprised when she sees teenagers donate, because she'd expect them to take advantage of the gift cards. The first donor, she said, was a young teenage boy.

"It was a real jaw dropper, because it was someone you'd least expect," she said.

For details about starting your own Alex's Lemonade Stand or purchasing T-shirts or for any other information about the foundation, go to www.alexslimonade.org.