

# Beautician keeps 'em smiling

She provides custom fitted hair pieces to kids who have lost their hair.

The Dayton Foundation

Looking good can go a long way toward feeling good. This is especially true for a child or teenager suffering from hair loss due to a medical condition.

In 2003, local beautician Becca Sanford decided to put her wig-fitting and hair-styling talents to good use by creating the Hair for Kids Fund through The Dayton Foundation. By providing custom-fitted hair pieces to local children, Hair for Kids helps boost their self-esteem and return a sense of normalcy during a difficult time.

**Q. What is the Hair for Kids Fund, and why did you decide to create it?**

**A.** The Hair for Kids Fund provides custom-made, human hair replacement prosthetics at a reduced cost for children who have lost their hair due to illness or medical treatment, such as chemotherapy, trichotillomania, alopecia, lupus and more.

The decision to start this fund was easy for me. One day I saw a young child in a store trying to cover her bald head with a scarf. Being a hairdresser, I, along with many stylists, have given haircuts to clients, with their hair sent to Locks of Love or Pantene. I've worked with adult chemotherapy patients before, and I know hair loss can be hard for an adult. When a kid's going through this, it's tough tenfold. Hair loss is a visible reminder of the struggle they're enduring. So, I called Dayton Children's Hematology/Oncology department and asked if there was a need to provide children with wigs made from human hair and styled the way they wanted. The answer was yes! Locks of Love and Pantene help people all over the United States. Hair for Kids takes care of kids in our community.

**Q. Why did you decide to use The Dayton Foundation to support this cause?**

**A.** The Dayton Foundation was referred to me by another group. After meeting with



Becca Sanford is a beautician who started Hair for Kids. She puts on fundraisers to support the program. CONTRIBUTED

**'One day I saw a young child in a store trying to cover her bald head with a scarf. Being a hairdresser, I, along with many stylists, have given haircuts to clients, with their hair sent to Locks of Love or Pantene.'**

**Becca Sanford**  
Hair for Kids Fund creator

the foundation staff, I knew immediately that they were the right organization to help me manage the Hair for Kids Fund. Their guidance and support has made it possible for the Hair for Kids Fund to exist.

**Q. Is there a particular story about how someone has been helped because of your fund that is meaningful to you?**

**A.** It's very hard to single out one child. We've helped more than 130 individuals to date. They are all very special and hold a spot in my heart. One was a high school

senior, who was going through chemotherapy for cancer. Being able to receive a human hair prosthetic to wear to school made her feel like she fit in. She was able to attend her prom and have her prosthesis styled like her friends' hair.

**Q. How have you raised funds?**

**A.** At my hair studio, Becca's 3700 Hair Studio in Kettering, we've hosted cut-a-thons, bake sales, bowl-a-thons, motorcycle and poker runs, and basket auctions. Last August, after my husband passed away, I chose to have memorial donations sent to the fund in lieu of flowers.

**Q. How can someone help your cause?**

**A.** Anyone interested in supporting this work either can make a monetary donation directly to the Hair for Kids Fund in care of The Dayton Foundation or attend one of our fundraisers. The Hair for Kids website at [www.hairforkids.org](http://www.hairforkids.org) has more information about us and our events. We also are selling chances at my hair studio for a seven-day stay at a condo located on the beach in Daytona, Florida. Anyone can stop in and purchase a ticket now through Nov. 7.

**Q. What inspires you about this community?**

**A.** It is where I live and where I work. What better place for me to help.

**Q. What advice can you share about giving to the community?**

**A.** If you have the means or the opportunity to help your community, do so. The feeling you get from helping other people is greater than anything!

**Q. How would you complete this sentence, "My giving makes me feel \_\_\_"?**

**A.** Very emotional! To see the expression on kids' faces when they look and feel like themselves again, there are no words to describe how good I feel.

The Dayton Foundation has been helping people help others since 1921 by managing charitable funds, awarding grants to nonprofits and launching community initiatives. Contact the Foundation at (937) 222-0410.