

Bethesda

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OUR TOWNS *out & about*

A mother's mission

In honoring her late daughter's devotion to helping others, Rovi Faber of Bethesda found herself on a course that garnered results she never imagined. Faber's daughter, Jodyann Faber, began collecting pull tabs from discarded soda cans and giving the recycling money to charity while undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. At the time, she was living at Hope Lodge, which provides a home-away-from-home for cancer patients who live far from a treatment center.

Jody died at age 46 in 2004. Last year, Faber decided to begin collecting pull tabs in her daughter's memory and started the nonprofit, Pull Tabs for Charity. Faber, of Rockville, gave Ronald McDonald House Charities and the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health each a check for \$1,000 last year—the money she made after cashing in the 961,216 pull tabs she collected, some from as far away as South Dakota. "It is an amazing beginning, and Jody would be proud," she says. "I started Pull Tabs for Charity last year to follow in her footsteps, and I can't believe it has grown so fast."

Faber has people all over the country working for her cause. A young boy from Orrington, Maine, sent her more than 20 pounds of tabs (there are 1,472 tabs to a pound. One pound brings 98 cents). Former firefighter Bill Hartley of Rockville showed up at her home with 150 pounds of tabs in the trunk of his car. Sgt. Eva Sanchez, based in Fort Stewart, Ga., plans to collect tabs in Iraq for Faber's cause. Montgomery County police and firefighters, the Potomac Community Center, Signature Theatre, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Steamer's Seafood House in Bethesda, area high schools and several universities are collecting pull tabs for Faber.



Rovi Faber collected almost one million pull tabs last year in memory of her daughter.

CAROLE DELL

With the help of volunteers, Faber, who has an office in her kitchen, assembles canisters for collecting the tabs. When the canisters are full, she picks them up and delivers them to Montgomery Scrap Corporation in Rockville. "I have tabs in every part of the clothing I wear," she says. For more information, go to www.pulltabsforcharity.org.

—Carole Dell