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Media Contact: Carol van Ahlers
714.606.3620

ROOSEVELT PARK IN ANAHEIM HILLS SITE OF MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING

ANAHEIM, CA – August 2, 2017 – Nature could not have brought a more beautiful day for the planting of a young Samuel Sommer Southern Magnolia tree in Roosevelt Park on Tuesday. The ceremonial planting by the City of Anaheim and Margie Hilgenfeld Tree Memorial Program was in honor of 12-year old Olivia Hope LoRusso who lost her brave fight against leukemia earlier this year.

The tree was requested by a group of childhood friends of Olivia’s mother Shelley, who grew up in Anaheim Hills. The family now resides in New York, but this memorial will stand in honor of Olivia across the miles.

Marci Martinez, coordinated the planting with Anaheim Beautiful. She and Shelley’s other friends attended the brief planting ceremony. The women contacted Anaheim Beautiful to arrange for the tree planting in hopes of providing a place where Olivia’s family can sit and reflect about the wonderful daughter they lost whenever they come to Anaheim Hills to visit.

“We wanted to find a special place to remember Olivia where Shelley and her family can visit when they return to Anaheim Hills. Roosevelt Park is the perfect place, quiet and small with a wonderful view of the hills,” said Martinez. “We also chose the Magnolia, knowing that it was a fast growing specimen, with beautiful dark leaves and spectacular flowers. All of us will find this a place of peace and reflection.”

Olivia Hope was born in 2005, along with her twin sister Sabrina. The girls have an older sister Gianna. Her parents are Rob and Shelley LoRusso and the family resides in New York. Olivia’s treatment for leukemia included an unsuccessful bone marrow transplant she received from her twin sister. Throughout the battle Olivia remained sweet and beyond her years, according to family and friends.

The Margie Hilgenfeld Tree Memorial Program, in partnership with the City of Anaheim Community Services Department, plant these special living memorials throughout the many parks in Anaheim. Information on the program can be found at <http://anaheimbeautiful.org/margie-hilgenfeld-tree-memorial/>.

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Anaheim Beautiful is a 501 c3 non-profit organization dedicated to encourage recycling, prevent litter and graffiti and to preserve and enhance the beauty of The City of Anaheim. To find out how you can be involved and/or donate visit www.anaheimbeautiful.org.

Photo Caption: Childhood friends of the family presented the tree in honor of young Olivia. Present for the ceremony were, from Krista Ford, Hunter Hoebel, Karie Hoebel, Marci Martinez, Cindy Lynch and Holly Stabile.



Photo Caption 2: Olivia Hope LoRusso, age 12, passed away from a rare form of leukemia earlier this year.

