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Brandon Messmann (left);  
Peggy Snyder & Brandon  
photos by Chris Fritchie



What motivates Brandon? It is definitely a “who” rather than a “what” that has been the driving force for Brandon. In June of 2006, Brandon’s “Grammy” was diagnosed with Stage III breast cancer. In July she had surgery and by September she started to lose all of her hair. While he was very worried about her health, Brandon described her hair loss as “freaky.”

At 69, “Grammy” Peggy Snyder couldn’t be more proud of her grandson. Thankfully, last year, Ms. Snyder was able to take a “Survivor’s Lap” and continues to do well. The road to recovery certainly wasn’t easy, but Brandon took part in so many ways. Brandon

has been to all of the major local fundraisers as well as attends committee meetings, move chairs, runs errands and chips in to help out however he can. Determined to continue that help on the home front as well he admits, “I almost ruined my mom’s banister because I made a rope system to help carry water bottles upstairs for my Grammy.”

Brandon’s mother, Rebecca Messmann, wants everyone to know that he’s just a typical kid. He has played soccer, enjoys fishing and is a Webelos Cub Scout in Pack 142. She says, “He’s just a regular kid who does something special but he’s no different than any other 4<sup>th</sup> grader. Ordinary kids can make a big difference when they really care about something.” It seems that simple to Brandon as well. He said, “I do this because my Grammy had cancer and I don’t want anyone else to have to go through this.”

Donations will continue to be accepted for Brandon’s team, “Red Lightning” until July at [www.FriscoRFL.com](http://www.FriscoRFL.com).

*Wendy Crooks is a freelance writer living in Plano.*

## Ordinary or Extraordinary?

By Wendy Crooks

**THE MOTHER GOOSE** nursery rhyme went “Sugar and spice and everything nice, that’s what little girls are made of. Snips and snails and puppy dog tails, that’s what little boys are made of.” The ‘Battle of the Sexes’ clearly started a long time ago. While girls are said to be made of “everything nice,” “snips and snails” implies that boys are not made of anything good. One particular Frisco boy is proving otherwise.

A fourth grader at Gunstream Elementary, Brandon Messmann, has learned all about the affects cancer can have on someone you love dearly. It is because of this knowledge and heart, Brandon has taken part in Frisco’s Relay for Life annual event. It allows participants to walk, run or jog all night to honor cancer survivors or pay tribute

to lives lost while raising money for the American Cancer Society. Relay for Life events are held in local communities so no matter where you live, you can help fight cancer.

At only 9 years old, Brandon is the youngest Relay for Life team captain in the history of the Frisco Relay for Life. To be a team captain, one must coordinate at least eight members who will participate in the Relay for Life. The team members all raise money for the cause and someone from the team must be on the track at all times, all night, representing their team. Last year Brandon walked a “Caregivers Lap” but this year he helped even more. This year, not only did he coordinate the team and raise money, Brandon and two of his friends also made it through the **WHOLE** night at the Relay.