

Hip to be bald

Basin Electric's St. Baldrick's events have raised more than half a million dollars for children's cancer research.

By Andrea Blowers

"It'll grow back. I have a choice, the kids don't."

That's the sentiment shavee Pam Wohlsdorf shared about why she chose to shave at Basin Electric's St. Baldrick's event this year. It's the sentiment echoed over and over by shavees, more than 600 of them since Basin Electric held its first event in 2008.

They all do it to raise money for St. Baldrick's Foundation, which funds children's cancer research and fellowships. In just four years, Basin Electric's events have raised more than \$500,000, more than \$177,000 in 2011 alone, making it the 24th highest grossing event worldwide this year.

"The community really embraced the event this year," says Emily McKay, Basin Electric's event planner/charitable giving coordinator. Basin Electric, together with MDU Resources Group, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), Medcenter One, Kadrmass Lee & Jackson, the Bismarck-Mandan YP Network and Spa D'Athena jointly hosted the event at Bismarck State College's National Energy Center of Excellence on March 17. The theme for this year's event was Shave a Life.

"We honored 20 kids who at such a young age have had to battle cancer; some who have not survived," McKay says. "These are kids of co-workers, friends and family members. They are the reason we do it year after year, and the reason so many volunteers shave year after year. We do it with the hope that one day doctors will find a cure for all childhood cancers."

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Mathew Krogen (far left) and Braxton Wetzel (far right) shaved in honor of Evan Krogen (second from right) on the NISC team, uNited In Stopping Cancer. Evan's dad Mark Krogen is also pictured.



Mia Thinnis (center), St. Baldrick's honoree, attended the head shaving event with her mom, Julie, and sisters, Grace and Hannah. Mia is the granddaughter of Bill Peterka, mechanical supervisor at the Antelope Valley Station.



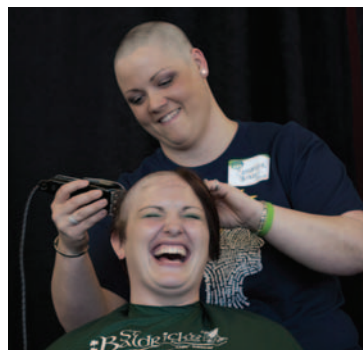
Bryceton Deplazes, Kristian Fritz and Macen Heisler shaved in honor of Macen's brother Aspen. Their team Kindergarten's for a Cure raised \$1,900 for St. Baldrick's.

Highlights from the 2011 event:

- More than 152 volunteers either shaved their heads or cut their hair for Locks of Love or American Cancer Society's Pantene Beautiful Lengths.
- Dr. Craig Lambrecht, Medcenter One president/CEO, helped kick off the head shaving offering up his head in a live auction. Highest bidder earned the clippers to shave his head.
- Focus Massage gave chair massages with 100 percent of the proceeds going to St. Baldrick's.
- A bake sale and silent auction were held, with some items donated by celebrities.
- An autographed Minnesota Vikings jersey from tight end Jimmy Kleinsasser was auctioned off during the event.
- During National Volunteer Week, St. Baldrick's recognized Basin Electric's event in the Energy category for its outstanding volunteer service in 2011.
- Find full coverage of the event at <http://bit.ly/BasinBaldricks2011>



The Laramie River Station team, LRS Lifesavers 3, near Wheatland, WY, included (from left) Scott Olson, Billie Deschene, Jim Finnerty and Troy Gunter.



Shavee Cassandra Brazell takes the clippers to hairstylist Wendy Steidler's head. Steidler has been Brazell's stylist for more than 10 years.



Longtime Basin Electric Director Wayne Child raised more than \$13,000 for St. Baldrick's and faced the clippers at the hands of CEO and General Manager Ron Harper.



Following the head-shaving event, a number of shavers gathered for a group photo in front of the banners showing the event's 20 honorees.



Mike Eggl (left), Basin Electric senior vice president of External Relations and Communications, won the bid to shave Dr. Craig Lambrecht's head. Dr. Lambrecht (center) is the president and CEO of Medcenter One in Bismarck.



Niles Hushka (right), CEO of Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson, and Kayla Shafer, president of the Bismarck-Mandan YP Network, presented a check for \$10,200 for St. Baldrick's to Basin Electric's Mike Eggl during the event. MDU Resources Group also gave \$12,500 and NISC gave \$5,000.



Robin Braun not only cut her hair for Locks of Love, she also shaved her head and raised nearly \$3,000. Braun was part of Dakota Gasification Company's The Good, the Bald and the Ugly team.



Dylan (left) and Rich Borgen shaved their heads in honor of sister and daughter Ali Borgen, who passed away in January 2011, after battling leukemia for four years.



Shavee Pam Wohlsdorf, who shaved in honor of Matthew Watson, raised more than \$6,000 for St. Baldrick's.