

Krystle Craig and Us



image courtesy of Jessica Perlstein -- <http://www.dreamstreamart.com>

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No. 1

"Keep An Eye Out for the Red-Haired, Smart, and Sassy Krystle."

Krystle Craig was involved in a very serious accident on December 4, 2017, that almost took her life. She has spent nearly a month in hospital, and has only most recently returned home.

"The realization that I almost died twice last month is just now really sinking in. I am grateful Creator didn't take me yet. Wopila Tanka. I got too much to do here," she said recently in a Facebook posting.

With ALOT of vocal support, prayers and concerns (Thank you, People!) a good friend and a family member put up two crowdsourcing sites, receiving to this date about three-fifths of the originally requested funds. However as with so many families burdened by unnecessarily expensive medical costs these days, Krystle, with a long recovery ahead, and being a single mother and four kids, is facing significant financial hardship.

Inspired by Krystle's activism and by her being SO OPEN in REACHING OUT TO HELP OTHERS when in need a small group of folks got together and are organizing a FUN-draising event, tentatively named "Krystle Craig and Us—A Celebration of Activism and Community" set for sometime in March.

The idea is to bring a sampling of representative activist families who, for whatever reason facing life's adversities, are in the same financial crunch as Krystle, with community groups who are ALWAYS starved for funds, coming together with others to help all envision an inclusive Omaha. Planned as a Family-Friendly event, "Krystle Craig and Us" is intended to include YOU! with Music, Performance and Visual Art, Theatre, Dance, Poetry, Games, plenty of Food and Conversation, representing the diversity of folk who live work and play in the greater Omaha Community.

Planning Meeting "Minutes"

The group met at Caffeine Dreams at 45th and Farnam Streets, Omaha, on Thursday, December 28th; apparently this was one of the last such community meetings to be held. as the longtime coffee and hang-out place closed shop, likely for good, at the end of 2017.

Called by co-conveners John Jarecki and richard chilton, the group included four of Krystal's family and close friends, Nicole Iverson, Miranda Nelson, Becky Ridge and Pam Pickinpaugh, and John Pappan, representing the Big Elk Indian Center.

The group spoke briefly about how they felt about Krystle's accident, the ongoing community work she did, and the many people she had helped when in need. Each thought that something more could be done to not only help Krystle but others. After initial discussion the group started to coalesce around several themes, which included:

1. One, Single Event.
2. Held in a big enough facility—hopefully donated or a cheap, cheap rent—to hold a couple hundred people.
3. March, 2018.
4. “A Celebration of Activism and Community.:.” a consensus seemed to coalesce around "...bringing a sampling of representative activist families who, for whatever reason facing life's adversities, are in the same financial crunch as Krystle, together with community groups who are ALWAYS starved for funds, coming together with others to help all envision an inclusive Omaha."
5. Admission would be low, perhaps five dollars per person, \$1 for kids, to teach how\ “everyone needs to contribute.” (Admission goes to Krystle’s Fund)
6. Vendor fees would likewise be modest, and reasonable (maybe \$20 per table, or 15% of Net, 10% goes to Krystle’s Fund, 5% to Event expenses).
7. Volunteers to keep track of expenses, including time, materials, logistics (including gas
8. money) as a means of evaluating how effective and efficient the organizing of this community event occurred.
9. As Federally-recognized, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Big Elk Center Board will consider also being a fiscal sponsor for this event, as is the Omaha Tribal Historical Research Project, OTHRP.
10. Next meeting will be on Sunday, January 14, 2018 6:30-8PM
13th Street Coffee House and Tea Room, 2nd floor

This Inaugural issue of Krystle's is dedicated to the late Erica Garner, daughter of the late Eric Garner, whose epitaph is the phrase "I Can't Breathe:"

“No movement is immune to conflict, but it’s up to every last person on the side of justice to make the decision to move forward together. We build relationships with other activists and supporters, take the streets and risk arrest because we’re fighting for a world that truly values our lives. If those in power can remain coordinated and steadfast in their commitment to obscure the truth, then we can and must come together to demand transparency and accountability. “ The Guardian, December 9, 2015.

