



Young cancer victim hopes song touches others.

BY IAN AUSTIN, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE MARCH 15, 2009

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VANCOUVER- Megan McNeil hopes her music will help other kids fight cancer.

The 18-year-old, who is dealing with adrenal cancer, sat down Sunday with producer Garth Richardson and a group of cancer-fighting backup singers to put the final touches on her song, "The Will to Survive."

"I don't need it to get big," said McNeil, smiling broadly despite her ongoing recovery from the latest of six surgeries. "If it helps a couple of people to get through it, that's my goal."

McNeil was diagnosed with the one-in-a-million malady at 16, but she has a remarkably upbeat outlook.

"I've always been a pretty positive person," said McNeil, taking a break from Sunday's recording session at The Farm Studios in East Vancouver. "When this happened I decided you can't be miserable, and you've got to live life to the fullest every day."

Sunday, her life certainly was full - in the studio were Richardson at the soundboard, arranger Ryan McMahon, and a host of people hoping that the song makes it big and earns money for the Childhood Cancer Foundation.

Ultimately, that may be McNeil's biggest feat - helping improve the lives of kids who suffer from cancer and their families.

In the meantime, she's adjusting to life with cancer and maintaining as positive an outlook as possible.

"I was huge into running and dance - that's definitely changed," said McNeil, who despite chemotherapy and surgeries managed to graduate on time with her classmates at Seaquam Secondary.

Richardson, who has produced Nickelback and signed on after seeing McNeil sing on a DVD, hopes the song touches listeners.

“We believe this song has the potential to be a real hit, and we look forward to getting it distributed and into the hearts of Canadians coast to coast,” he said.

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