



Pay it Forward

One little girl's battle inspires a new collection of school supplies that will help aid leukemia patients the world over. **By Erika Hoefler**

Four-year-old Kendall Sierens lives her life pretty much like any other 4-year-old living in Glencoe. She runs, she plays, she goes to camp. But unlike most other little towheaded girls, she also takes chemotherapy. Diagnosed with leukemia at age 2, Kendall has been bravely battling the disease since 2006.

The news of Kendall's diagnosis was followed just six months later by the untimely death of her newborn sister, which left her parents, Bob and Alison Sierens, reeling.

"No one really pays attention until it hits your family, and it was just unbelievable. I remember just feeling like, 'Oh my gosh. How can this keep happening?'" says Alison's cousin Jacqueline Savage McFee, an accomplished office-supply designer, of the day she heard the news. And that's when she decided to use her skills to do something for her family.

"I thought, 'I can't go on drawing flowers. I want to do something good,'" she says.

And thus, the Kendall Collection was born. A collaboration between McFee, Carolina Pad & Paper and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), the Kendall Collection is a spunky, vibrant set of school and office supplies geared toward

raising awareness of the ugly disease Kendall is fighting.

The collection runs the gamut from glittered notebooks and polka-dot pencils to folders, laptop cases and more, all featuring McFee's signature eye-catching colors and whimsical designs. And excluding the laptop cases, each product costs less than \$5. McFee has promised that 10 percent of the proceeds will go to the LLS, while Carolina Pad & Paper has vouched for a \$25,000 contribution as well.

"I've always been proud of what I've done, but to now combine it with paying it forward and leaving this world a little better than when I came in ... It's just the best thing I've ever done," McFee says.

As for Kendall? She's in month 24 of a 27-month program and doing great. "We're nearing the end of the road with it, and hopefully she will continue to get better," Alison says. "She just lives her life like a normal kid." ■

The Kendall Collection is available at the following retailers: CVS, Kmart, Meijer, Office Depot, Office Max, Staples, Toys'R'Us, Wal-Mart and more. For more information on the collection, visit www.carolinapad.com.