

Charity gets tax exempt status year after girl's death

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Emily Eaton died in June 2009 from complications from H1N1 flu. The IRS granted Emily's Path, a charity created in her honor, tax exempt status a year after her death.

WAUSAU, Wis. (WSAU) – Emily Eaton died a year ago today from the H1N1 flu but a charity formed in her honor will help her spirit live on.

The IRS granted Emily's Path tax exempt status, Eaton's father Dale said yesterday.

Eaton formed the charity with his wife after receiving financial support from relatives, friends and doctors that cared for her. Emily had a form of autism, but instead of being shy and reserved, she was a very social young girl.

"She had a unique way of caring about people that she didn't know and we wanted something that would continue that spirit with children like her," Eaton said.

You can send a tax deductible donation to 513 Grant Street in Wausau. The charity also has a Web site.

The charity is dedicated to bringing happiness to children who are facing challenges in their lives. Among the donations it has already made are buying therapeutic toys for a playgroup of disabled children and paying the summer camp tuition of a child whose father got a job overseas.

The charity has already raised and given away several thousand dollars, Eaton said though he declined to give specifics.

"But like most charities, never enough."