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## **DFW-Area Teen Raises Over \$16,000 for American Troops**

### **Operation Sweet 16 Is a Resounding Success!**

Grapevine, TX, March 16, 2012 – Last May, local high school student Tori Pimentel made a surprising announcement. Tori decided to give up an elaborate Sweet 16 party and instead, raise \$16,000 for America's troops in need – and Operation Sweet 16 was born. Since then, Tori's been hard at work, and with the help of local businesses and generous people all over the country, many of them right here in DFW, Tori not only reached her goal, but exceeded it, raising a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_! But Tori didn't do it alone. In addition to hard work and support from her mother, Mona Burk, many local vendors participated.

It all began on June 30 with a kick-off event at Chick-fil-A Southlake. Since then, several local businesses have supported Tori. Stonebriar Centre hosted several events, including an art auction and fashion show featuring works (and catwalks) by friends in Tori's art class. Other events included the Patriotic Pooch Parade, the 9/11 Car Show, Cupcakes and Milk with Santa, a Premier Jewelry party and events at Jason's Deli, among others. Tori also received donations of labor and marketing materials from local graphic design firm The Quest Group and local freelance writing company HireHeather.

The money Operation Sweet 16 raised will go to other military-related charities who do things like bring home heroes who have ailing family members, who need help with their utility or mortgage bills, who need money to pay high hospital bills and anything and everything a soldier or his family could need.

The motivation behind Operation Sweet 16 was Tori's realization that she's been given so many opportunities because of the sacrifices made throughout the years by not only those in our military but their families and friends. Upon finding out she'd exceeded her goal, Tori said, "I would like to thank each and every single person who has supported Operation Sweet 16. The words of encouragement, the donations, and the sponsors have made Operation Sweet 16 what

it is today. I am very excited to say that Operation Sweet 16 is a Texas not-for-profit corporation, and I plan to continue to manage Operation Sweet 16 for the rest of my life! I have to thank everyone who has supported me.”

To celebrate the success of Operation Sweet 16, Paradise Cove at Lake Grapevine is throwing a culmination event to help raise even more money. Everyone’s invited to enjoy live music, hors d’oeuvres and a chocolate fountain donated by Debi Meek and bid on items in the silent auction. All proceeds will go to benefit Operation Sweet 16.

Though Tori’s met her goal, you can still donate on the Operation Sweet 16 website at [www.operationsweet16.org](http://www.operationsweet16.org). Tori’s not finished, either. Keep an eye on the website for exciting announcements about the future of Operation Sweet 16. You can also follow the charity on Twitter (@OpSweet16, #OpSweet16), Facebook (fan page available) and LinkedIn.

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