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Marist volleyball coach turns rivalry into charity event

By [Kyle Dominy](#)
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Staff/Tyler Goforth

Coach Anna Bush and senior captains, from left, Stephanie Word and Laura Brown, will compete in the upcoming 'Claws for a Cause' volleyball benefit match against the St. Pius X Golden Lions at Marist Oct. 1.

Marist Lady War Eagles volleyball Coach Anna Bush became familiar with Hospice Atlanta after her mother suffered brain damage from a severe fall in 2006.

"They were just absolutely incredible," Ms. Bush said about the 61-year-old non-profit that provides care for terminally ill or injured patients facing death and counseling services to their families.

"The moment I walked through the door I was amazed. I decided that if I could ever do anything for an organization it would be for Hospice."

That promise will come to pass in October as Marist prepares for the first Claws for a Cause Volleyball Benefit.

To help bring the event to fruition, Bush contacted Marist's biggest rival, St. Pius X Catholic High School.

"I want to use our rivalry to bring about something positive," she said.

On Oct. 1 Marist and St. Pius' four volleyball teams, middle school, ninth grade, junior varsity and varsity, will face off to raise donations for Hospice Atlanta.

Bush said she hoped to raise about \$2,000 for the organization through proceeds from ticket sales and funds from a bake sale, barbecue sale and T-shirt sale to correspond with the event.

Marist Volleyball's involvement with Hospice Atlanta will go beyond a charity tournament.

Bush said a Hospice representative will visit the team in the coming weeks to encourage the girls to volunteer for the

organization.

Senior co-captain Laura Brown said she was looking forward to using her skills on and off the court to help Hospice Atlanta.

"It's going to be a great tournament for a great cause," she said. "I'm looking forward to helping Hospice [Atlanta]."

The Claws for a Cause Volleyball Benefit is set for Oct. 1 in Marist's Centennial Gym.

The middle school match kicks off at 4:30 p.m., with the ninth grade and junior varsity matches set for 5:30 p.m. and the varsity match at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

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