



## **Smithville resident fulfills dreams, becomes finalist in national contest**

**What:** Smithville resident is a finalist in the national Ocean Spray “Sun-sational Awards”

**When:** Now through July 25th, 2013

**Where:** Ocean Spray Sun-sational Awards on Facebook, <http://bit.ly/SunsationalAwards>

**Why:** For work fulfilling the dreams of adults with life-threatening illnesses with the Spread A Little Joy Foundation

**How:** Support Lara and Spread A Little Joy Foundation by voting once each day on the Ocean Spray Facebook page

Lara Stanze, a Smithville resident and Kansas City area native, founded the Spread A Little Joy Foundation to fulfill the dreams of adults with life-threatening illnesses in the greater Kansas City area.

Spread A Little Joy was founded in memory of Lara’s mother, Joy, whose dreams Lara fulfilled through grassroots efforts during the final months of her battle with a rare form of cancer that stemmed from ovarian cancer.

Because of her work with Spread A Little Joy, Lara is a finalist in the Ocean Spray Sun-sational Awards. The company accepted nominations for the “sunniest person” in America. Lara is up against two other finalists.

“I’m just glad the foundation is getting this publicity,” said Lara. While her goal is to find more donors and more potential “dreamers” to grant wishes for, her family and friends would like to see her win the grand prize, a free trip to “anywhere sunny” in the U.S.

Lara keeps very busy bringing to joy to others, even with her own health concerns. Josh Stanze, Lara’s son and the vice president of the Spread A Little Joy Foundation, said, “My mom is one of the most selfless people I know, and even battling her own heart condition, works so hard to make the wishes and dreams of others come true. She deserves to have her wishes fulfilled, too.”

Facebook users may vote once a day through the end of the contest.

For more information on the Spread A Little Joy Foundation or the Ocean Spray Sun-sational contest, please contact **Lara Stanze** directly:

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