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NEWS RELEASE

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Sept. 10, 1999

Contact: John Twiggs, KUFM-TV program producer, (406) 243-4640.

**MONTANA PBS PROGRAM DOCUMENTS STRUGGLE OF KALISPELL FAMILY
MISSOULA —**

“Living in the Moment,” a television program documenting the life of teenager Weston Cartwright of Kalispell, debuts on MontanaPBS Monday, Sept. 20, at 8 p.m. Cartwright is battling brain cancer. The program follows the boy and his family through a year of struggles from the 15-year-old’s perspective.

“My main goal was to represent Weston’s point of view,” said John Twiggs, program producer at KUFM-TV, the Montana Public Broadcasting System station based at The University of Montana. “There have been many programs dealing with cancer, but very few have been done from a child’s perspective.”

Cartwright was diagnosed with brain cancer at age 9. As the program begins, he and his family already have been fighting the cancer for six years.

The program gives compelling insight into how Cartwright and his family deal with the complexities of cancer and its treatment. Together they face the questions of using alternative versus conventional methods of fighting the disease. The documentary also examines the boy’s relationships with his friends. Some of his teenage companions can’t quite comprehend the

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seriousness of what Cartwright is facing. How does he cope with that? And how much information does he need or want to know about his illness?

“This is the most challenging show we’ve ever produced,” said station manager William Marcus. “John Twiggs is the perfect producer to take on this enormous project. He has an extraordinary ability to work with children, and he’s sensitive to the family’s emotions and their remarkable story. I think this story about Weston’s battle with cancer will touch viewers in an immediate and memorable way.”

Twiggs shot more than 50 hours of videotape during eight months between June 1998 and May 1999. He followed Cartwright everywhere – from summer camp to snow skiing. The producer interviewed each family member for several hours to gain insight into their experience.

The program features original music written and performed by Missoula musicians Nikki Andres and Aaron Coffin.

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JT/cbs

Local, state dailies, Kalispell media, Hungry Horse News, Whitefish Pilot
PBSprgm.rl