

# 7 year old donates hair in honour of classmate

By [DONNA HOLMAN](#), T&D Staff Writer | Tuesday, July 10, 2007

When Hannah Bilton was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in February 2006, her 5-year-old friend and classmate, Amy Kestler, was concerned, frightened and supportive.



"When we were reading at school, Hannah said that she wasn't feeling very well, and the next day the teacher told us she had leukemia," said Amy, now 7.

Amy's mom, Teresa, said her daughter would come home from school crying because she didn't understand.

"She would have nightmares," she said.



Teresa said when Amy learned more about leukemia and cancer patients needing hair, she wanted to donate her's for Hannah. It was then she began the year-long journey to grow her hair long enough to meet the 10-inch Locks of Love requirement.

Amy's hair was sent to the nonprofit organization on June 18, and a separate e-mail was sent to Locks of Love with the girls' story of friendship.

"We like to talk on the phone and play together," Amy said about life with her best friend, Hannah, daughter of Wendy and Jason Bilton. The girls attend Edisto Primary School in Cordova.

Teresa said everyone is proud of Amy's selfless act.

"A lot of kids this age would not even think about that," she said.

When Amy learned that Hannah would not be the specific recipient of her blond hair, that news did not deter her. She had her heart set on doing whatever she could to help. Teresa said Amy's goal was to do something unselfish to help another child, whether she knew them or not.

The National Cancer Institute reports that ALL, the most common type of cancer in children, occurs when the bone marrow makes too many lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell. It usually gets worse if not treated.

For more information, visit [www.lockoflove.org](http://www.lockoflove.org), [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov) or [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

Story from the website [www.timesanddemocrat.com](http://www.timesanddemocrat.com)