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Young Actress Doing Her Part -- Giving to Locks of Love

Contributed by Acting Up
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Little did Nicole Gonthier realize what she would have to give up when she won the leading role in Acting Up's production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

Nicole is a beautiful 15 year old who has straight blonde hair that cascades down her back. But "Millie" takes place in the 1920s when the "modern" woman shed her long locks for the trendy short bob hairdo. Thus, to be true to the character, it was decided that Nicole would get her hair cut in a short bob for the role.

It was her decision to give her hair to Locks of Love, a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under at 18 who are suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. They accept "ponytails" of hair that are at least 10 inches in length. It takes 6-10 ponytails to make one hairpiece.

Nicole's only stipulation to the new hairdo; we wait until after Lakota West High School's homecoming.

On Sept. 18, only days before the show's opening night and shortly after homecoming, Nicole went to Intuition, the Salon in Mason where her beautiful long hair was cut short. Her mother and her friend and fellow cast member, Nikki Heath, accompanied Nicole for support.

This is Nicole's second time donating her hair to Locks of Love. The hairdresser, Dena Boehner, expertly cut and colored her hair to a style that was as fashionable in the 1920s as it is today.

After the haircut and color, Nicole was beaming. She wasn't sure whether or not her friends would "freak out" when they saw her. But they turned out to be as excited about her new hairdo as they were about her winning the leading role in the play.

Nicole can be seen as Millie in performances of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" this weekend. Show times are 7 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. (sign language interpreter will be provided) and 7 p.m. Saturday; and at 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 each (\$8 for seniors and children under 12) and are available online at www.ActingUp.com or at the box office. For more information call 513-588-0988.

SPECIAL PROMOTION: The first 500 people actually named "Millie" get in FREE.

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Nicole Gonthier of West Chester gets a 1920s hairdo for her role as Millie in "Thoroughly Modern Millie" this weekend. Her hair was donated to Locks of Love. She is pictured with Dena Boehner of Intuition, the Salon in downtown Mason. See www.ActingUp.com for show information.

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