

# Benefit concert based on hope

**Andy Jones**

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One of the definitions of the word hope is "to expect with confidence." That's the basic idea behind the Rock for Hope benefit concert taking place at Sweetwater Saloon in Mill Valley on May 4.

Sausalito resident Brian Sharp and his wife, Krista, are promoting the benefit concert as an extension of Aspen, Colorado-based charity Hike for Hope, started by Brian's brother Bob and his wife, Carole, after their son Ian was diagnosed with Becker muscular dystrophy.

There is no known cure for the two most common forms of muscular dystrophy, Duchenne and Becker, and most treatment merely prolongs life by a few

## ON THE CALENDAR

**WHAT:** Rock for Hope to cure muscular dystrophy

**WHEN:** May 4, 9 p.m.

**WHERE:** Sweetwater Saloon, 143 Throckmorton, downtown Mill Valley

*For more information or for tickets, visit [sweetwatersaloon.com](http://sweetwatersaloon.com). To make a donation, make a check payable to Hike for Hope Foundation, c/o Brian Sharp, 811 Spring St., Sausalito 94965. Visit [hikeforhopemd.com](http://hikeforhopemd.com) and [mda.org](http://mda.org) for information on the charities receiving the proceeds from this event.*

years or helps the patient be more comfortable. Yet, in spite of these staggering statistics, many families and children suffering from the diseases that classify as muscular dystrophy see hope as a necessary concept that keeps them going, guided by the idea that with enough funding for research, eventually a cure will be found.

The mission of Hike for Hope is to bring focus and research to

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), which is the leading killer of young boys. One in every 3,500 boys is born with DMD and every day two boys die from the genetic disorder.

The proceeds from Rock for Hope concert will be split evenly between Hike for Hope and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

It's important to note that every dollar of the \$17 ticket

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## Hope: Musicians to rock Sweetwater, fight muscular dystrophy

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price for the concert goes straight to charity, thanks to generous musicians and the Sweetwater Saloon.

"All the expenses we incurred are donated; every dollar at the door goes to these two groups. I'm lucky enough to know all these great musicians," said Brian Sharp, who owns a small sound studio in Sausalito, "and the more the good musicians wanted to step up and volunteer, the more other musicians wanted to get involved. And before that could happen, Becky Steere from the Sweetwater wanted to open her doors and offer her venue, which is great on her part," Sharp said.

The lineup of musicians assembled to take part in this benefit is so solid that Sharp has high expectations about the kind of show it will be.

"The lineup is just fantastic; the talent is through the roof. Dorothy Morrison, when she sings is something special ... she grew up in a gospel church in the East Bay and she really brings the church to the music."

Morrison has toured with Van Morrison (no relation), recorded with Boz Scaggs and Rita Coolidge and was the lead singer for the Northern California State Youth Choir when its song "Oh, Happy Day" climbed the gospel and R&B charts in 1968.

Sharp is also excited about the band that will be playing with Morrison (dubbed the Soul Sherpas).

"We have two bass players (Tony Sauders and Stu Hamm) who are, in my opinion, two of the top five bass players in the Bay Area," Sharp said.

Rounding out the headlining act are Guitar Player magazine associate editor Jude Gold, original Tower of Power sax man Skip Mesquite, keyboardist Mike Emerson, drummer Marty Johnson and vocalists Jay Middleton and Lisa Battle.

Marin rock legend John Allair will open the evening with a boogie-woogie solo piano performance. Allair has performed solo and with drum-

mer Pete Lind for over four decades and has accompanied Van Morrison for over 30 years.

"When he plays it sounds like he has three hands," Sharp said.

In between the sets of Allair and the Soul Sherpas, three members of Jelly, including guitar wizard John "Stewball" Stewart, will perform.

Dr. Brian Tseng, a muscular dystrophy researcher at the University of Colorado, will be on hand at the concert to discuss recent advances toward finding a cure, and a live raffle will also take place.

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