Laughter is the best medicine

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

TRINITY — At just six and nine years of age, Hopewell Elementary School jokesters Katie and Sophie have already been published! UnitedHealthcare Children’s Foundation has collected family-friendly jokes for three new joke books to be released in time for National Literacy Month, which is recognized in September, and Katie and Sophie’s jokes were selected.

Sophie is in fourth-grade and Katie is in second-grade.

“Sophie is more reserved and Katie is more precocious,” said their mom, Amy Buckner. “But they both have a wonderful sense of humor.”

Sophie’s joke, which will appear in “Eats, Treats & Sweets” is “Why did the strawberry call the police? Because it was in a jam.”

Katie penned this quip: “Why did the banana go to the doctor? Because it wasn’t peeling well.”

They are among junior authors across the United States who submitted jokes to UnitedHealthcare Children’s Foundation for the joke books that will bring laughter and enjoyment to both kids and adults. Best of all, proceeds from the books will go to raise funds to help families pay for children’s medical expenses not covered, or not fully covered by a commercial health insurance plan.

The books — “Cool Jokes for Summer,” “Sweets, Treats & Eats,” and “Holidays, Celebrations & Birthday Jokes” each include more than 300 hilarious jokes. The books are ideal for children ages 4 to 12, but can be enjoyed by people of all ages. They are available on Amazon.com for $5.99 each.

According to their mom, in addition to their sense of humor, the sisters are big-hearted.

“It makes them feel good that they are able to help other children and hopefully give someone a laugh in the process,” she said.

The UnitedHealthcare Children’s Foundation (UHCCF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides medical grants to help children gain access to health-related services not covered, or not fully covered, by their parents’ commercial health insurance plan. Families can receive up to $5,000 annually per child ($10,000 lifetime maximum per child), and do not need to have insurance through UnitedHealthcare to be eligible.

UHCCF was founded in 1999. Since 2007, UHCCF has awarded more than 14,000 grants valued at over $37 million to children and their families across the United States. UHCCF’s funding is provided by contributions from individuals, corporations and UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH) employees. To apply for a grant, donate or learn more, please visit UHCCF.org.

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