

guides, thread and a small bottle of varnish from the Herter's Company.

It took me a week to strip off the old varnish, re-glue all 24 segments together, bind them with twine and get them straight. I then scraped, sanded and varnished the completed sections. The ferrules had to be re-glued and the retaining pins replaced. The cork and reel seat were put back in place. I cleaned up the line guides and taped them temporarily in place on the rod. I learned how to wrap the thread on the guides and when finished, I varnished over the wraps.

Five weeks had passed due to trial and error. I had ruined two shirts and a pair of pants with glue and varnish. But, the rod was finished and Dad called the man to pick up his fly rod.

What happened next surprised even me. The owner of the rod, Bob Southern, showed up at our house and looked over his reconditioned fly rod in amazement. He took it outside, placed his reel on it and began to lawn cast it. Satisfied with the condition and cast-ability, he disassembled the rod saying, "It's perfect," and asked, "How much do I owe you young man?"

I replied, "Not one dime, as I just got an education of a life time and I will probably fix many wood rods for other people in the future."

Mr. Southern said, "Mike, you should keep this rod as it will be put to good use and it will be a lot safer here than at my house," as he handed it back to me.

Today, I still have that Heddon #20 fly rod and it is still in solid fish-able condition.

At the time, I didn't know how prophetic my statement about education of a life time would become. I love to be at my work bench with the radio on, listening to the oldies and making old rods look beautiful and functional again.

From 1957 to 2015, I have restored 1140 bamboo fly rods. And, from 1986 to 2015, I have built 462 new bamboo fly rods.

You're probably wondering what ever happened to Freddie? Two years later in March, Fred just disappeared from home and work. But, I got a birthday card from him telling me he met a beautiful, wealthy, widow lady and they were living together in a mansion, with his own personal lake, in Eastern Pennsylvania.

There was a PS note, asking me to keep this information a secret.

Freddy also had faith in my ability to see things clearly.

## Fore the Girls Inaugural Golf Outing Fundraiser to Fight Breast Cancer

Event to help under-served women in West Michigan get access to and pay for life-saving breast cancer screenings and more.

On Monday, May 23rd, at Spring Lake Country Club, the first round of a 9-hole scramble will start at 9 AM, followed by lunch and a short program and then an afternoon flight of 9-holes, with a 1 PM start. Individuals or teams of 2 or 4 women can sign up online: [www.eventbrite.com/e/fore-the-girls-tickets](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/fore-the-girls-tickets). This event is for all levels of players but sorry guys... This event is for ladies only!

Co-Chaired by Sarah Arnold and Gina Kelly-Vis, the all-volunteer committee has dedicated countless hours to ensure a fun and meaningful event that will have a positive impact on their community. All participants will receive educational materials and be reminded of the risk factors for getting breast cancer.

"We know that early detection saves lives," said Co-Chair Sarah Arnold. "Yet too many of the women we know still find it late and therefore are subject to much harsher treatments, longer recovery and may even die. Our event is going to educate those that attend and raise money so that everyone in our community can have access to life-saving screening and diagnostic tests at our great local hospitals and clinics."

The benefactor of this year's Fore the Girls Golf Outing is Susan G. Komen Michigan, an organization that has a long history of supporting community health efforts.

"As a breast cancer survivor and resident of Spring Lake, I'm so excited about the passion of this committee and the potential for this event," said Jennifer Jurgens, executive director of Komen Michigan. "75% of the funds raised are going to be put back into West Michigan organizations that ensure all women, regardless of their age, income or ethnicity, get access to life-saving screening and tests. The remaining 25% will be in invested into research into the cures for breast cancer."

To sign-up your team: [www.eventbrite.com/e/fore-the-girls-tickets](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/fore-the-girls-tickets)

To sponsor this event, please contact: [forethegirls2016@yahoo.com](mailto:forethegirls2016@yahoo.com)

For more information about Komen Michigan: [KomenMichigan.org](http://KomenMichigan.org)

## Artistic Family Helps Local Children's Author

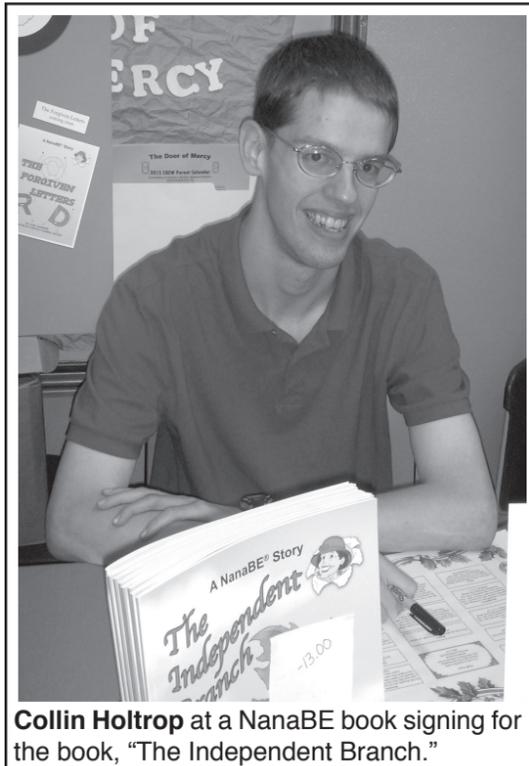
by Lin Holtrop

Recently, God allowed our family to be involved in the production of two Christian children's books. We helped our neighbor, and author, who wrote the books based on the character, "NanaBE," that she portrays when doing her children's ministry for Sunday schools and other groups of kids. Each lesson NanaBE gives the kids has a story illustrating principles of godly living and emphasizing how much Jesus loves them and that they are special to Him. The kids enjoyed her stories, so she and her husband decided that they wanted some of them in printed book form. They came to us, knowing we were Christian artists and writers, and asked if we could help make this a reality.

NanaBE asked our 20-year-old son, Collin, to illustrate her first book, "The Independent Branch," a story about a branch that decided it didn't want to be part of the vine (Jesus) it was attached to. Character designs for the illustrated NanaBE, the grandmotherly character she plays, came first. This took many days with many variations - mostly of her face and body-type. The clothes were already set in place: they were to be drawn the same as the mismatched outfit from her live presentations. Then Collin worked on designs for the farmer and the branch.

Once these were decided on, Collin began work on the illustrations. Sketches for each full-page illustration came first. Then he got approval from NanaBE, made adjustments, and finished the pencil drawings. After scanning these finished drawings into a computer, he used the program, Photoshop Elements, which he had been using for many years already, to begin the color process. We were all pleased with the nice work God was helping him do.

But, shortly before the whole book was done, Collin badly injured one of his fingers, which needed surgery, and was unable to finish the work on "The Independent Branch." He was bummed that he couldn't finish the color, but was grateful to God (as we all were) that he didn't lose his finger. My husband, Tim, stepped in to finish the final color. Production continued, and the book was finally ready to go to press.



Collin Holtrop at a NanaBE book signing for the book, "The Independent Branch."

Collin really enjoyed designing the characters for "The Independent Branch." He had designed his own characters before, but it was a lot different working with others to get things just the way they wanted them.

He said, "I gained a better knowledge of how to apply the skills I had already learned in Photoshop." This knowledge, as well as what he's learned going through this whole process, will be very useful in our family business. He feels that he can now be more helpful in teaching his siblings how to do some of these things better.

The next material NanaBE brought over was a rough layout for a second book, "The Forgiven Letters," a story about what we say, that highlights the topics of bullying and forgiveness. She needed someone to digitally reconstruct her conceptual marker drawings. She asked two of our other kids to do the illustrations for her: Kaerlyn, age 15, and Cameron, age 12. We agreed.

Kaerlyn's experience with the program Inkscape made her a good choice. Cameron, who was primarily working with Photoshop Elements at the time, coloring with pixels, had to adjust and learn to do vector artwork for the cartoon letter characters on-the-job, but "got the hang of it very quickly," he said, "with Kaerlyn's help." They both worked



Kaerlyn and Cameron Holtrop with the NanaBE book they worked on, "The Forgiven Letters."

together to make vector images of the letters, by finding a similar type font, adjusting the size, then using the nodes to adjust the shapes further. When the letters were right, they added the faces, arms and legs to the letters to match, as closely as they could, the way NanaBE had drawn them. After that, they positioned the digital images and arranged the text on the pages where it needed to go to prepare the art for the next production stage. Tim finished production work on our end, discussed final issues that came up with the publisher, and the second book was press-ready.

Kaerlyn and Cameron really enjoyed working together. They had spent a lot of time together, but never in an actual "work-for-someone-else" setting. "Interacting with someone, not working alone, was a lot of fun," Kaerlyn said.

They both learned new things about page layout for an actual book, and it was challenging for them to make the faces look like NanaBE's conceptual marker drawings, adjust them where needed, and stay consistent through the whole book. They, like Collin, can see the practical uses in our family business for the things they learned doing this book.

Tim and I have also enjoyed our roles working with NanaBE on these two books. Tim was involved in organizing, scheduling, planning, production, and dealing with the publisher. I was the editor for the text and artwork, checking spelling, grammar and arrangement of text, and checking composition, story-telling and other visual issues.

Tim has loved drawing since he was a kid, and has had many different jobs over the years: drawing comic book pages, story boards for movies, television and advertisements, drawing pictures for our own stories and art projects, and for our kids when they were too young to draw their own. I have always liked spelling and grammar, helped make many of the advertising signs for my parent's fruit stand, and have been editing Tim's work ever since we got married. All of our experiences have been very helpful throughout this whole process.

God has caused our whole family to enjoy helping make these books: watching the kids work together and learn how to deal with others in a business-like setting, seeing the development of the projects, and being able to help shape the products with our thoughts and suggestions. We also enjoyed time with NanaBE and her husband. And we were thrilled to finally see this work in print.

Collin, Kaerlyn and Cameron have now been to a few book signings with NanaBE, having fun spending time with her, getting to meet many other people, and seeing what it's like to have a book in print.

God sure has been at work through this whole process, and we thank Him for allowing us to participate in it.

You can find more information about NanaBE and her books on the web: [www.nanabestories.com](http://www.nanabestories.com).

