

Two Mountaineers Cut Hair for Locks Of Love

Written by Mike Flynn
Friday, 19 April 2013 10:31

Appalachian State University women's basketball coach Darcie Vincent and football student-athlete Malachi Jones (Roswell, Ga./Central Gwinnett) recently

got comfortable in stylists' chairs for a good cause, as both cut their long hair to donate to Locks of Love.

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss in the United States and Canada. Donated hair is used to create the highest quality hair prosthetics for recipients, which includes juvenile cancer patients that have lost their hair due to chemotherapy treatments.

Vincent had four full braids of hair sheared off on Wednesday while Jones got his signature mane cut while he was home for winter break. Both say that the opportunity to help disadvantaged children was too great to pass up.

"I did it (Locks of Love) for the first time nine years ago because there was a special show on Dateline NBC about it," Vincent said. "I knew I wanted to get involved because it was for a great cause and it wound up being a great experience. It took some adjustment after that first time, so it did take me some time to do it again but then you see these kids and you're reminded of why you became involved in the first place. You want to help. It's a great organization, an important cause and I would love it if we could even draw more attention to it."

"It's just hair," Vincent continued. "If you can give something up to make a kid feel better about themselves and to help out, why wouldn't you?"

"I once had a cancer patient tell me 'You have beautiful hair,' so when I decided that I was going to cut my hair for the first time since my junior year of high school, I knew that I wanted to donate it to Locks of Love," Jones said. "It feels good to give something back to the community, especially to those as brave as people fighting cancer."

All 20 of Appalachian State's varsity sports programs participate in community service projects and donate thousands of hours of time to worthy causes each year. In addition to Locks of Love, other notable charities that Appalachian coaches and student-athletes have been involved with include the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity, Samaritan's Purse and OASIS.

Photo Courtesy: Darcie Vincent, ASU Athletic