

## **Weekly Tip #15 October 13th, 2013**

### **Kadeen**

This week I had the pleasure of working with Icing Smiles, Inc. this incredible not for profit organization provides celebratory cakes for families who have a child with a life threatening condition. They make this service possible by recruiting volunteer bakers, both professional and recreational bakers (like me). I received my first cake request a few weeks ago, for a little boy named Kadeen who would be celebrating his 6<sup>th</sup> birthday. After Kadeen's Mom told me that he wanted a dinosaur theme I was overcome with both excitement and a little apprehension, really, how would I ever pull off a Dinosaur cake?

The idea of volunteering for this organization was initially exciting for me, so after my first request I decided to go online to read a little more about Icing Smiles, and that's when the panic set in! You see, I am by no means a professional cake decorator or baker. I've made some cute fun little cakes in the past; however the cakes posted on this web site intimidated me beyond reason! I was very close to calling my neighbor Kathy from Cake Du Jour and ask for help, I figured maybe I could just buy a great cake from her? Part of me felt like I owed it to this family to deliver a "Wow" kind of cake, at any cost, but another part of me felt like I would be "cheating" if I asked Kathy to make the cake. Not cheating because someone else made the cake, but cheating myself from the giving process.

I wanted this cake to be just perfect; I wanted to put a smile on this little boys face. All in all I just wanted to reach out to a family that has been in pain and make a small difference, even if it was only for a short time!

Ultimately I didn't cheat, I read, I Googled, I You-tubed (is that a word?) and I figured out how to use and work with Fondant. My daughter and I worked for hours on creating a dinosaur cake topper made completely out of fondant. And, at the end of the day it wasn't perfect, but I poured my heart into it and it felt great, but nothing compared to how I felt when I saw the smile on little Kadeen's face when we delivered the cake! I Just can't say it enough, giving of your time from your heart is truly the best feeling in life!



