

# What's important to you today?



## The Buffalo News : City & Region

Monday, August 20, 2007

Home > City & Region

### Benefit raises funds to free Cote

By Helen Jones NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Updated: 08/16/07 6:47 AM



John Hickey/Buffalo News  
Lori Silveri, left foreground, the mother of Jonathan Cote, is greeted by Barbara Dimoulas at Wednesday's fundraiser.

The guest of honor may have been thousands of miles away but he was very much on the minds of the hundreds of friends and family members who turned out Wednesday night for a benefit with one purpose in mind: Free Cote.

A former Amherst resident, 24-year-old Jonathon Cote was captured in Baghdad last November when his convoy was ambushed. More than eight months later, neither he nor the four other employees of the security firm he worked for have been found.

Yet the mood Wednesday night in Buckin' Buffalo Saloon on Franklin Street could best be described as optimistic.

"We're doing well," Cote's father Francis said. Cote attributed his optimism to his strong Christian faith.

"We're so pleased people are praying for him," he said.

Cote's mother, Lori Silveri, who traveled to Buffalo for the event, said she, too, was trying to think positive. The last time she heard from her son was in an e-mail a month before he was captured.

"He sounded good," she remembered. When asked how she was holding up, Silveri said she was doing the best she could, and trying to stay positive. "I'm hoping for the best," she said.

She was very moved by the turnout for her son, but said it was a little bittersweet.

“The waiting is hard,” she said. “I’m hoping the next thing we have is a celebration when he comes home.”

Cote was working in Iraq as a civilian after serving four years with the 82nd Airborne. His brother Chris, who like Jonathon attended Williamsville North High School, said the turnout was a sign of just how many friends his brother made over the years.

“He didn’t have an enemy in the world,” Chris Cote said. “He’s the most outgoing person you would ever meet.”

He said his brother was adventurous. “He wanted to jump out of planes. He wanted to serve his country.”

Chris Cote said Jonathon was working in Iraq after his military service because he wanted to be part of “something great.”

“He wanted to be part of the rebuilding of the country,” he said.

“We’re thankful for what the government is doing,” he said. “There are things friends and family can do. We’re doing what we can as a family to get our son and brother back.”

Wednesday night’s benefit was part of that effort, as is a Web site, [www.FreeCote.com](http://www.FreeCote.com), which was set up by Dean Borgue and other friends of Jonathon Cote’s, to provide up-to-date details on the hostages. The family is trying to raise money should the kidnappers wish to negotiate a cash transaction for the release of the hostages.

**[hjones@buffnews.com](mailto:hjones@buffnews.com)**

#### Advertisement

##### Sponsored Links

##### **Barack Obama in Buffalo**

Sign-up online for invitations to local Barack Obama campaign events  
[BarackObama.com](http://BarackObama.com)

##### **No more hot flashes**

Safe, effective, natural menopausal symptom relief. Free trial.  
[www.ChangesForWomen.com](http://www.ChangesForWomen.com)

##### **What’s Your Credit Score?**

See your 2007 credit report and score for \$0 instantly and online.  
[www.FreeCreditReport.com](http://www.FreeCreditReport.com)

##### **Avoid the Nursing Home**

Learn how to banish the aches, pains, and illness that come with aging  
[Boardroom.com/poweraging](http://Boardroom.com/poweraging)

---

© 2007 The Buffalo News. The information you receive online from The Buffalo News is protected by the copyright laws of the United States.

The copyright laws prohibit any copying, redistributing, re-transmitting, or re-purposing of any copyright-protected material.