

Cancer Survivors' Fund

News & Scenes

Summer
'04

Award Winners



Blake Boudreaux

Winner of

Ronald G. Bliss Outstanding Achievement Award.

Blake is a sophomore at Texas A&M majoring in Communications. His GPA is 4.0.



Camelia Cruz

Recipient of

Margaret Kempf Lyng Memorial Award

Camelia Cruz is an honor student with a GPA of 4.0 attending Lee College in Baytown to become a social worker.

“Celebration of Life and Love” Gala was a big success.

Heartfelt appreciation and thanks to all of our guests and supporters.

We are growing because of you!



Ronald G. Bliss, Esq.

The Cancer Survivors' Fund held its second annual gala on the evening of May 21, 2004 at the Junior League. The Gala was planned to celebrate lives of the CSF students and to honor Ronald G. Bliss, Senior Partner with Fulbright & Jaworski who is a three-time cancer survivor. Ron was not able to honor us with his presence due his medical emergency. His colleague and partner Frank Jones privileged us to replace him as our Keynote Speaker. Mr. Jones recognized his integrity, courage, eternal optimism, and told our guests how he inspires colleagues and friends to success and happiness regardless of his own hardships. Ron is very well known via the documentary "Returning with Honor." He is a Vietnam War hero, who survived almost seven years in a North Vietnamese POW camp. Ron is a legend and a role model for all.

Over 240 guests attended this elegant event. Our students and Board Members were on hand to greet our guests. Texas Children's Hospital staff, a contingent of Ron's Fulbright & Jaworski colleagues, Houston Consular Corps members, community leaders and local businessman were present to witness the success stories that serve as living proof of our motto:

“There is life after cancer, a happy and successful life”

(Coined by our first student Umut Unver who lost his leg to cancer. He is a Senior at UT, graduating this Fall.)

Among the guests Matt Musil from CH. 11, said, "I never had that kind of high impact experience at another Gala I attended." Dr ZoAnn Dryer, Chief, Long-term Survivor Clinic at Texas Children's Hospital was so happy and excited, "They are my babies, I cured them. Here they are grown, happy, successful young adults. Thank you Cancer Survivors' Fund for making their dreams come true." All of our students who are the recipients of the scholarships and/or prosthetic legs welcomed each guest and escorted them to their seats.

As guests entered the Ball Room, they were surrounded by the friendly and stunning atmosphere with exquisite center pieces with tropical flowers designed and donated by CSF Board member Marcia Wilson, the owner of Breens Florist.

CSF draws its strength from a dedicated Board of Directors (THE ACTION TEAM), and volunteers who believe in our cause. We presently support eight students (THE WINNING TEAM) with plans to add eight more for the coming academic year.



The event was emceed by CSF Director John Egan, former Head Coach of the Houston Rockets

The Cancer Survivors' Fund is a unique organization with a mission to provide counseling and financial support to young cancer survivors. The Fund awards scholarships to college-age survivors and prosthetic limbs to disadvantaged children and young adults.

“If I keep doing my best, my best gets better and better.”

Blake Boudreaux

A Success Story

Blake Boudreaux will be a sophomore at Texas A&M University this fall. He maintains a consistent GPA of 4.0, majoring in Communications. His long-term goal is to become an Attorney At Law. Blake received the first “Ronald G. Bliss Outstanding Achievement Award” at the CSF Gala.

Dr. Paul Salmonsens, of the Houston Eye Associates, calls him his “miracle man.” He was born with bilateral retinoblastoma, cancer of the eyes. At the age of 14 months old, His left eye was removed at Hermann Hospital followed by radiation treatments at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. A year later the doctors found 25 new cancerous tumors in his radiated eye. They were removed. Blake has been put under anesthesia 53 times before his third birthday. He is now legally blind having only 5 percent vision in his right eye. Blake prides himself on the fact he is the only blind football player Deer Park High School has ever had. His “beep baseball” team recently won the Regional Tournament to advance to the coming World Tournament.

In his own words: Cancer has really impacted my values in life. I think it is extremely important to find a cure for cancer, educate our community on this dreaded disease and help people who have cancer and need assistance. My mother is a team captain for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and I have participated every year as a team member.

I proudly walk in the Survivor's Lap and my goal has always been to raise at least \$500 each year for this important event. Cancer has played a big part in my career goals. If I could see, I would have many more options and job opportunities; but, that is not the hand I was dealt in life.

I feel I will always be disadvantaged because of my lack of sight; so, I know how important it is to get an education and have a degree. I am very fortunate to have Cancer Survivors' Fund on my side to help me achieve my dreams.”



Blake accepting his Award with his parents Helen and Charles Boudreaux proudly observing

Ronald G. Bliss Outstanding Achievement Award

1. Serving above self - Volunteer work
Blake participated in American Cancer Society Relay for Life for 6 consecutive years.
2. Involvement in extra-curricular activities
Blake played beep baseball on Houston's only blind baseball team since age 11.
3. Academic performance - 3.5 GPA for two consecutive semesters.
Blake consistently maintained GPA of 4.0.

Camelia Cruz

A Success Story



CSF Vice Chair Timothy Lyng (right) with Camelia and Pablo Cruz.

Camelia received Margaret Kempf Lyng Memorial Award

Camelia Cruz was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma at the age of 13. As a result of the cancer, she had her left leg amputated above the knee. Then she received a course of chemotherapy that lasted twelve months. Although at age 13 those 12 months seemed like a lifetime to her, Camelia is overjoyed to say that she has been in remission for 14 years. She is an honor student attending Lee College in Baytown to realize her lifetime dream of becoming a social worker and helping the patients of Texas Children's Hospital.

In her own words: After cancer my dreams and goals became making it to my next birthday. By the time I made it to my 18th birthday and graduated from High School I knew college was out of the question but only due to finances. Cancer Survivors' Fund held my hand and made me believe that I was not a victim but a very brave young woman to survive cancer with a bright and happy future. Yeshim told me that the Cancer Survivors Fund would be taking care of the bill for my replacement prosthesis.

Then, she asked me about my dreams and if I wanted to go to college. Well..., a few weeks ago I took my first college finals at Lee College and returned for a summer course in June. Yeshim Yonter and the Cancer Survivors Fund are my Dream Makers as they continue to bring my dreams to life!

Gala Sponsors and Major Contributors

Bridgeway Charitable Foundation	\$6000.-
Fulbright & Jaworski LLC	\$4000.-
David Lewis Moore	\$3000.-
Houston Chronicle	\$1000.-
FTI Consulting	\$1000.-
Transocean Offshore Drilling	\$1000.-
Nuray Artam	\$1000.-
Irma Brindis	\$1000.-
Richard and Judy Jarvis	\$1000.-
Marc Folladori	\$500.-
Mike Rome	\$500.-
Kim Walters	\$500.-

A Brief History

Cancer Survivors' Fund is a very young organization, founded in 1999 by Yeshim Yonter who is a veteran volunteer at the MD Anderson Cancer Center. Her motherly instincts and being a twice cancer survivor herself directed her into this honorable mission. She encourages the young patients to fight for their lives and win, and urges each of them to build a dream of their own. She has been their mentor, coach, friend, dream-maker since the first day that she met each and every one of them. CSF provides opportunities to encourage volunteerism among young survivors to give other children and young adult's courage and hope, to energize them in their fight against cancer. Teach them to share themselves, their time, energy and help them to grow emotionally and spiritually.

Scenes



Yeshim Yonter embracing
Vanessa Kelly
*Vanessa is a sophomore at UH
12-year survivor of Leukemia*



Brian Truby, Nicole Ross,
Jonna Flores, Dr. Roland Flores
Smiling Faces



Kerry Walker & Diane Adams
bidding at Silent Auction
We wonder who got the item?

Our First Graduates



Billy Watkins III

Billy graduated from the University of Houston and received his degree in Accounting with a GPA of 3.25. He will continue his studies in graduate school towards an MA degree in Accounting. Billy's goal is to become a CPA.

Billy is a 2-year survivor of testicular cancer.



Tiana Cornelius

Tiana graduated from Barnard College of Columbia University in New York and received her degree in Economics/Mathematics with a GPA of 3.7. Tiana will continue her studies at Columbia's Teacher's College for an MA degree in Secondary Math Education.

Tiana is a 4-year survivor of rhabdomyosarcoma.

New Students of our "Winning Team"



Ruth-Ann Fenske

Ruthie is a Junior attending University of Texas majoring in Journalism and Human Relations. Her GPA is 4.0.

Ruth-Ann is a 4-year survivor of medullary thyroid cancer.



Chris Rhodes

Chris is a Sophomore at Lamar State College in Port Arthur, Texas studying Air Conditioning/Refrigeration.

Chris is a 4-year survivor of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Cancer Survivors' Fund

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Working together, we are changing one life at a time.



The "Action Team" embraces the "Winning Team"
CSF Board with Students at the Fund Raising Gala - May 21, 2004