

Cancer Survivors' Fund™

From Surviving to Thriving

News & Scenes

Winter
'06

Spotlight



Jose Pacheco

*Osteosarcoma Survivor
Fitting Jose's New Prosthesis
(Story Inside)*



Camelia Cruz

*Bearing Gifts for
Children with Cancer
CSF donated toys to pediatric
cancer patients at Ronald
McDonald House and MD
Anderson Cancer Center*

CSF Students

Completing Another Successful Semester

Your Support Means Everything



Yennys Palomeque

"CSF has changed my life by giving me a chance that many kids from my neighborhood never could receive. I feel as though I have been guided by this great organization to become a better person and be able to provide help to others as they have offered it to me. CSF organization and all the recipients of the CSF scholarship have been my inspiration to excel at my academic work. Their hard work and perseverance is seen at all times along with a smile and the willingness to keep doing more. I feel as though I have been given wings to soar above and beyond my limits thanks to all the love and support I have found from my CSF family."

Yennys is a sophomore and an honor student at the Texas Woman's University in Denton, majoring in Psychology. She has survived lymphoma.



Camelia Cruz

"I was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma at the age of 14. I had to have my left leg amputated six inches above the knee. I am cancer free now but my life values changed because of my experience with cancer. I know, without a doubt, that my appreciation for the gift of life has more than multiplied. I also learned to respect the thin line between life and death and will never take it for granted. I am grateful to Cancer Survivors' Fund for making my dreams to come true by helping me walk and opening new doors for me to attend college."

Camelia is studying to become a Child Life Specialist at the Lee College. She is an honor student and will transfer to the University of Houston next year. She is the 2005 winner of Ronald G. Bliss Outstanding Achievement Award and \$10,000 Scholarship.



Brian Kane

"I will be graduating this spring!!! This means I will have completely reversed my GPA from below 2.90 to 3.80 and graduated in three years and I honestly owe it all to the Cancer Survivors' Fund. I have really learned that we can never feel sorry for ourselves in life and if we want something we have to go out there and work for it. Seeing Blake getting ready to go to law school with his limited vision and all of the other obstacles the other students are overcoming has helped me become a better person. I wish I could bring all the people I see wasting themselves away on alcohol and immaturity to one of the CSF functions. They would definitely change their attitude when they met the students of the CSF!"

Brian Kane was diagnosed with Wilm's Tumor and lost his left kidney when he was two years old. He is a Senior attending the University of Texas in San Antonio working towards his degree in Business Administration.

All of our students successfully completed their Fall Semesters. We will tell you more success stories in the upcoming newsletters.

Rising Stars of Cancer Survivors' Fund

Jose Pacheco



Changing One More Life for the Better
Mullenburg Prosthetics Clinical Director Jon Holmes,
CSF Student Camelia Cruz, CSF Founder Yeshim
Yonter, CSF Student Jose Pacheco, Scott Spring, CP

Jose is a survivor of osteosarcoma. He is a freshman at the Houston Community College studying for a career in the healthcare field. In his own words:

"My name is Jose Pacheco I lost my right leg to cancer in 1997, and I just want to share with you all how Cancer Survivors' Fund has changed my life. I was first introduced to CSF by Mullenburg Prosthetics and Orthotics. I really needed a new prosthetic leg and neither I nor my family had health insurance. CSF promised me a new prosthesis, a college education, and also promised me that they would be behind me all the way. CSF is an organization of incredibly great people that really care, help, and support their students. I still remember the feeling of freedom and happiness I felt when I first walked on my brand new prosthesis.

I now have a chance to attend Houston Community College to realize my dream of becoming a healthcare professional thanks to CSF and their sponsors.



Tiana Cornelius (Second from Left)
Bringing Joy with her singing to Pediatric Patients
at the MD Anderson Cancer Center

"Being a Cancer patient, a sick, bald girl, put me in a place of helplessness and outside pity. As a recipient of the charity of others, I learned what real charity is. It is not the act of giving out of obligation, but giving from the heart. The hospital volunteers who would spend their afternoons with me while I received intravenous chemotherapy inspired me to continue as a volunteer today because I now understand the tremendous impact one person, one act of kindness, can make."

Tiana is a graduate student at the Teachers' College of Columbia University working on her Master's and teaching certificate. She survived Rhabdomyosarcoma.

Leandrew Salazar

Lee Salazar is a three-time Leukemia survivor. He has been attending Houston Community College majoring in Child Life. He is transferring to University of Houston for the Spring Semester – another dream come true - to further his education.



Lee on Stage
Telling His Success Story

Lee also has been a counselor for the past ten years at Camp Periwinkle, a week long summer camp for children with cancer between the ages of 7-14. In his own words:

"Battling cancer and trying to stay alive was the only thing in my mind. Getting an education was something that was last on my 'to do' list. This organization has instilled the confidence and determination that I was lacking to achieve my goal in life, and that is to become a child life specialist.

Cancer Survivors Fund came into my life and the light at the end of that tunnel is now shining even brighter. With the help and the encouragement and mentoring that CSF has to offer I was able to break through that wall and pass algebra and continue on my path to accomplishing my goals. Giving a second chance in life is a huge gift and with Cancer Survivors Fund by our sides I know there is nothing we can't achieve as students. I'm so grateful for all that CSF does; thanks to all who donate to this wonderful cause. Without all of you this wouldn't be possible!"



Rebecca Munoz

“During my high school senior year even with my cancer I was determined to pursue higher education even though my doctors doubted that I would be able to go to college and achieve my potential.

It would have been easy to stay home in my secure environment but I am determined to graduate from A&M and wear my Aggie Ring. I am greatly appreciative for the opportunity to pursue my education and to the Cancer Survivors’ Fund who made it possible for me to experience this. In my years to come I know the path will be bumpy, but because of what I learned through my illness, I know I will pull through and achieve my goals.”

Rebecca is a Sophomore at Texas A&M with a 4.00 GPA for the 2005 Fall Semester. She survived Thyroid Carcinoma.



Jessica Sigle

“Two years ago I put my education on reserve for one semester while I underwent chemotherapy for Leukemia. Being a full-time student now gives me less time to think about therapy and to just worry about the next test coming up. Some days are a challenge, but without CSF I would have been very difficult to pay for my education. Life is full of challenges and I have seen people worst off than I am, so I feel I have been lucky so far. With each semester I complete I am closer to fulfilling my dream of obtaining a marine biology degree and someday I will be able to work with marine animals Dreams do come true with hard work, determination and help from CSF.”

Jessica is a sophomore at Texas A&M. She also is a member of the FFA Chapter and has been very active in all activities. Jessica plans to use her degree in Marine Biology to further her love of animals by working in a zoo upon graduation.

Gala - 2006 *“From Surviving to Thriving”*

We are so pleased to announce that on Friday, April 21, 2006, Cancer Survivors’ Fund will present a gala evening at the Junior League celebrating the hopes, dreams and achievements of young cancer survivors. The evening will feature a reception, silent auction, dinner, awards and live entertainment.



“Ronald G. Bliss Outstanding Achievement Award and \$10,000 Scholarship”



Blake Boudreaux
Winner of 2004 Award



Camelia Cruz
Winner of 2005 Award



To be announced at the Gala
Winner of 2006 Award

SAVE-THE-DATE

Friday Evening, April 21, 2006

We do hope you will join us in celebrating the outstanding achievements of the Cancer Survivors’ Fund and be part of this great adventure of providing educational, physical and spiritual help to these deserving young people.

Cancer Survivors' Fund™

From Surviving to Thriving

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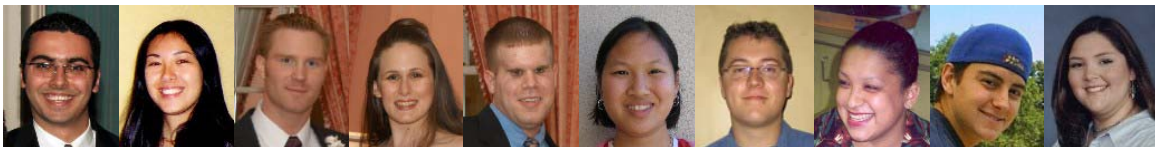
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From surviving...



Since 1999, the Cancer Survivors' Fund has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships and prosthetic appliances to young cancer survivors. Ever-increasing numbers of CSF students are enrolled every year in institutions of higher education, transforming their lives *from surviving to thriving*. With our counseling and financial assistance, they are accomplishing dreams once thought to be impossible.

Cancer Survivors' Fund gives these survivors back their life-force!

Make a difference. Support CSF to facilitate significant life-altering opportunities in the lives of young cancer survivors. Join us in this much needed and rewarding effort. Become a philanthropic partner in the Cancer Survivors Fund!



to thriving.