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Ozark High School Senior Class
FCCLA

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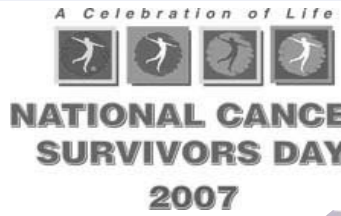
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Donations & Memorials made after March 7, 2007 will be listed in the next issue.



For some of our patients the anniversary date might fall in February, and for other's it might be August. The Reynolds Cancer Support House observes all of our patients' cancer survivorship in June. **Saturday, June 2nd** to be exact. A **"Celebration of Life"** will be held again this year at the Fort Smith Convention Center thanks to Mayor Ray Baker's generosity.

National Cancer Survivors Day was begun 20 years ago by Richard & Annette Bloch (H. & R. Block) as a way to show that a cancer diagnosis does not mean a death sentence. It is a way for all cancer survivors to come together to celebrate another year of survivorship.

This year we are very fortunate to have local cancer survivor; Circuit Judge Jim Spears and Bobby "Shakey" Woodward-Jones as the keynote speaker. We hope all cancer survivors can come and hear an uplifting message and the story of his cancer journey.

A "Celebration of Life" is sponsored by the Northwest Arkansas Chapter of the Oncology Nurses Society.



Cancer Support Foundation • 3324 South M Street • Fort Smith, AR 72903



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Young Philanthropists At Work

The regional meeting of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) was held at the Greenwood Performing Arts Center February 28th. They chose the Reynolds Cancer Support House as their special project for the school year. The result was a collective donation from all the participating school districts of \$320. Executive Director, Mary Lee Frase, accepted the gift and took the opportunity to share with the students how their donation would be used for the patients we serve. Thank you, FCCLA members. You are making a difference in our communities and we are all benefiting from your service.



TJ Wood and Stephanie Pruitt, both of Ozark High School, chose to raise money for the Cancer Support House for their senior service project. They sold 300 carnations for Valentine's Day raising \$332.80. TJ and Stephanie presented the check to Sarah Wilson, the Donor Support Coordinator for the Support House.



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If Cory Klein had his way, he would have spent his 16th birthday with his dad, eating cake and ice cream and opening presents. Not a very ambitious wish until you consider that Cory will never celebrate another birthday with his father. George Klein died of colon cancer when Cory was only in the second grade.

"A real big piece of my heart was just gone," the Lavaca teen said, putting into words what it feels like when a 10-year-old boy realizes his father is going to die.

Still, Cory's memories are of George Klein are vivid. "He liked to hunt and fish," Cory said. "We went camping. He was a real great dad."

In fact, it was Cory's dad who witnessed his young son discovering just how exciting nature could be.

"One time he took me and my sister to Devil's Den with a buddy of his and we went camping up in the caves, and swimming in the creek. Sometime during the night," Cory said, lacing his long fingers together, "I woke up and had to use the restroom. He took me outside the tent. There was a raccoon up on the picnic table." Corey smiled, his dark eyes lighting up with the memory. "I didn't know what the thing was. I was too young. So I jumped between his legs as he was closing the tent."

The year George Klein died, Cory had the good fortune to have a classmate at Lavaca Elementary School named Emily Potter.

Emily, who was only ten at the time, did what she could to comfort Cory. "I remember hugging him," Emily said. And that small act of kindness led to a great and lasting friendship.

Over the following years Cory's family stepped in to fill the gigantic gap left by his father's passing.

As for Emily, she spent the springs and summers and winters after George Klein's death enjoying her own father, Ronnie Potter, who coached her t-ball team and watched from the bleachers as she cheered for the Lavaca Golden Arrows. And just as Cory's dad had done, her father instilled in her a love of the outdoors.

"He liked to hunt and fish. He took me camping a thousand times a summer, it seemed like," Emily said.

Things seemed especially bright for Emily's family, that is until 2004 when her father was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme, an aggressive form of brain cancer. "The first time I saw my papaw cry was when my dad got sick," Emily said, her own voice breaking at the thought of it. Meanwhile Cory's family looked on, knowing only too well what Emily was feeling. "When my dad got sick, Melissa, Cory's mom, told Cory and his

sister, Brittney, to be there for me and my brother," Emily said. "And they were."

Emily's family watched 2005 come in with trepidation. Her father was fading by then, already having undergone brain surgery that left a scythe-like scar on his skull. When Emily tells the story she traces the outline of the scar in the air with her index finger as if she can feel the place where the surgeon's instrument made its initial entry.

When the final blow came Emily was staying with her best friend. "My dad died at home. My mom didn't want me to be there when he actually passed away and I left to spend the night with Courtney and she called me five minutes after I got to Courtney's house," Emily said, taking a ragged breath before continuing. "She told me he passed away. "Courtney's mom is like a second mom to me and she just held me and let me cry all night."

In those days, and weeks, and months after Ronnie Potter's passing, Cory did what Emily had done for him all those years before.

"Cory's always just been there to give me a hug and make me feel better," Emily said.



The bond between the two continued to grow. And so, when Emily began thinking about her upcoming sixteenth birthday, she couldn't imagine celebrating it without Cory, who would turn 16 just days after she did.

"About a month before our birthdays, she said 'You know what, let's raise money and send it where we can help with cancer support,'" Cory said.

Emily explained her desire to help this way: "It was sad that he (Emily's father) couldn't be there for my Sweet 16. I really wanted to make it a happy thing."

So the birthday invitations went out specifying No Gifts. Cory and Emily only wanted donations for the Donald W. Reynolds Cancer Support House in honor of George Klein and Ronnie Potter.

It was an amazing night for Emily and Cory. The old Lavaca High School gym filled up with 50 friends and family members, all willing the teens' dream to come true. Music played, several of the boys challenged the girls to a game of hoops, and a massive birthday cake dwindled chunk by chunk.

Continued on pg. 3

Are YOU Tough Enough To Wear Pink?

Last year thousands of you put on pink cowboy shirts, T-shirts, cowboy hats, ball caps or pink jeans and proved to the Old Fort Days Rodeo that you ARE Tough Enough to Wear Pink for breast cancer awareness and the Donald W. Reynolds Cancer Support House. Now, it's time to do it again, but this time the event is BIGGER and BETTER.

Sunday May 27th, the 2nd Annual Chili Feast and auction will be the kick off event for this year's Tough Enough to Wear Pink (TETWP). Creative Leather & Tack Riders are hosting this family event from 1-5pm in the Cowboy Room at the Rodeo Grounds. Enjoy great chili and bid on fabulous auction items. Included will be a one-of-a-kind specially designed TETWP belt buckle and a hand-made pair of chaps in a silent auction that can be bid on throughout Rodeo week.

Then on **Monday, the 28th**, join us for the Old Fort Days Rodeo Parade at 10am. Our float has been designed and created by the *For Girls, By Girls, Older Girl's Committee* from the Girl Scout Council of Mount Magazine area. They will ride on the float, too.

If you don't have your pink cowboy hat, Outlaw Hats will help you out. For every pink hat sold at the store location or on the rodeo grounds, they will make a donation to the Cancer Support House. The rodeo begins Monday evening at 7pm. For the first time, box seating is available for TETWP sponsors. Just call Julie Bugg at (479) 783-8979.

Friday night, June 1st is the official Wrangler's TETWP night at the rodeo. One dollar of every ticket sold will go to the Donald W. Reynolds Cancer Support House. Each cowboy competing that night will be decked out in pink as well as all the Rodeo Committee AND the Dandies. Before the action begins in the arena, Jimmy Haas, Fort Smith Radio Group DJ and Rodeo Committee member, will have his 24" mane cut off by the Diva Den Salon's Punky Weiler and Shea Sessions and donate it to Locks of Love. Now, that is something you don't want to miss. It's all for one reason... reminding all of us about making early detection breast cancer practices part of every woman's routine. That... will save lives.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help sell programs from 6:30-8:30pm each night of the rodeo. The Support House gets a portion of every program sold. You can sign up by calling the House at 782-6302 or stopping by. We also need volunteers in the Golden Nugget room each night from 5:30-7 to get silent bids on autographed cowboy hats. Let us celebrate those who are breast cancer survivors and hold in our hearts those who almost held on for the full 8 seconds, but not quite.

Teaming Up!



The Donald W. Reynolds Cancer Support House and Entertainment Fort Smith magazine have teamed up to form a team to walk or run in the 5K Komen Ozark Race for the Cure on **April 21 at 8 a.m. at Northwest Arkansas Mall**. We need at least six more walkers to have team status. Deadline is March 21. Cost is \$20 to register and includes a dynamite T-shirt. For more information or to register, log on to www.komenozark.org/race.... or call (479) 494-1888 and join Team Entertainment Fort Smith magazine's fight against breast cancer.

COMING UP...

April Events

- April 9th, Monday, 2PM - Look Good Feel Better
- April 14th, Sat., 9:00AM Breast Cancer Survivors Breakfast
- April 14th, Saturday, 6:00PM - Wine & Roses
- April 21st, Saturday, 8AM - Komen Race for the Cure
- April 30th, Monday, 1:30PM - Spa Day

May Events

- May 5th, Saturday, 11AM - 1PM - Mother's Day Spa Day
- May 21st, Monday, 1:30PM - Spa Day
- May 27th-28th - Tough Enough to Wear Pink Events

June Events

- June 1st - Tough Enough to Wear Pink
- June 2nd, Saturday - National Cancer Survivors Day
- June 11th, Monday, 2PM - Look Good Feel Better
- June 25th, Monday, 1:30PM - Spa Day

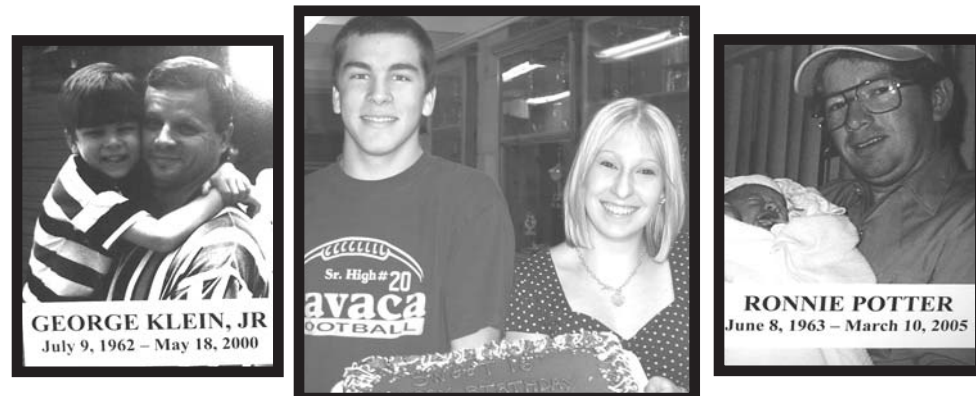
If you have questions please call 782-6302.

Bitter Sweet 16 Cont'd

But something even bigger happened that night. Checks drifted in, the amounts both large and small. Teens, without the benefit of checking accounts, dropped in dollar bills, and then fives, and tens. A few twenties made it to the stack. And as the party wore on the hope of 50 people merged, all with one mission - to help those facing the same battle Cory and Emily's families had waged.

When the tally was final, Emily and Cory had raised \$760 for the Cancer Support House. They delivered a stack of checks and cash to Mary Lee Frase, Executive Director, on a cold, overcast day in February. No one seemed to notice the foul weather.

At times, Frase appeared close to tears, and after leading the teens on a tour of the house, she hugged Emily and shook Cory's hand. The two said they never expected the attention they received from their decision to turn a bright light on a dark situation.



"I was really excited that I could help someone who was going through what I did," Emily said as she pushed a lock of blond hair from her forehead. "I know how tough it is, how hard it is to lose your parent and maybe some girl my age might not have the same money problems we did."

At 16 Emily has already learned the hard lessons that cancer brings. How it takes its toll on a family's emotions as well as its bank account. But she is not burdened by these cold facts; instead, she saw this as an opportunity to do good.

Through the same process, Cory discovered the joy of giving back. "I feel real great," he said. "I'm glad we could make a difference in somebody's life."

What Cory may not know is that he made a difference in many people's lives, the number he may never know. Because even after the money has done its good at the Cancer Support House, the story of where the money came from will touch everyone who hears it.

No one should ever forget that the miracle of what transpired on that cold night in January has everything to do with how Cory and Emily found a way to forego the usual expectations of a Sweet 16 and opted instead for a more profound Bittersweet 16, and that, as they say, made all the difference.

Pamper Yourself!

Spa Day

Relax and Refresh

You just never know where a blessing is going to come from around the Support House. Some months ago, Jack Frase (yes, his wife is Executive Director Mary Lee) met Bruce and Lynnette Hawley.... Upon getting to know them Jack learned that Lynnette was a BeautiControl representative and she explained how their Women Helping Others program could help cancer patients with skin care issues during chemotherapy. Lynnette came to the Support House and gave the staff a mini-spa treatment and she has volunteered to do the same for our patients who are currently in treatment or less than six months out. The monthly treatments will take place the last Monday of each month beginning at 1:30 pm. They will last about an hour and you will leave feeling better and knowing how to better take care of your skin during your cancer treatment and beyond.

Then for **Mother's Day...Saturday, May 5th** from 11am to 1pm the Reynolds Cancer Support House will celebrate Mothers' Day by providing a "Spa Day" for cancer patients. The patients will experience a mini-spa treatment by local BeautiControl representatives which will target the face, feet and hands. Massage therapists will be on hand to provide chair massages and a light lunch will be served. Reservations are required as space is limited. To make a reservation call the Support House at 782-6302 or 1/800-262-9917.

Leaving a Legacy of Love (by Marla Cantrell)

Cory Klein's grandfather keeps a file filled with cards addressed to Cory and his sister. Cory's father, George, wrote the cards after he learned he was terminally ill.

While this idea is a touching idea for those facing serious illness, it would also work for anyone planning for the future.

Cory's grandfather said these cards are for those important events in the lives of his children that George Klein did not live to see.

- Some suggestions are:
- 16th birthday
- 21st birthday
- High school graduation
- College graduation
- Marriage
- Child's first baby

Consider including this special remembrance in your legacy of love.



The clinking of wine filled crystal, the aromatic scent of delicate roses, and fabulous art will greet guests at the Donald W. Reynolds Cancer Support House on Saturday, April 14th. The occasion is the thirteenth annual *Wine and Roses Gala* to benefit the Donald W. Reynolds Cancer Support House.

Exquisite wines from around the country will compliment this year's Bill of Fare. *Wine and Roses* is excited to welcome Executive Chef, Lee Williams, formerly of Caesar's Palace, who recently joined Sparks Health System. Chef Williams has prepared menus for such stars as Frank Sinatra, Cher, Willie Nelson and our own Donald W. Reynolds and Sam Walton.

Fine art from the Eureka Springs Fine Arts Company will be on display and available for purchase. These world-class artists will provide original pieces of sculpture, oil and pastels and will be available to visit and discuss their works. Five special pieces will be auctioned in a live event with 100% of the winning bid going to the Donald W. Reynolds Support House. In addition, spectacular works by other national artists

will join the Eureka artists' pieces in a silent auction.

Wine and Roses is well known for the superior selection of wines offered throughout the evening. However, nothing can compare to the incredible Wine Auction with its exuberant bidders. Anyone can participate or watch from a closed circuit television monitor.

Roses for this year's event will please the senses with their aromatic scents and exuberant hues while warming the hearts of all who attend. The Support House will be the backdrop for these large bouquets, which will be displayed throughout. Each bouquet will be arranged with one dozen of the most beautiful long stem roses you have ever seen. They are dedicated to honor or remember someone who is battling, survived or died from cancer. A special card identifying this special person will be placed with each bouquet. Whether or not you attend, this is a wonderful way to honor a loved one, grandparent, colleague or neighbor. Bouquets may be taken home after the event or picked up Sunday, April 15th from noon until 4pm.

The black tie optional event is the major fundraiser for the Support House. For the over 2,200 cancer patients, ranging in age from 8 to 80, who receive services and programs at no charge, your support is greatly appreciated. To donate \$100 for a Rose Bouquet to honor a loved one, to be a *Wine and Roses Sponsor*, or to purchase tickets contact the Support House at 479-782-6302.

Need An Idea for a Gift for a Birthday, Easter, Graduation, Anniversary?...

What do you give someone who has everything? Honor them by helping the 2200 patients at the Cancer Support House by giving a gift in their honor. Please help us continue the Cancer Support House programs and Services by making a donation.

Your Support Counts!

Please accept my gift:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Acknowledgement Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

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Please mail completed card, along with you signed check to the Cancer Support House
3324 South M Street Fort Smith, AR 72903