

RWRM UPDATE

INTRODUCING THE RYAN WALDHEGER CLINICAL RESEARCH FUND

RWRM would once again like to thank Jeff Suchy for leading Team Waldheger to an 8th place victory in the 2010 Light the Night event to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Also, thanks to Steve Dzurec who hosted his 13th annual volleyball tournament in Richfield, Ohio, and donated the proceeds to RWRM. You guys inspire others with your ability to do good!

We are pleased to announce an important development in our partnership with University Hospitals of Cleveland. The Ryan Waldheger Research Memorial Foundation has pledged to contribute \$50,000 to University Hospitals Health Systems, Inc. for the purpose of establishing an individual endowment fund in Ryan's name under the direction of the Division Chief of Pediatric Oncology in consultation with the

Director of Seidman (formerly Ireland) Cancer Center and the Director of Pediatric (Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital) Hematology Oncology.

This gift will benefit adolescent and young adult hematology oncology patients in two ways: (1) by helping to fund cooperative efforts between adult and pediatric oncologists, including the establishment of an adolescent and young

adult fellowship, and (2) by helping to fund adolescent and young adult-related research efforts at the University Hospitals Center for Regenerative Medicine.

We look forward to utilizing The Ryan Waldheger Clinical Research Fund as a platform to influence change and encourage progress. It is solely due to the continued generosity of our donors that this gift is possible.

Recent Events: Incredible Generosity

Young Adult Cancer - the Facts

- Each year nearly 65,000 young adults in their 20s and 30s are diagnosed with cancer.
- In contrast to younger patients and older patients, survival rates for young adults have not increased since 1975.

Last summer there was a buzz of excitement and hope in Westlake, Ohio as the annual Savannah Estates wine-tasting fundraiser to benefit RWRM was held at the home of Rich and Susan Lawrence. Nancy and Ralph Rocco along with Jody Butler, Kathy Huffman, Lou Ann Kutina, Karen Milinkovich, Christy Stark and many generous donors and sponsors raised a record-breaking amount in 2010, far exceeding their own very high expectations. RWRM President Ron Waldheger

made a formal presentation of a RWRM check in the amount of \$10,000 to University Hospitals' Dr. John Letterio. This gift will be applied toward the above-mentioned new Ryan Waldheger Clinical Research Fund. Thank you to all.

On April 5, 2011 ticket sales of over \$1,200 from the annual Westlake Idol competition at Westlake High School went to benefit RWRM. The event organizers were "looking for a local connection," said WHS English teacher Mindy Clark. At the

suggestion of Ray Heimann, Ryan's step brother and Student Council President, the organizers chose RWRM.

Ron Waldheger spoke briefly to the audience, which was well aware that a brave WHS Senior had recently been diagnosed with leukemia. "I could sense that the audience felt the connection between their classmate and Ryan and all the other young adults who will face cancer, and they were glad to help," Ron commented.

Ongoing Efforts

RWRM has a voice on the newly-formed University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center Patient and Family Advisory Council. Board Member Patricia Waldheger speaks from experience as a cancer patient family member, with particular interest in the physical and emotional concerns of young adult stem cell transplant patients like Ryan. As a council member, she hopes to

help shape decisions that will affect the delivery of care to young adults with cancer. This includes providing positive input regarding patient and family rights and responsibilities, educating young adults about the importance of participating in clinical trials, and creating a hospital environment that is welcoming to young patients' families, including close friends.

Additionally, RWRM continues to work with the Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF) and its Young Adult Alliance (YAA) by promoting a joint credentialing and fellowship program as part of their standards task force. Over 180 other organizations are involved, but RWRM has taken the lead in this initiative, hoping to create a national program to certify cancer standards.

About our organization....

RWRM is an organization which aims to improve cancer care for adolescents and young adults through research that bridges the gap between pediatric and adult cancer care programs. If you would like to know more about our organization, please e-mail us at info@RWRM.org or visit us at www.RWRM.org.

RWRM to Host Meeting of AYA Cancer Organizations

RWRM will host a joint meeting of cancer foundations dedicated to young adult cancer care and research on August 31, 2011, at Westwood Country Club. Our Board believes that we are now in a position to assist in coordinating the efforts of similar organizations in a meaningful way. Most importantly, in order to advance our core missions of fellowships to train physicians in the care of

young adult cancer patients and the creation of young adult cancer protocols, all like-minded organizations should coordinate their efforts.

Please contact our Chairperson Becca Waldheger (info@RWRM.org) if your organization would like to participate.

Thank you for your continued support,

The RWRM Board of Directors

