



Ryan Waldheger
Research Memorial

RWRMUPDATE

NOVEMBER 2009

So much has been accomplished since last you heard from RWRM. Our fundraising efforts have reached an all-time high; our group of "friends" has exceeded our expectations; and most importantly, *change* has been put into motion. RWRM has continued on the course we charted - changing the lives of young adults with cancer and making waves along the way. Thank you. If you are receiving this update, we thank you - for being *a part of something* - something big, something current, and something that will endure. Thank you for daring to help change cancer care as we know it. Read on to see how your support of RWRM has made you a part of something great!

Events; Fun times were had by all!

On November 29, 2008, friends and family gathered to take part in some Wii fishing fun at the Ryan Waldheger Research Memorial Wii Fishing Tournament, raising Over \$8,000! Proceeds will provide University Hospitals Ireland Cancer Center with four state of the art entertainment carts. Each cart includes a Nintendo Wii game system, flat screen TV, DVD player, two wireless headphones, iPod and cell phone charging/docking stations, and a complete Guiwr Hero set, as well as a collection of Wii games and DVDs. The donated carts will be for the use of adolescent and young adult patients treated at Ireland Cancer Center, as well as their guests. We would like to thank all who attended the tournament as well as the businesses and individuals who made this wonderful evening possible. Thank you to Dr. Tim Bizga, who generously donated four new Wiis to be used at the event, and later, added on as the primary attraction to our carts! Delicious food was donated by Sweet Basil, Lobster Brothers, Cleats of Westlake, and K&K Portage Market, Inc., as well as The Winking Lizard of Avon. Time Warp Bar in Westlake provided drinks and a locale for this memorable evening. Ryan would have been thrilled with so many people coming out, having fun, fishing, and raising money to support his dream!

This year's RWRM Wine Tasting was an enormous success, raising over \$12,000! On August 27th, 2009, the generosity of many impressed all who attended and furthered our goal of uniting people to improve cancer care. Hosts Jodi and Jamie Butler, along with Nancy and Ralph Rocco, Christy and Paul Stark, LouAnn and Charles Kutina, and Kathy and Dave Huffman made this amazing evening a reality. We would also like to thank sponsors Theresa Sandhu, Robin Moodley (Wine Shop at Home), Stanton Jewelers, Minotti's Wine and Liquor (Westlake), Fahrenheit Restaurant, 87 West Wine Bar, and Waldheger • Coyne. The setting was beautiful, the wine and food delicious, the auction and raffle exciting, and the company wonderful! We were overwhelmed by the generosity of those who attended as well as those who planned the successful evening!

Under the leadership of Team Captain Jeff Suchy, Team Waldheger participated in The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk for the third consecutive year. Team Waldheger raised over \$2,550! What a great way to spend a night - walking through Progressive

Field with other; who feel passionately about fighting cancer. Check out the events page on www.RWRM.org for photos of our group!

LIVESTRONG *Young Adult Alliance Membership: Change is upon us!*

Ryan's hope was no less than to change the way medicine is practiced in America. That is a huge job. It demands of all of us both patience and willingness to work hard with and through organizations that are national in scope. This last year, we have concentrated our efforts through one of Ryan's favorite organizations, the Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF), with significant effect.

LAF has a cooperative arrangement with about 100 other member organizations which is called the LIVESTRONG Young Adult Alliance (YAA). Our foundation became a YAA member organization last year. One of the goals of the LIVESTRONG YAA is to ensure the excellence of cancer treatment of adolescent and young adult patients. One of the strategies to achieve that goal is:

To educate current and future health care professionals on the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in AYA (Adolescent and Young Adult) patients through certified curricula and professional training opportunities.

This strategy could have been written by Ryan himself. To implement this strategy, a standards of care task force was formed by the LIVESTRONG YAA national steering committee. Ron Waldheger represents RWRM actively by serving on the task force. Ryan's voice and goals are regularly heard, loud and clear. Indeed, within the task force, Ron serves on two newly formed national subcommittees: the writing committee and the branding and certification committee. RWRM will help the Alliance publish groundbreaking standards of care requiring adult/pediatric oncologist consultation in treatment of AYA patients, as well as implementing a system of certifying AYA centers of excellence where those standards are met. Stay tuned for an update soon as Ron is just returning home from working with committee members of the standards of care task force which met in Austin last week~

A year ago, we sent an update to you revealing our plan to ally and position ourselves where we can begin to effect real change and become a recognized part of a movement to improve cancer treatment for young adults. We are confident that our fundraising efforts and advocacy work will make an impact both on those that are affected by cancer and on those who provide their care. Thank you for your continuing interest and support of something big, something current, and something that will endure.

The Ryan Waldheger Research Memorial

Please visit www.RWRM.org for details of the holiday party being thrown by Waldheger-Coyne in part to thank RWRM's generous supporters. The party is on November 28th at The Copper Cup in Westlake. See you there!