



## Jim Richardson

In February during Abilene's ice storm, former Marine Jim Richardson slipped and fell on the ice. He tore out his knee, rotator cuff and shoulder. Due to his injuries, he lay in the ice for a while. Not to let it get him down, he trudged on, but ultimately got sick. His family kept encouraging him to go to the doctor, but like a lot of men, going to the doctor was the last thing he wanted to do. When he did finally go see the doctor, they discovered he had a tumor in his throat. The doctor referred Jim to an ear, nose and throat specialist. The ENT specialist put a scope down Jim's throat to look at the tumor and recommended they do a biopsy. The specialist called a few days after the biopsy with life changing news: Jim had throat cancer.

Jim was a rodeo clown for 14 years and had been around all types of tobacco, but said he has never dipped, chewed, or smoked anything. He could not believe, of all people, he had throat cancer. "I've lived 62 years and other than being physically injured during a rodeo, I've never really been ill. Having a throat cancer scared me", Jim said. The next thing he knew, he had to begin chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

Through his contacts at Texas Oncology, he was able to meet the folks at Cancer Services Network who Jim says "have been a Godsend to me and have really helped a lot. Because of my financial situation and lack of income to be able to care for myself, Cancer Services Network has done a lot to help me," Jim said. "They have helped me tremendously—financially, emotionally, and physically. I don't know what I would have done without their help." CSN helped with transportation costs, emergency funds and medical supplies.

A side effect of treatment, Jim lost the mustache he'd had for 45 years. His daughter, who lives in Wichita Falls, said she's never seen him without it. "My mustache was older than she is!" he chuckled.



Since he started treatments in May, Jim has lost 97 pounds. CSN provided him with nutritional supplements to help maintain his strength while he was undergoing treatment, but after a while, like many throat cancer patients, he had to have a feeding tube. It has since been removed, and although the radiation affected his taste buds and teeth, and he has very little appetite, he is eating normally again.

Jim says he is thankful for his doctors, the support of friends, and Cancer Services Network. "I'm even thankful for that fall on the ice. It got me in to see the doctor which ultimately led to the discovery of my cancer and I began treatment immediately."

Last week Jim had surgery on his rotator cuff, and he just learned that the treatments have not eradicated his cancer. In spite of this news and his tenuous financial situation, Jim's attitude remains positive and his faith strong. He says Philippians 4:6 has been coming to mind—*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (NIV)*

# Fashions for the Cure a Success!

## Special Thanks to Yanell Rieder

The 11th Annual Fashions for the Cure (FFTC) Style Show and Silent Auction was held on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at the Abilene Civic Center. Jennifer Kent, Ambassador chair, and her committee of well-connected women sold a record number of tickets. Cancer Services Network (CSN) Executive Director Nancy Tyler greeted over 750 guests and cancer survivors before the Casa Authentique fashion show began. She thanked the many people it takes to make an event like this come to fruition: event chair Yanell Rieder of Casa Authentique, the FFTC committee, the CSN board, underwriters, sponsors, auction donors and bidders, ambassadors, models, volunteers, the CSN staff, and those purchasing tickets in support of CSN. CSN Board Chair Michelle Mickey introduced a video of CSN clients sharing their stories of help and hope offered by CSN and gave a touching account of her family's experience with cancer, challenging everyone to give to CSN in honor or memory of people they know and love.

Suzanne Starr was the evening's emcee. Twenty three models strutted down the runway to show off fall fashions from Casa Authentique. At the conclusion of the event, all cancer survivors in the audience were asked to take their place on stage to be honored for winning their battle with cancer.

Jeri Skaggs chaired the raffle. During intermission the raffle

drawing was held for a \$2400 Louis Vuitton Neverfull Handbag and Wallet and a raspberry pink Ruger 380 pistol, both donated by friends of CSN, as well as an Enso Diamond Caviar Beaded Bracelet donated by LAGOS.



Over 100 items were generously donated from local businesses for the silent auction for bidders to win. This year's event grossed an amazing \$131,000, which will be used by CSN to directly help our friends and neighbors right here in Abilene and the surrounding communities who are battling cancer.

Since Yanell has declared 2014 as her "last year" to host Fashions, Suzanne presented Yanell with a pictorial tribute of Fashions for the Cure throughout the past 11 years. CSN expresses their deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Yanell for her years of support and the nearly \$600,000 raised for CSN through her efforts.

Was this year the "last year for Fashions?" While Yanell is stepping down as presenting host and committee chair, Fashions for the Cure is too large a portion of the CSN budget to just go away. CSN serves over 400 cancer patients who need help! A new Fashions for the Cure committee is being formed to make plans for the 2015 Fashions for the Cure which will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015. Save the date! CSN will continue to build on the great legacy Yanell leaves behind.







**CANCER SERVICES NETWORK**  
**Run Together 5K**  
**FOR THOSE WHO FIGHT, FOUGHT & HOPE**

The **7th Annual Run Together 5K Run/Walk for those who Fight, Fought & Hope** was held on Saturday morning, October 18, 2014 at Frontier Texas! in downtown Abilene.

The purpose of the run was to honor those who have survived cancer, to walk in memory of someone who fought a courageous fight, to encourage those who are in the midst of their battle with cancer, and have some fun in support of CSN.

Lindsay Hardaway, Lauren Long and Diane Stearns chaired the event. A host of volunteers assisted the CSN staff with the pre-race preparations and registration at the event, and the Abilene Runners Club began before daylight setting up timing for the early morning race. Megan Bolls

provided pre-race enthusiasm as emcee. The weather was absolutely beautiful, and a great crowd participated this year. The largest team award went to "Tu-Tu Tough for Cancer", a team of 159 from St. John's Episcopal School who participated in support of Caroline Haney, a Pre-K student at St. John's, and Kinslee Parrish, her 3 year old friend, both battling leukemia. There was also a large team



from the Abilene Latin Women's Club in honor of Dr. Sharon Pagan. Other teams from local organizations included Abilene Diagnostic Clinic, Abilene Reporter-News, Border States Electric, "Deb's Girls", Hendrick Center for Rehabilitation and Texas Oncology.

CSN is grateful for all of our sponsors who have generously underwritten the event, for the organizers and volunteers who helped pull it all together, and for the participants for coming out

to help us raise funds for our friends and neighbors who are battling cancer.



# Living Gifts

Living Gifts are contributed to Cancer Services Network to honor relatives, friends, or associates, whether living or deceased. We gratefully acknowledge honorariums and memorials and other gifts made between January 1 – November 20, 2013.

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When the CSN board heard about client Sammy Rodriguez, a 35 year old battling brain cancer whose wife learned she was expecting soon after he was diagnosed, the board and staff decided they wanted to have small baby shower to help them prepare for their daughter's arrival. Due to the generosity of many board members, staff and community friends, Sammy and Nikki were overwhelmed with gifts for their new little one. On June 21, 2014, their daughter Sammie was born. Sammy is still undergoing treatment.



Nancy Tyler helped with the Nolan County United Way rifle raffle at the Rattlesnake Roundup in Sweetwater in March 2014. We are thankful to the Nolan County United Way for their funding for CSN to assist cancer patients in Nolan County.

Pat Kionka has volunteered at CSN on a weekly basis for the past several years. She is a compassionate and committed volunteer who helps answer the phones and do whatever is needed around the office. We appreciate her donating her time on a weekly basis in support of our mission. Thanks, Pat!



A group of volunteers from the community, board, committees and RSVP helped out with preparations for Fashions for the Cure and the 7th Annual Run Together. Many hands make light work!



Anita Broxson, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor, ACU School of Nursing, conducted workshops on *The Late and Long Term Effects of Cancer Treatment* as well as *Survivorship Care Planning* in April 2014. We appreciate Anita for sharing her knowledge, experience and information with cancer survivors and community professionals who came for these well-attended brown bag workshops.

United Way of Abilene had a pep rally at ActionZone to kick off the 2015 Campaign and Day of Caring on September 3rd. After being energized by several groups from area schools, a team from McMurry University came to Cancer Services Network and along with the help of board member Katy Browning, painted our reception area. We are thankful for these folks who were so willing to give of their time and energy to help us with this project. They made the work seem like fun. Come by the office and see our fresh new look!



*BEFORE*



*AFTER*

CSN was in desperate need of storage space in the office workroom. A CSN client, Stephen Hays, asked his employer Channing Ashenfelter, owner of Ashenfelter Construction, and he agreed to generously donate the materials to have cabinets made for the CSN workroom. In between his job, having chemotherapy and welcoming a new baby, Stephen worked on the cabinets in his spare time. The CSN Auxillary made a donation to pay Stephen for his labor. On Saturday, September 21, Stephen and Gentry Ashenfelter installed the new cabinets in our workroom. We are so appreciative of their hard work and generosity.

## Run Together

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# FASHIONS for the cure



On behalf of the cancer patients we serve,  
**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS & GUESTS!**



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- Frank and Margie Peck,  
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Misti Collier  
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Allicyn Evans  
Jennifer Ferrar  
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Allison Bredemeyer  
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Judy Colvin  
Brittany Eddleman  
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White Wing  
Wild Ones  
Wolff Shoes

**Abilene Reporter-News**

## By the Numbers—Did you know?

- CSN has already served **420 cancer patients** in 2014. At year-end in 2013, we had served 364.
- We have had **194 new clients** year to date in 2014.
- CSN allocates **.83 of every dollar** to specific assistance for clients.
- Cancer Services Network receives **no state or federal funding**.
- **85% of the cancer patients** we help financially live at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.
- **83% of our annual budget comes from community support—individuals like you!**
- As of November 1, CSN has helped provide **3,940 trips to treatment** for the cancer patients we serve and helped fill **1,283 prescriptions** for cancer-related medication this year.
- No other local cancer organization offers as much financial, emotional, and social post-diagnosis support as Cancer Services Network.

## Return Service Requested

Change of address:  
Need to be removed  
from our mailing list?  
Please contact CSN  
at 1.325.672.0040 or  
info@cancerservicesnetwork.org.



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Amanda McKee, *Director of Operations*  
Judy Patty, *Social Worker*

## Supporting Our Mission

- The Community Foundation of Abilene awarded a \$20,000 grant in their Spring 2014 Discretionary Grant cycle to provide for the cost of transportation to treatment for CSN clients who would otherwise find it difficult to get to chemotherapy and radiation treatments.
- Taylor County Commissioners approved \$6000 funded through the Taylor County Health Endowment Fund to CSN to provide services for underserved cancer patients in Taylor County.
- Cancer Services Network is funded in part through support from the United Way of Abilene, Brown County United Way, Nolan County United Way, and Scurry County United Way.

## Let us help you with a Christmas task!

Many people find it too time-consuming to send out Christmas cards during the holidays. You can help Cancer Services Network and at the same time let us help you! Send CSN the names and addresses on your Christmas card list—whether it be two or a hundred—and what you would like on the signature line and we will personally address the Christmas cards and mail them out for you. We will provide the Christmas cards and postage. The cards will notify the people on your Christmas list that a special gift has been made this Holiday season to Cancer Services Network on their behalf. It is a great opportunity to enlighten your friends, family and business contacts of your passion for our mission. All we ask is that you make a donation to CSN sufficient to cover the cost of printing and stamps. It is a gift that keeps on giving!