Hannah's Chance Foundation
Fighting Sarcoma

The Butterfly Effect

Spring 2010

Ryan's Story

Ryan Forness, sarcoma survivor

'I was 14 years old when I was diagnosed with sarcoma. I had been competing in the Queensland State Roller Hockey Championships in 2001 and fell over due to hip pain I had been experiencing. I was sent to a GP who then referred me to a physiotherapist for weak muscles. When it was evident I had made no recovery, further tests revealed the unexpected. I had a very aggressive type of Ewing's sarcoma in my right hip.

Due to the aggressiveness of my cancer, I underwent 12 months of chemotherapy followed by one month of stem cell treatment and a couple of months of radiation, a total of 16 months of treatment.

I spent most of my treatment journey being too sick from the high doses of medication to do anything. I will always be grateful to the doctors who ensured my comfort during the recovery process was at the top of their priorities and must have tried every anti-nausea drug that is available.

I am now 21, working as a network technician for 3 mobiles which I love, have a beautiful girlfriend Linda and amazing family and friends. Life is great.

My experience with sarcoma has definitely shaped the way I live my life today. Everything is a blessing to me. It's the little things such as spending time with family and friends, or enjoying a sunny day, that makes me happy."

Website update

Hannah's Chance Foundation has recently launched its new events pages. These pages allow supporters from all over Australia to stay up-to-date with the Foundation's fundraising activities. Since it was launched in June thousands of people have visited the website and many have left touching messages about how sarcoma has affected their lives. In recent times, the amount of visitors has almost tripled! Thank you for visiting the website and sharing your heartfelt stories.

Make sure you visit these pages regularly as the website will continue to expand and the Foundation will add its latest news and events.

In Hannah's words

""We all know it's hard to live like a butterfly with no wings or yourself with no smile, but when it's your time to look back on the hardest challenge you conquered with a smirk on your face, you know that anything impossible is possible for you."

Hannah Ciobo-O'Driscoll, July 2005

Introducing Leigh Webb

Many would describe Hannah's Chance Board Member Leigh Webb as an inspiration. Some even call her 'Wonder Woman'! In fact, Leigh is both. She is a courageous and strong woman who has devoted herself to raising awareness of sarcoma and helping to find a cure. To date, Leigh has raised $60,000 in valuable funds for the Foundation to ensure this is a reality.

Leigh's life was first touched by sarcoma in 2002 when her husband Tony was diagnosed with sarcoma. After major surgery and radiation he was given the all clear by his doctors, but in February 2008 Tony was diagnosed with a second sarcoma. He fought this aggressive cancer again with major surgery and chemotherapy and was again given the all clear. In September 2009 another tumour was discovered, however it was found to be inoperable. He has finished his course of chemotherapy and radiation and is now playing the waiting game.

Leigh's story does not end here. Earlier this year, the unthinkable happened when her 14-year-old son Corey was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma. After undergoing major reconstructive surgery to his jawbone he is now going through chemotherapy.

Tony and Corey, father and son, are fighting on together.

> "I'm going to fight for a cure for sarcoma until the day I die. I will keep raising funds to increase research into this terrible disease so that future sufferers won't have to go through what my family has experienced," Leigh said.

Throughout this time when many would have crumbled, Leigh has remained positive and calm and focused on looking after her boys.

Hannah's Chance Foundation thanks Leigh for her outstanding efforts and wishes her family all the best on their journey.

Board Member Leigh Webb with her husband Tony and twin boys Corey (left) and Blake (right)

Foundation to launch friendly project

Hannah's Chance Foundation's 'Friendly Wards' program aims to provide care and support to sarcoma patients and their family and friends during the treatment journey. This time is very challenging and often people feel alone and isolated – Hannah's Chance Foundation would like to help!

Currently in its development stage, the Foundation is holding interviews and focus group sessions with previous and current sarcoma patients, family members, friends and caregivers. The feedback obtained will allow the Foundation to determine how it can best configure the Friendly Wards program to provide support during the difficult times.

If you have had a first-hand experience with sarcoma and would like to contribute, Hannah's Chance Foundation would like to hear from you. Please email **hannahschance@wesleyresearch.com.au** for more information.

Please stay tuned for more information about the Friendly Wards program in future editions of 'The Butterfly Effect'.

Wahu wows!

Australian owned company Wahu has been a great supporter of Hannah's Chance Foundation over the past three years. Wahu has generously donated its merchandise to use as raffle prizes and giveaways at fundraising events.

Managing Director, Mr Tim Britz, said Wahu is proud to support a Foundation that works towards saving the lives of young people.

> "Our business is passionate about supporting Australian organisations such as Hannah's Chance Foundation that work tirelessly for the greater good of others," said Mr Britz.

Hannah's Chance Foundation would like to offer its sincere thanks to Wahu for its invaluable support.

Meet our newest Ambassador

Laurie Lawrence with Hannah Ciobo-O'Driscoll

Hannah's Chance Foundation would like to introduce its very good friend and Ambassador – Laurie Lawrence.

Laurie almost needs no introduction – he is a former Australian Rugby Union representative and Olympic and World Champion swimming coach. He is a close friend of the Wickham and Ciobo families and was a big part of Hannah's life.

Laurie witnessed the battle Hannah and her family went through and is determined to help the Foundation find a cure for sarcoma to end the suffering for so many.

"I want to help fight this disease that brought so much sadness to Hannah and her family. I know that Hannah's beautiful spirit is being carried on through the Foundation and I look forward to representing its work to the best of my ability," Laurie said.

Hannah's Chance Foundation Founder and Board Member, Mr Tom O'Driscoll, said he was extremely pleased to have Laurie on board with the Foundation.

"Laurie is a great representative for the Foundation as he embodies its positivity and fighting spirit. Hannah would be so proud to know he is continuing her fight," he said.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that sarcoma accounts for 15-20 percent of all childhood cancers? Sarcoma is also an extremely aggressive disease with a low survival rate in comparison to other cancers.

Sarcoma research study update

In 2009 Hannah's Chance Foundation, together with the Wesley Research Institute, funded a major research project aimed at identifying the molecular and cellular origins of osteosarcoma.

The study has already made some significant discoveries that are anticipated to benefit the long term prognosis for osteosarcoma patients.

The researchers have identified specific cells contained in osteosarcoma patients that develop in an abnormal manner and they have linked components of this cell to the outcomes of these individuals. They also discovered five potential proteins that may be associated with the disease development in osteosarcoma patients. In addition, the researchers have ascertained 134 potential genes that are at abnormal levels within osteosarcoma cells. Some of these genes are connected to the earlier proteins that were identified, which is significant because it links the two results.

The researchers will now validate how they can develop an accurate test to determine the patients at risk of poor outcomes and also the speed in which the cancer will develop.

The researchers will further study these cells, proteins and genes to better understand how they interplay to cause disease with a view to develop better treatment methods.

The ideal outcome of the project is to stop osteosarcoma from spreading so that patients have tailored treatments leading to better survival rates and quality of life. Results may also have implications to the treatment of other cancers, including sarcomas.

Osteosarcoma researcher Dr Liliana Endo-Munoz

What's on

The Foundation has organised and participated in some exciting events. The focus of our events is to raise awareness of the Foundation and valuable funds for our two programs – Sarcoma Research and Friendly Wards.

Come Eat, Pray and Love!

After the success of the HCF Sex and The City 2 Movie Night in June, the Foundation is hosting another movie night for the release of the movie Eat Pray Love, starring Julia Roberts. It will be a great night and Hannah's Chance would love you to come along and bring your family and friends as well!

Movie night details

When 5:45pm (for a 6:45pm start)
Tuesday 19 October 2010

Where Palace Barracks Cinemas
Paddington, Queensland

Cost Ticket $40 (includes champagne and a hot box inspired by the cuisines of Italy, India and Indonesia)

If you are interested in attending, please contact Kate Norris via email at **hannahschance@wesleyresearch.com.au** or call 0401 664 914 by Sunday 10 October 2010.

What's been happening

International Sarcoma Awareness Week

Hannah's Chance Foundation's Gold Coast Board Members Leigh Webb and Aideen Quigley were busy this year organising three events for International Sarcoma Awareness Week which was held 17-25 of July.

The Butterfly Dinner Dance, Ladies Luncheon and Team Sarcoma Surf Tag Team event were great successes.

Ambassadors Tracey Wickham and Richie Lovett showed their support by attending some of the events which managed to raise over $30,000 for the Foundation.

Team Sarcoma Surf Tag Team Event

Please contact us on 07 3721 1777 for further information about these events or visit our new website.
www.hannahschancefoundation.org.au

Yes, I wish to support Hannah's Chance Foundation

I would like to support Hannah's Chance Foundation

by making a donation of $_____

I would like my donation to be directed towards:

- ☐ The area with the most urgent need OR
- ☐ Sarcoma Research
- ☐ Friendly Wards program

BECOME A HANNAH'S HELPER

I would like to become a 'Hannah's Helper'

by donating $_____ every month to Hannah's Chance Foundation until otherwise advised

☐ I have provided my credit card details to the right

Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ Postcode _____

Please find enclosed

☐ My cheque/money order made payable to Hannah's Chance Foundation OR

Please charge my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Diners ☐ Amex

Card number __ __ __ __ / __ __ __ __ / __ __ __ __ / __ __ __ __

Expiry __ __ / __ __ Name on card _____

Signature of card holder _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

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Your gift will be acknowledged by an official receipt and is tax deductible

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Hannah's Chance Foundation
Fighting Sarcoma

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