

Drive Away Cancer! Join the 6th Annual Golf Outing at Seven Springs Golf and Country Club on March 20th

By Kim Thomas

Cancer is a disease that knows no mercy, it doesn't discriminate; rather, it rages against the very young to the very old of every race and color and every economic level. Every year more and more people are in need of support provided by organizations that focus on those dealing with and recovering from cancer. And sometimes, cancer seems to attack a family. When cancer hit the Millian family, a local family with a strong connection to the community and a habit of giving back, young Cody Millian didn't just grieve - he took action.

Cody, whose family owns local air-conditioning and heating company Millian-Aire, started the JK Cancer

Fund in memory of his beloved grandfather John Kubek, who passed away from cancer in January 2010. The very first Drive Away Cancer was held to benefit the JK Cancer Fund. What started out as the heartfelt senior project of then 17-year-old Cody Millian has steamrolled into an annual golf outing that, as of February 2016, has raised more than \$180,000 to support organizations such as American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, James P. Gills YMCA's Livestrong program, and the Pediatric Cancer Foundation, all of which will benefit from this year's event. In its first year, Drive Away Cancer raised \$10,000, far exceeding the Millian family's expectations. Unfairly, cancer struck again and Sue Millian - Cody's mom,

John's daughter, and the biggest supporter of Cody's efforts - was diagnosed with breast cancer.



Sue attended the 2nd Annual Drive Away Cancer Golf Outing with no hair due to her personal battle against cancer. This family is not to be stopped, though. Three years ago, Sue joined other cancer survivors in the celebratory balloon re-

lease and will walk as a survivor again this year. Sue says that Cody's passion is even stronger now after losing his other grandfather, Michael Millian, to cancer.

With your support, Drive Away Cancer's 6th Annual Golf Outing can be

bigger than ever. Set for March 20th at the beautiful Seven Springs Golf and Country Club (SSGCC) in New Port Richey (3535 Trophy Blvd), golfers can start registering at 11 a.m. for the 1 p.m. Shotgun Start.

Every year the JK Cancer Fund Golf Outing is held at SSGCC, where every year it is supported by golf pros. Sue says this year she is very grateful for the SSGCC staff's support with special thanks to Wendy McCann and Mark Haluska. It is fitting that the golf outing is held at SSGCC. Sue Millian says, "Mom and dad lived there and dad [the late John Kubek] was huge into golfing."

One of the great programs that the 6th Annual Drive Away Cancer golf outing will support is the Livestrong program at the James P. Gills YMCA in Trinity, which is a 12-week program designed to support not only adult cancer survivors, but their families too. Julio

Vega, District Vice President of YMCA West Pasco County, says, "This is a free program and no connection to the YMCA is necessary. These families are usually at the end of their wits, exhausted and with no money. This program helps them get strong and connected to others. It is through partnerships like the JK Cancer Fund that we can help strengthen the community: It takes strong community leaders like Sue Millian to help us. I've been involved in fundraising tournaments for [over] 20 years and I've never seen anything like the JK Cancer Fund's Drive Away Cancer. People come away knowing exactly what they are there for -



to help."

James P. Gills YMCA Adult Member & Wellness Services Director Denise Ferrara says, "When these kids come in here and see the pool and the kids' gym, they are in awe! This program is great for survivors, but it is also good to see their kids making connections after going through so much." Denise has a strong connection to Sue that began long before she supported her in her efforts fundraising. The two ladies became friends 18 years ago and bonded on the bleachers watching their kids play baseball, as spending late nights at the field in their roles as team moms. Denise jerked her thumb toward Sue, "This one will yell at you about staying up with your mammograms." Sue adds, "Moms always put themselves last, but keeping up with mammograms is important."

Every year, members of the community show up to support Drive Away Cancer and this year you can too. There are many opportunities to support the

charity through donations, hole sponsorships, volunteering, and participating as a golfer. This is an outing where everyone has fun! There are great raffles, prizes, games set up at holes and more. Raffle tickets can win you big! How about Ruth Eckerd Hall performances, and tickets to big-name hockey and baseball games, plus restaurants gift certificates, gift baskets and much more! Sue and Cody are diligently gathering goodies. Sue says, "We always have so much great stuff. I want everyone who buys a raffle ticket to win something!"

JK Cancer Fund raises funds throughout the year on the website, www.jkcancerfundinc.org, where you also can download forms for both sponsorships and registration.

For more information, to register, donate for the raffles, volunteer or inquire about sponsorships, please contact Sue Millian at (727) 862-2100 or (727) 809-1695, sue@millian-aire.com or jkcancerfund@gmail.com.

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