

Newspaper written by the people

September 2007

Be The Cure

How 4 High School Seniors at Downers Grove South Are Making a Difference

Story on page 10



Casey Patton and Be The Cure: A Fundraiser for Pediatric Cancer Research www.be-the-cure.com

By Casey Patton

"During the fall of my junior year I was diagnosed with a brain tumor. I had no time to think as I immediately had brain surgery at Children's Memorial Hospital. The neurosurgeons found out the tumor was inoperable and those weeks became the worst of my life. For my birthday in November, I had a port surgically placed in my chest and began my journey of chemotherapy. I have to continue the chemo until June 2008--through my entire senior year."

These are my thoughts almost every single day.

I go to chemo every week at Children's Memorial Hospital and know practically everyone there. I also know more about the kids that are in treatment alongside me. I began learning more about their cancers and brain tumors. I learned that nationally, less than 3% of all government-funded cancer research dollars goes to pediatrics and unfortunately only a small percentage of that funding is used for brain tumor research. Brain tumors strike 33 out of every million children under the age of 15 every year. Despite this relatively rare occurrence, they are serious and require the most coordinated care possible. At this time, children with pediatric brain tumors succumb to the disease at a rate that is four times as high of children with leukemia.

As my months of chemo wore on, I began to struggle with trying to manage school, the ACTs, my GPA for college and just life in general. I was always tired and almost always too sick to live a "normal" life. I was also trying to get used to the idea that I was a varsity athlete who was no longer able to play sports. Even running around with my dog was a daily challenge! But when my spirits were down, my girlfriends

were always there to cheer me up.

I wanted to be proactive instead of inactive and depressed. I understood that more funding was necessary to help the doctors at Children's Memorial find new and safer treatments for kids. I love my doctors and nurses at Children's—they've become my family. All of the kids in treatment are inspiring to me. They maintain their good spirits even though they are in a bad experience just like me. It made sense to do something to help our doctors find a cure for the cancers that so many kids have.

So, my friends and I decided to be a part of the cure and that's how the fundraiser started. Susan Donner, Brittany Robbins, Aileen Reed and I created the "Be the Cure" team and decided to sell t-shirts and accept donations to fund pediatric cancer research at Children's Memorial Hospital.

The fundraiser began in May 2007. We were initially hoping to raise \$3,500. But by the end of July, we had raised over \$12,000 and sold 861 t-shirts! It turns out that not only did my friends and I want to make a difference, but so many others did as well! The responses and support we have received thus far has been a blessing and we are truly grateful for this fundraiser and those who have participated. We plan to continue fundraising until December 2007.

For more information and t-shirt order forms, go to our "Be the Cure" website at www.be-the-cure.com



(from left) Casey Patton, Aileen Reed, Brittany Robbins, and Susan Donner presenting a check for \$11,000 to Children's Memorial Hospital. The fundraiser will continue until December 2007.

Come Join Casey and friends at
Be the Cure Night
 on September 5th at the Downers Grove South High School Girls Volleyball Game.

Casey was a member of the Girls Volleyball team at Downers Grove South. The Varsity team will be wearing Be the Cure T-shirts as their jerseys. If you have your shirt wear it to the game! There will be concessions and raffles. They will also be selling shirts and accepting cash donations. All money from the sale of the shirts and donations go directly to Childrens Memorial Hospital.

SEND IN THIS FORM TODAY!

BE THE CURE

FUNDRAISER FOR CANCER RESEARCH FOR KIDS

www.be-the-cure.com

My name is Casey Patton and I am a senior at Downers Grove South high school. During my junior year, I was diagnosed with a brain tumor. This changed my life in ways I could never have imagined. Each week I sit for hours with other kids at Children's Memorial Hospital where we receive drugs in our IV's to fight our cancers. I have learned that cancer is the second leading cause of death in children (after accidents).



I have also learned that nationally, less than 3% of all government funded cancer research dollars goes to pediatrics (and unfortunately only a small percentage of that funding is used for brain tumor research). Much more research is needed to find new and safer treatments for kids. My friends and I decided to raise money to help my doctors find a cure for cancer.

We decided to BE THE CURE and you can too!



-  BUY a t-shirt or MAKE a donation
-  FIGHT the battle against cancer
-  VISIT our website

BE THE CURE T-shirt Order Form
 T-shirt's are \$12 each. Please add \$3/shirt if we are mailing it to you.



Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Address: _____

T-shirt size: S M L XL

(XXL available for \$13.50 each)

Quantity ordered: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

(Cash or check made out to Casey Patton)

Please return order form with payment to:

Casey Patton 630 910 0087 8340 Mending Wall Dr Woodridge, IL 60517	Susan Donner 630 335 4942 7548 Cambridge Rd Downers, IL 60551	Aileen Reed 630 269 3201 6825 Washington St Downers Grove, IL 60516	Brittany Robbins 630 254 5112 6632 Bantley Ct. Downers, IL 60551
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All proceeds will go to cancer research at Children's Memorial Hospital.

Thanks to Mya Cole (seats in Downers Grove) for providing the tables at cost.