

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CELEBRATES

Courageous Kids Day

PRESENTED BY CALIFORNIA'S GREAT AMERICA

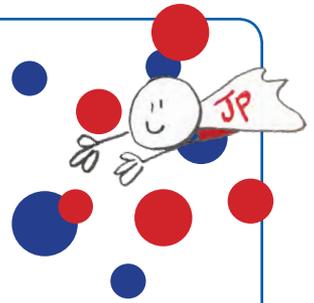


May 12, 2019



Courageous
KIDS

Schedule



- 11:00am** Picnic Grove Opens
- 11:15am-11:45am** DJ Games
- 11:15am-2:45pm** Arts & Crafts
Family Portraits
Tote Bag Pickup
Face Painting
Home Depot Craft Project – Bird Houses
Celebrities
WipeOut Cancer Obstacle Course
- 11:30am-1:30pm** Lunch is served
- Noon** 1st Hula Hoop Contest – DJ Area
- 12:15pm** Welcome Announcement – DJ Area
- 12:30pm** Bellarmine/Notre Dame Performance Choir
“I Will Sing Life” – DJ Area
Written by Jeremy Harris, Gina & Brian Adams
- 1:00pm** 1st Water Balloon Toss – DJ Area
- 1:30pm** 2nd Water Balloon Toss – DJ Area
- 1:45 pm** 2nd Hula Hoop Contest – DJ Area
- 2:30pm** Taiko Drummers – DJ Area
- 2:40pm** Last Call for Family Portraits
- 3:00pm** Picnic Grove Closes; go enjoy the park!



Share your pictures! [#CourageousKidsDay](#)

Welcome!

Welcome to the American Cancer Society's **30th** annual Courageous Kids Day! We're so glad you're here. Today is a day just for you, filled with hope, celebration, and fun!

Enjoy the Picnic Grove with all the entertainment, food and family photos. Enjoy the park's rides and games. Enjoy your family and all of the families who share this day with you.

A HUGE thank you to California's Great America, which makes this day possible. Great America has sponsored the American Cancer Society's Courageous Kids Day since its inception in 1989. As Presenting Sponsor, Great America has donated the use of the Picnic Grove, all food and beverages, and entry to the park rides and games for Courageous Kids and their families. We are humbled and enormously grateful for their support.

We wish you a very happy Mother's Day!

Most sincerely,

Bob Steinfeld & Pam Dunnett
Co-Chairs

Plus all the members of the
Courageous Kids Day Event
Leadership Team



Picnic Grove Activities:

- Pick up a **gift bag** and fill it with some fun items
- Have a **family portrait** taken by professional photographers
- Get a Mother's Day **corsage**
- Decorate a **tote bag** & a **star**
- Listen to San Jose **Junior Taiko drummers**
- Have fun with **arts & crafts**
- Take pictures at the **selfie station**
- Make a memorable **quilt square** with the Super Hero theme
- Hang out with the **celebrities**
- Build a **bird house**
- Make a **sand castle**
- Watch a **magic show**
- Complete the **obstacle course**
- Get a **balloon animal** (or another balloon creation)
- Have your **face painted**
- Join the **hula hoop, water balloon toss, and other games** at the DJ station

Meet the Founder

It was 1989, when young breast cancer survivor Gay Crawford was working at KNTV and learned that her boss' son was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Gay worked with the family, whose young son Lee, ended up passing away from the disease. As an active volunteer at the American Cancer Society, Gay saw that there were few services for children undergoing treatment, so called together her considerable network, which included people like Brian Adams, then working at KICU, and about ten others. The group decided to do a picnic. She involved people like Dr. Michael Amylon, well known and beloved physician at Lucile Packard, and reached out to Great America, which happily agreed to dedicate Mother's Day to the event. In those days, Gay and her committee worked hard to find funding for the lunches, hats and photographs (polaroids). It was Brookes Brown who had the idea of a family photograph for each family so People like Laura Marshall joined the committee and brought along an army of photographers to take free portraits for every family. People like Fran Rudé and her family helped raise thousands of dollars to help pay for hats and items for the gift bags, but there were a few years when the group wasn't sure they could raise the money for the event, especially for the lunches, and it was then that Great America

stepped in, working with their vendors, to provide lunches for the some 2000 people who come to the Picnic Grove every Mother's Day.



Gay Crawford

Even in the first year, the event served some 500 kids with cancer and their families, but the formula has stayed pretty much the same, with photographs, autographs, arts and crafts, hats and gift bags and a day hopefully "away from cancer."

When asked if Gay thought the event would continue for 30 years, she looks at the incredible people who led the event, people like Shelly Barsanti, Brookes Brown, Brian Adams, Ramona Snyder, Vikki Bowes Mok, Jason Minsky, Imi Blatz, Shirley Keller, Terry Austen, Linda Eaman, Ann Morey and many others. She credits and is deeply grateful for the leadership of long time volunteer Bob Steinfeld and his co-chair Pam Dunnett for taking the event to a whole different level for this 30th year celebration.

She says, they, along with the American Cancer Society staff, are indeed all Super Heroes.



1997 Courageous Kids Team

Ambassador

Virginia is an exemplary example of childhood strength and will, as she has survived two bouts of cancer, starting at the age of 5. Her initial symptoms were feeling very tired and having no interest in playing. After a visit to their pediatrician, she was referred to other physicians where they learned that she had blood cancer, Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). They did their best to explain her situation in a way that a young child would understand. From that day forward, her life changed. She had to postpone kindergarten, as six months of isolation was necessary to prevent exposure to other illnesses. Although very young, she maintained a cheerful outlook and remembers the kindnesses of the doctors and nurses who treated her. Through 2 ½ years of treatment and the resulting hair loss and the constant prodding of pills and injections, she did all that was asked of her, even at that very early age.

However, after 3 months of being supposedly cancer free, she relapsed at 7 ½ years. This was a shock for Virginia and her parents, Stella and Glenn, leading Virginia to cry for the first time. Told that a bone marrow transplant was necessary, the family rallied so that her



Virginia

mother could be with her 24/7 for the difficult treatments in preparation for the procedure. Virginia went through powerful chemotherapy at UCSF, coupled this time with radiation, with calmness and positivity, so rare in such a young child. Her younger sister, Rebecca Rose (4 years old at the time) was a perfect bone marrow match. Thankfully, the family is now six years post transplant. They are extremely grateful for life, realizing that little things no longer bother them.

Virginia is now 14 years old and is a freshman in high school. Her family is grateful and do not take life for granted. Virginia has side effects but handles these, knowing they are not life threatening. She is a survivor and, when she grows up, wants to help other children with cancer by being an art therapist, child life specialist or a pediatric oncology nurse. With deep appreciation and understanding, the family thanks all who dedicate their lives to helping children with cancer.

All of our families coming today and fighting cancer are Super Heros and ambassadors of hope in the fight against cancer. These Courageous Kids shared their stories with us and are our 2019 Ambassadors.

Ambassador



Ella

Ella is 14 years old. She lives in San Jose. Her parents are Neal and Jamie and she has one brother, Evan, who will be 12 years old this month.

Ella was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, which is a pediatric bone cancer, in September of 2017. She had felt a lump on her skull around May of 2017. After a trip to the doctor and an ultrasound, they were initially told it was just a bony protrusion but to get back in contact with the doctor if the lump grew or changed or became painful. At the end of the summer, Ella mentioned that she felt the lump was larger. The doctor agreed and ordered an MRI. The neurosurgeon recommended complete removal and biopsy of the mass. Their world turned upside-down when they received the diagnosis of osteosarcoma. Ella began a standard protocol of nine months of chemotherapy at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara in October of 2017 and

completed treatment in June of 2018. She spent many, many nights in the hospital and when she was home on “breaks,” her immune system was compromised so she was restricted at home. She missed most of her seventh grade year of middle school. The doctors and nurses practically became family during that time, making her hospital stays more bearable. The family has a new appreciation of nurses and all that they do in support of the patient and family.

Ella kept a very positive attitude during treatment, always displaying a sense of humor and good spirits. The extra help provided by her grandparents and the support of friends were greatly appreciated, especially as one parent would stay at the hospital nightly while the other stayed with Ella’s brother. Family time together became a blessing and is something no longer taken for granted.

Volleyball and video games are Ella’s main hobbies, and networked video games were a means of connecting with her friends during treatment. Through nine months of intense chemotherapy, needle pokes and interrupted sleep in the hospital, she was courageous, always smiling and maintaining strength of will. She has been able to return to the volleyball court and is working hard to get her endurance back. Her parents’ advice is to take everything one day at a time, while remaining an active advocate for your child. They remain strong in the knowledge that good people were fantastic in working as a team to provide the best care for Ella.

Ambassador

In the spring of 2016, Joseph started to complain of headaches and feeling tired, saying he couldn't bike to school or would beg not to go to lacrosse practice. After one lacrosse tournament when he played less than five minutes, he was covered head to toe in bruises and was so tired that his mother took him to the pediatrician, who ordered blood work. At 10:30 that night, she called and said to pack some things and drive to Stanford, where a doctor would be waiting. By midnight, fears were confirmed, as Joseph had been diagnosed with High Risk B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Their hearts were broken with the shocking information. Joseph's grandmother's biggest fear had been realized as she, at 15, had lost her 16 years old sister to ALL. Joey was transferred to the PICU and immediately began treatment. The next few months were a daze as his parents tried to survive and navigate this new world.

Joey was stronger and braver than anyone could imagine, fighting silently in his laid back manner through countless rounds of chemotherapy, lumbar punctures, numerous trips to the hospital and even frightening reactions to medication. He missed most of his 8th grade year but is now a sophomore in high school, looking forward to playing lacrosse again. His family relates that being a teenager is hard but having cancer makes it even more challenging, as one deals not only with the treatment but its side effects. He has lost his hair, which he would normally love to color; gained weight from steroids; lost weight from reactions to the medication and experienced aches and pains that Tylenol did not relieve. Yet, he never



Joseph

complained and was more concerned about how his illness affected the family. He would try to convince all that he was fine or would use humor, talking like Dory (the whale in Finding Nemo) as he vomited, all in his courageous attempts to reassure the family.

Joey chooses to live his life as normally as possible, hoping to play sports again and enjoying other hobbies picked up during treatment. He enjoys camping, fishing and playing video games with others online, which he did when he was homebound. He now has aspirations of becoming a chef as he thought about food a lot during treatment. Also, in appreciation for the love and support he and the family received, Joey has started to give back to the community by volunteering with various organizations. Throughout his illness, he has remained loving and conscientious and the family feels forever grateful that they were blessed traveling this journey with an amazing group of family, friends and an incredible medical team.

Ambassador



Brianna

Brianna is 16 years old and lives in San Jose. Her parents are Fernando and Lydia and she has one younger brother, Luisfernando, who is 13 years old. Brianna, was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma, which is a very rare type of tumor for an 11 years old child, in August of 2014. Most people diagnosed with this form of cancer are older, between 50 and 70 years old. On May 8, 2014, Brianna woke up complaining of abdominal pain, but without fever or vomiting. As she is one who does not want to miss school, her mother gave her some pain medication and she went to school. However, a return of the pain led to a diagnosis of appendicitis, followed by lab work and ultrasound. She was deemed normal. Then, a recurrence of pain led to more tests and eventual surgery for the removal of a tumor. Three weeks later, the diagnosis came back that it was renal cell carcinoma.

She is considered a ‘walking miracle,’ as stated by her doctor. The network of support from the principal, teachers, staff, families and friends became a huge support system, helping her maintain her school work and, upon return to her school, ensuring that she was helped – with carrying books, getting her to lunch, protecting her from balls on the playground.

Brianna shows incredible courage as she strives to do well in school and determines to make the most of her “second chance of life by making it worth it.” The family feels blessed by their huge miracle and has become even closer than before. Brianna has put her renewed days to good service, as she has been an assistant to the Catechist, preparing children for their first communion, volunteering to read with small children, pet sitting for neighbors. She was always athletic and is now part of her high school water polo and swim teams. Brianna exhibited courage throughout her grueling treatment as she never gave up, always had a smile on her face and kept the family in high spirits. The family’s faith helped them and they encourage asking family and friends for help, staying in prayer and, in their words, “knowing God works in mysterious ways and we lived it and believe it.” For Brianna, her favorite quote is Robert H. Schuller’s -“Tough times never last, but tough people do.”

Ambassador

Paris is an 18-year-old who is currently attending Ohlone College in Fremont. She had been experiencing a lot of fatigue, bruising, headaches and overall soreness in her body when she was diagnosed with ALL on June 23, 2016. Under the care of Dr. Hwang at Santa Clara Kaiser Children's Oncology, she finished her last chemo treatment in October 2018. When first diagnosed, she had a hard time dealing with her illness; but with the support of her friends and family, she was able to get through it. Her family has always been there for her. Her parents would drive her to appointments and stay up with her all night when she wasn't feeling well. They were always there to make her laugh and smile. They helped her through her treatments and she knows she could not have gotten through those times without them. They gave her the will and strength to face and combat those difficult moments.

Now that she has completed her treatments, she enjoys watching Netflix, going to college and working at the mall with her friends – the casual, wonderful experiences of a regular teen.



Paris

She would like the world to know that she is strong and that her illness does not define who she is. Having cancer was a part of her life, changed her but it did not break her. Having cancer and going through 2.5 years of chemotherapy were very hard, but it has taught her to never give up!

Paris would like to tell her mother on this Mother's Day, "My mom is a queen. She is an amazing overall person who works so hard for our family."

Thank you to our Ambassadors and their families, for sharing their stories of inspiration. We'd love to hear your story, and appreciate any feedback you may have about your experience here today.

By email- Jennifer.Highland@cancer.org

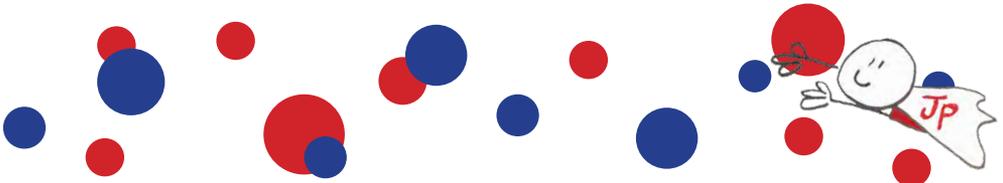
By phone- 408.688.0100

By mail- American Cancer Society

Attn: Courageous Kids Event Staff

747 Camden Avenue, Suite B

Campbell, CA 95008



Honorable Heroes

Caroline Lee, known to her friends as “Liner”, is a Bay Area native with a passion for sports. She attended UCLA on a full-scholarship for gymnastics. After graduation, Liner continued her athletic endeavors through volleyball. With friends, she launched a volleyball team that competes annually in the North American Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament (NACIVT) during Labor Day. She also became a dedicated adventure racer and triathlete, taking part in the grueling “Escape from Alcatraz” triathlon four times, as well as a mountain biker and rock climber. There was also a stint on the flying trapeze. In 2010, Liner’s friends filled out an application for her to appear on the TV show, Wipeout. To everyone’s surprise, and her own, she won! Liner also participated in the American Ninja Warrior competitions in 2011 and 2012.

In July of 2012, Liner was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer. She underwent surgery to remove the tumor, completed chemo in the fall, and launched a blog to share her experiences. Wipeout Cancer is an opportunity for Liner and her friends to increase cancer awareness and give back



Caroline Lee

to the cancer community. Today, Wipeout Cancer provides kids living-with-cancer and their families the opportunity to participate in activities (primarily sports) in a safe, fun, and non-competitive environment, in accordance to their existing treatment and care regimen.

We are happy to have Caroline, Kelly Lo, and the WipeOut Team’s Obstacle Course at this year’s event.

Dr. Shannon

Kevin Shannon, M.D. is the Auerback Distinguished Professor of Molecular Oncology in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). His laboratory has discovered inherited and somatic mutations that cause human developmental disorders and contribute to leukemia. His current research focuses on normal and leukemic hematopoiesis with an emphasis on genetic mechanisms underlying leukemia development, aberrant Ras signaling, mouse cancer modeling, molecular therapeutics, and drug resistance.





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National Cancer Information Center
Answer questions about cancer, including prevention, diagnosis, and treatment options, 24/7.

INFORMATION



Clinical Trials
Provide information on research studies to help find ways to prevent or treat disease.

DAY-TO-DAY HELP



Road To Recovery® Hope Lodge®
Provide transportation to and from treatment and lodging, for those with cancer.

DAY-TO-DAY HELP



Patient Navigator Program
Help patients and their families find their way through the maze of our health care system.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT



Reach To Recovery®
Provide understanding and hope to individuals who need support during their breast cancer experience.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT



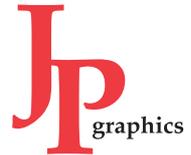
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And thank you to our numerous individual donors for making this day possible!

Thank You Volunteers!

More than 200 volunteers make this day possible!

Special recognition goes out to:

Dave Lemley, Good Times Unlimited (DJ)
Home Depot
Professional Photographers of Santa Clara Valley
San Jose Sharks
San Jose Earthquakes
Barracudas
Dennis Brown - Retired 49er
Dottie the Clown
Polina Edmunds
San Jose Junior Taiko Performing Ensemble
Miss Santa Clara Organization
CKD Spring Estate Sale
Betty Buttons The Clown
Hey Balloon Lady
UCSC Alumni Balloon Art Brigade
Fiesta Magic Parties
Rotary Club of San Jose



Santa Clara Basketball Team
David Martinez Magic
Starting Arts
Dr. Kevin Shannon & all of our ACS
Researchers in Childhood Cancer
West Valley Soccer Team
Members of the National Charity League,
*Heritage Oaks Chapter
*Saratoga-Los Gatos Chapter
*Willow-Rose Chapter
Sean O'Kane, Big Kahuna Productions
WipeOut Cancer Team
...and all of our amazing volunteers

2019 Courageous Kids Day Event Team

Bob Steinfeld, **co-chair**
Pam Dunnett, **co-chair**
Brian Adams
Donna Adam
Terry Austen
Michael Amylon, M.D.
Shelly Barsanti
Gay Crawford

Heather Duffy
Clareen Dunivin
Shannon Fink
Christina Freimarck
Melinda Gedryn
Nancy Laber
Lindy Lim
Laura Marshall

Nick Shain
Ramona Snyder
Lindsay Steinfeld

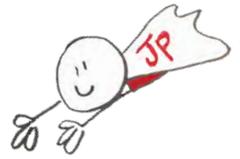
California's Great America:

Danny Messinger
Lorraine Woodcheke
Jason Oyster

American Cancer Society Staff:
Kristi Cole
Jennifer Highland
Carmen Coffee

Share your pictures! **#CourageousKidsDay**

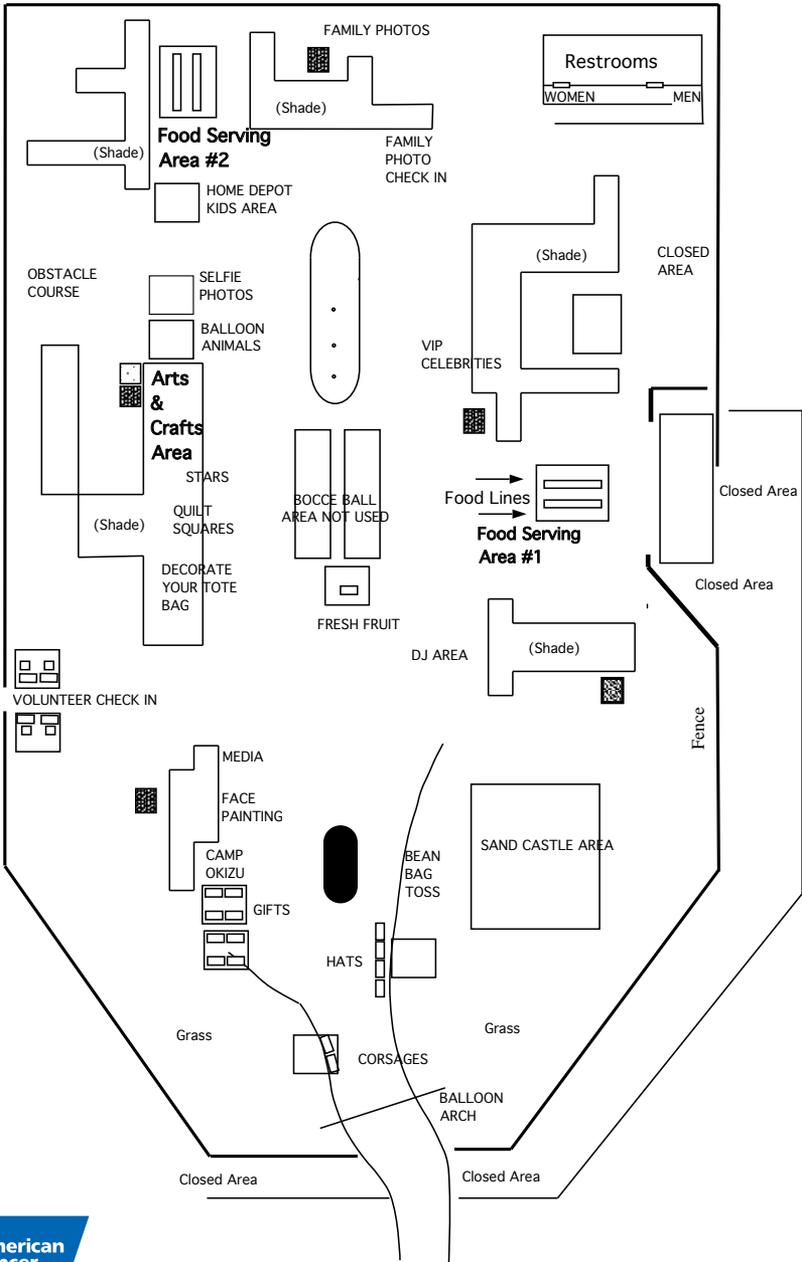
Autographs



Courageous
KIDS

A big "Thank You" to  for providing us with all our printing needs.

Happy Mother's Day & enjoy the park!



Picnic Grove Entrance

