



Mindex Technologies helped grow our community!

insights

On How We're Helping Teens & Young Adults Live With Cancer

Our Community Thrives!

There are many definitions of "community" but one core definition is this: *A community is a group of people with diverse characteristics who are linked by social ties, share common perspectives, and engage in joint action.*

This is an apt description of our 13thirty Cancer Connect community which, thanks to the support of many, is thriving! After a very difficult 2020, we've been excited to gradually re-open our doors to our AYAs as well as many extended members of the 13thirty community.

Just like the definition above, our community is diverse - AYA's and families, friends, corporations, funders, hospital partners, schools, other AYA groups. Though different in many ways, all are linked by common

purpose and committed to working together in service to the same mission: helping teens and young adults with cancer live their very best lives - today!

We like to think of the 13thirty community as a family where everyone is welcome and feels they belong. But community, said innovative thinker Brian Solis, is about more than belonging. "It's about doing something together that makes belonging matter."

This sentiment was certainly put into practice this year by several community friends for whom being part of 13thirty mattered deeply.

In March, we were thrilled to have Mindex Technologies visit our Rochester Center.

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RSVP

Journeys, 20th Annual Celebration of Living

Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021

Learn more on page 3!

13thirty
cancer connect

**Teens and Young Adults
Get it Together!**



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Our mission is to help teens and young adults with cancer live their very best lives by providing a comprehensive continuum of care throughout all stages of their cancer experience.

13thirty Cancer Connect is a registered IRS 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization. United Way donor choice agency #2383. Tax ID# 47-4493013



**A Message from
 Lauren Spiker
 Founder and Executive Director**

Hello friends,

For the fourth year, we participated in *A Community Thrives*, an online grantmaking and crowdfunding program of the USA Today Network. Thanks to you, we again claimed the top fundraising prize of \$25,000! Words are inadequate to express my gratitude for the strong community of supporters who have always believed in us.

Community is a common theme whenever our teens and young adults are asked about 13thirty. It's like a family, they say. We are all in it together. Everyone feels supported and loved. Our members and their families, our nuclear family, if you will, are part of a larger community or extended family on whom we rely for support, guidance, advice, and goodwill. Each is important and I try to always be mindful of that. My commitment to building a strong, vibrant community is fueled by these words by Margaret Mead.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

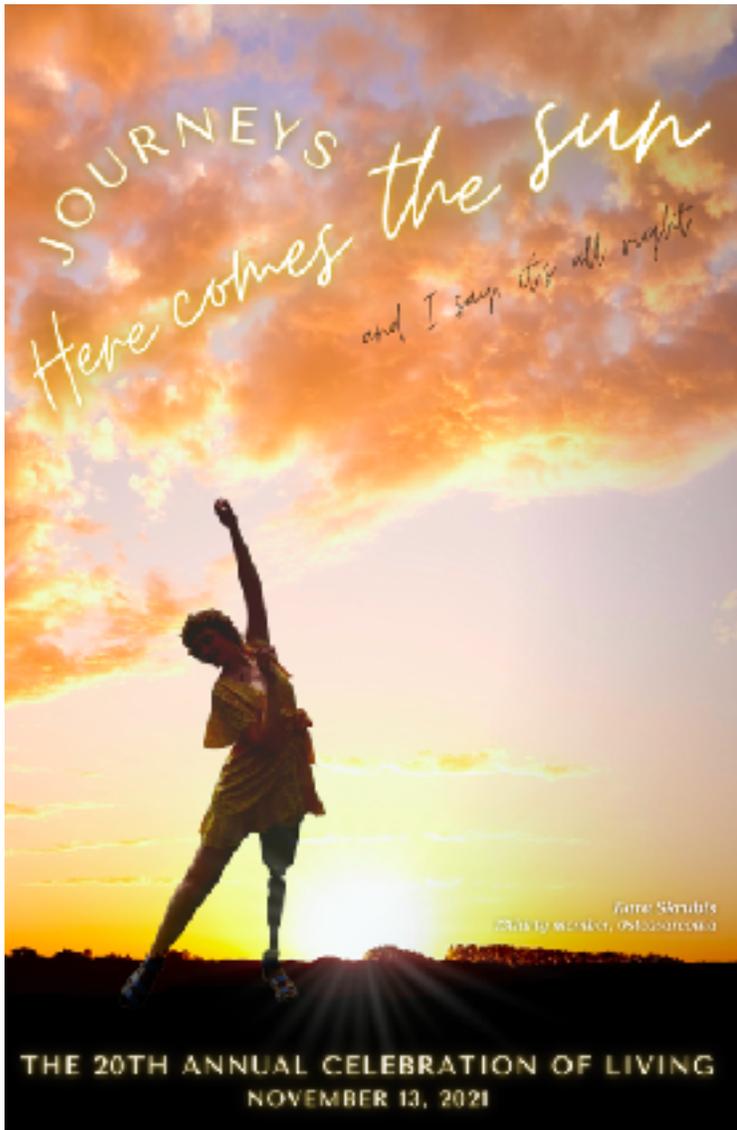
Each of us has the personal power to make a difference within our own sphere of influence but when we come together in community, our collective power can be transformative. Small steps, taken by people with common vision, become giant strides that are difficult, if not impossible, to stop once in motion. From the passion and dedication of the few, comes enduring and meaningful change for many. Together, in community, we can change the world if we follow William James' advice.

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.

With gratitude as always,

Lauren





Celebration Spreads

Elevate your virtual experience!

All Spreads include a dozen cookies and a keepsake easterplate.

In-Center or curbside pickup available at the Fairbury Rochester Center. Similar packages available for pickup at the Fairbury Syracuse Center.

<h3>SUPPER SPREAD</h3> <p>A full dinner spread including chicken french, washed potatoes, vegetable medley, mixed greens salad, and rolls and butter.</p> <p>Series 6-8 or 6-8, /\$200 - \$280</p>	<h3>SAMPLER SPREAD</h3> <p>A charcuterie spread of cured and raw vegetables, seasonal fruit, artisan cheeses, cold skin pizza, salads, prosciutto, hummus and pita pockets, stuffed grape leaves, and olives.</p> <p>Includes two bottles of red or white wine and a custom charcuterie board.</p> <p>Series 6-8 / \$250</p>
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RSVP Today!

13thirty.org/journeys-2021

Complimentary, donations welcome.

Don't miss the special performance by 13thirty Cancer Connect members!

Ryan Callahan Foundation Glam Night

With the help of our good friends at the Ryan Callahan Foundation, our AYAs got to rock the "blue" carpet! Oh, what a night!



Meesh and Emily strike a pose! Thank you, FUNinflatables, for the balloons and backdrop!



Jenn's Cookie Creations glam themed cookies sweetened the night!



Delicious food and stunning spread from Board 'N' Bacon!

The Ryan Callahan Foundation + 13thirty Cancer Connect = a spectacular rock star night!



The 360 photo booth was a hit! Thanks, Roc the Party!



Hair, makeup, nails... check! Jenna and Maneesha got the full treatment. Even Mark joined the fun!



Cody rocking the blue carpet!

SNAPSHOTS!

What's been happening with
- and for - teens and young
adults with cancer!

1. Laura's Way Memorial 5K

A beautiful day with board member, Kate, spent walking in memory of her sister, Laura. Special thanks to the Lewis family for sharing proceeds with 13thirty!

2. Family Picnic

Rochester and Syracuse members and their families gathered at Lauren's house for the annual family picnic!

3. COLLABORATE Summit

Using the CNY Cancer Alliance as an example, Lauren led a session, "Barriers and Bridges to Collaboration", at this virtual event hosted by the Cause Collaborative.

4. DIY Charcuterie Boards

Connor's candy charcuterie board was voted #1 at this delicious DIY program! Yum - What a spread!

5. Generosity from JAGart

Jackie Gasbarre donated a portion of proceeds from her hand-painted, up-cycled pieces during this year's Purple Painted Lady Art Festival!



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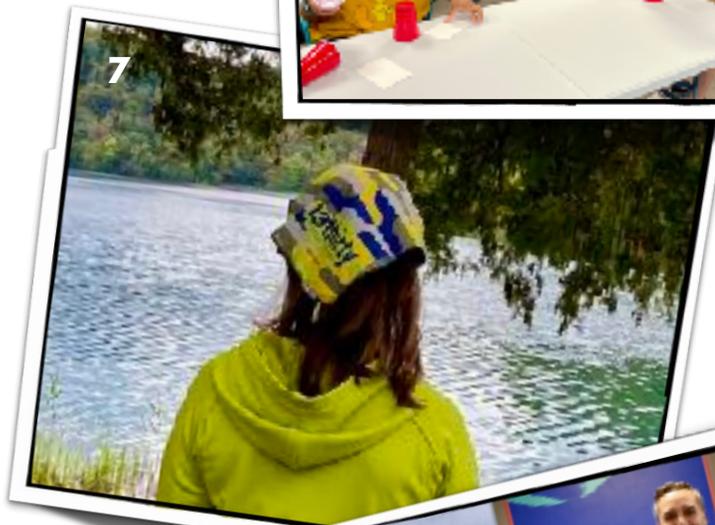
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6. Minute To Win It

Rochester members enjoyed a night of friendly competition and 60-second challenges during one of our most popular programs! Nice shades, Serena!



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7. Crossing the Virtual Finish Line

Although our 2nd Annual Syracuse Bandana Bolt was a virtual 5K again, we still made our miles meaningful! See you next year at Green Lakes State Park!

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8. FUSE Golf Charity Tournament

Over 100 golfers made a big impact on the Brook-Lea Country Club course during the FUSE charity tournament organized by Christina Stocks and Dom Colaprete.



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9. Teal Ribbon Run 5K

13thirty and the CNY Cancer Alliance supported fellow nonprofit member, Hope for Heather, at their annual 5K! Thanks for having us, Frieda!



10

10. Webster Thomas Goes Bald

Friends embrace after a shaving event at Webster Thomas High School. They kicked off their homecoming and the Bald for Bucks season by shaving 3 heads to support 13thirty programs and cancer research at Roswell Park! Special thanks to Assistant Principal and 13thirty Dad, Jeremy McBride!

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Happy Fall!

Our Community Thrives! – cont. from page 1

Each year, Mindex employees choose a charity to support through various employee initiatives and this year we were it!



Marc Fiori with Steve & Lauren

After visiting our Rochester center, plans were put in place for a month-long employee giving campaign with Marc Fiori, the company President, vowing to match each dollar raised.



Mindex basket raffles

In May, a company-wide celebration was held with family games, live music, and basket raffles. In total, with the matching gift, \$30,000 was raised by this incredible, community-focused company.

Fuse Creative also helped our community thrive by raising \$8,950 for 13thirty from its golf tournament. One of their corporate sponsors, Flour City Craft Company, even donated a custom-branded corn hole board to 13thirty.



Thanks, Fuse Creative & Flour City Craft Co.

Everyone who chooses to join hands in support of our work is dedicated to making a difference. Sometimes, however, the motivation to help is personal. For the Lewis family of Syracuse, 13thirty Cancer Connect holds special importance.

Laura Lewis was 15 when she died of osteosarcoma 30 years ago. Resources like ours didn't exist back then, but if they had, said Kate Torok who is Laura's sister and a proud 13thirty Board member, it would have made a difference. "Laura would have loved 13thirty," Kate reflects.

In honor of Laura, her family hosted Laura's Way 5K Memorial Walk. \$11,200 was raised and shared with 13thirty Cancer Connect and Camp Good Days & Special Times. We were honored to be part of Laura's legacy and very grateful for this amazing gift.



Laura's Way 5K Memorial Walk

In so many ways, large and small, the greater community of which we are a part continues to help us thrive. For the 4th year, 13thirty Cancer Connect participated in *A Community Thrives*, a grantmaking and crowdfunding program sponsored by the Gannett Foundation and the USA Today Network. Over 400 nonprofits in our tier participated in this on-line giving campaign and, thanks to many, we were the top national fundraising organization earning us a total of \$33,000 in incentive grants! (Check out past year successes on p.2)

As Helen Keller once said,
Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

Thank you, 13thirty Champions, for helping our community thrive!



Celebrating Generosity with Friends

Melissa's Legacy Circle was created to say thank you to our closest friends whose generosity goes above and beyond. We gathered in Melissa's Garden this summer to recognize the difference they have made for 13thirty Cancer Connect and the teens and young adults we serve. Thank you to these special 13thirty Champions!



- Anonymous Friends
- Jennifer and David Arnold
- Dennis and Barbara Asselin
- Jared Bertoni
- Jimmy and Gina Blaesi
- Rose Ann Bovenzi
- Theresa and Jeremy Cimino
- James Connaughton
- Charlie and Danielle Coté
- Stewart and Susan Cramer
- Bianca Cutler
- Kathy and John D'Amanda
- Fred and Lisa DeNunzio
- Andrew Gagnon
- Lou and Andrea Germain
- Marcus Gilligan
- James Graham
- Carolyn and Ronald Gruschow
- Theodore Heinrich and Laura Reitter
- Scott Hept
- Paul Hess
- Linda and Seth Jacobson
- Maria and Dimitrios Karras

- Tom Klaseus and Susan Danielson
- Frank and Diane Koetter
- Dr. David Korones
- Valerie Lang
- Robert and Patricia LaTour
- Lawrence Lioy
- Karen and Mike Lioy
- Tad Mack
- Ron Maier
- Maria and John Martens
- Nancy and Michael Metzler
- Sonia Mishra
- John and Lisa Nichols
- Jessica Northrup
- Richard and Jean Ottalagana
- Chris Piedici
- Derek and Krista Pino
- Cheryl and Jim Pohlman
- Priscilla and Tom Poole
- Keith and Lynda Poole
- Richard and Sara Rund
- Mike and Carol Simoni

- Jason Simoni
- Danny and Erin Sirianni
- Lauren and Doug Spiker
- Kevin Walter
- Ron and Lynn Ward
- Joe and Adelita Wischmeyer



Spotlight On

our new SYR team members



Amy Bobbette
Syracuse Center Manager

"I want to make sure all teens and young adults impacted by cancer feel supported."
- Amy

"I hope to help spread the word about this amazing organization, specifically to hospitals."
- Katelyn



Katelyn MacDougall
AYA Specialist

Tell us about yourself and why you're a great fit for 13thirty Cancer Connect.

Amy: I have a history of working for missions I believe in and a passion for helping people to live their best lives. I have experience working with young people and enjoy the energy and creativity they bring to the world.

Katelyn: I grew up in CNY and recently moved back from Boston. My entire career has focused on supporting those impacted by cancer. I was ecstatic to find a group of likeminded and motivated people working to creatively support the underserved AYAs.

How do you describe 13thirty to people asking about your new job?

Amy: 13thirty Cancer Connects brings together young people who have been impacted by cancer and offers a safe space for them to be with others who understand what they are going through. 13thirty Cancer Connect provides peer connections as well as free programs and activities and helps to bring attention to the unique challenges facing a teen/young adult with cancer. We want to help teens and young adults living with cancer live their best lives - today!

Katelyn: 13thirty is a grassroots, community-embedded, nonprofit dedicated to supporting teens and young adults with cancer!

What experience do you bring to your role that will help 13thirty achieve its mission?

Amy: Having worked for both large and small non-profit organizations, I have experience with everything from community engagement, program management, volunteer recruitment, fundraising, youth programming - you name it.

Katelyn: I worked for many years at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston as an oncology social worker. Over the last few years, I specifically focused on supporting young adults in roles that concentrated both on program development and direct support to meet the unique needs of AYAs. My experience is directly aligned with 13thirty's mission, to help AYAs live their very best lives today!

What is the most important thing you hope to accomplish at 13thirty?

Amy: I want to make sure all teens and young adults impacted by cancer feel supported. They are not alone, and I want area teens and young adults to know about 13thirty Cancer Connect and that we are here to help them live their best lives!

Katelyn: Given that 13thirty is newer to the Syracuse area, I hope to help spread the word about this amazing organization, specifically to the hospitals. When I worked at a hospital, I was always looking to connect people to nonprofits, so I look forward to being able to help with this!

Share a fun fact about you!

Amy: I was in a hot air balloon crash!

Katelyn: My father is a pastry chef and has taught me so much. I have a huge sweet tooth and love to bake. Apple sticks and Austrian fudge brownies are my favorite to make and eat!

Welcome, Amy & Katelyn! We're excited about the growth of our Syracuse Center!



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I wish to help teens and young adults with cancer
live their very best lives...TODAY!

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**Make A Difference for
Teens & Young Adults like Melissa**

*"If you've learned anything from me
through all of this, do something with it
to make a difference, to make things better."*

**Melissa Marie Sengbusch
1981- 2000**

Please make your check payable to:

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YOUR SUPPORT WILL MATTER!