No single act of kindness goes unnoticed, no good deed forgotten.

When you walk into a school before a Goin’ Bald for Bucks event, you instantly feel the energy. It’s contagious. The closer you get, the louder it becomes and the more people you see.

As you enter, you are immersed by the love and support that your community is showing for people battling cancer.

Fourteen years ago, Tony George, a teacher at Lakeshore High School in Buffalo, decided to shave his head in support of his sister who was battling leukemia. He had no idea what his pledge of support would become. The day he told his students about his intentions, they surprised him by deciding that they should raise money when he shaved his head.

That year, 36 people from Lakeshore High shaved their heads. Tony and his students raised $3,600 and Goin’ Bald for Bucks was born.

When a loved one is diagnosed with cancer, family and friends rise to the occasion in support. Goin’ Bald for Bucks widens that support net and lets the entire community show its support to every neighbor affected by cancer.

— cont. on page 6
A Message from
Lauren Spiker
Founder and Executive Director

Hello Friends,

Recently, we were given a wonderful gift - a vintage 1960s pinball machine complete with original electromechanical relays and solenoid bumpers that chime and light up when hit. Instant reward! That is, of course, until the player-controlled flippers either miss the ball or inadvertently send it flying into the non-scoring gutter. Ah, art imitating life!

Each time I play (which we all do frequently!), I think of the challenges facing our teens and young adults with cancer. Their lives are propelled, just like the pin ball, into territory both frustrating and gratifying. Too often, they have no control over the course of their disease despite best efforts to play their best game. Not unlike our pinball machine that offers temporary respite from our daily work, the programs we provide give our young people a way to put cancer aside, if only for a few hours at a time.

Sometimes we beat our past score, most often not but we keep playing. Maybe next time, we hope, we’ll get an extra turn. And so do our kids keep going in spite of challenges and unexpected twists and turns. For in the end, it’s not the score that matters but the continued effort to be stronger, more focused, more in control. To me, each and every amazing young cancer survivor I meet is a pinball wizard!

As 2016 kicks off, please look at our 2015 results below. As promised, we were good stewards of your trust, transitioning smoothly to our new name and new location while strengthening our organizational capacity. Per our strategic plan, we continued to build on a strong base of support while seeking new partnership opportunities.

Please feel free to call me if you’d like more information or if you have time, talent, or resources to offer. With your help, 2016 will be another great year!

With thanks, as always,

Lauren

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2015 Revenue

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2015 At-A-Glance

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Unique Website Visitors

2015 Expense

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Facebook Followers

13thirty Cancer Connect is a registered IRS 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization. United Way donor choice agency #2383.
The 4th Annual Bolt 5K Race/Fitness Walk has moved to May this year, so get your running shoes out now! But, that’s not the only difference. We are proud to announce that this year, 13thirty Cancer Connect is collaborating with 2 other small cancer agencies to raise our collective voices - and feet - against cancer in our community.

Together with Anna’s Wish and Christopher’s Challenge, our individual 5K races will form the KICK CANCER 15K Race Series.

By participating in all three races, you’ll get discounted registration, a special prize, and most importantly, the satisfaction of helping each organization better support the cancer patients and survivors they serve. Together we can kick cancer! See you at the Bandana Bolt!

New Website Launched - 13thirty.org
Check It Out!

A Word from Our Partners at CompassionNet
by Alyssa Gupton, Assistant Director

When we chose the name CompassionNet for our pediatric and perinatal palliative care program, we combined two key elements - compassion for the families we serve and building the “net” of support families can count on in their own communities.

Partnering with community resources such as 13thirty Cancer Connect, we extend the support available to families. By building wider and stronger “nets” of support, we expand their access to others who care and can help.

Fostering these connections is one way that CompassionNet broadens the support our families receive. This also gives families opportunities to offer their support to others who may benefit from their compassion and experience.

For more information, contact Alyssa Gupton (585) 214-1000
1. Holiday Party
Our teens and young adults all got together to spread some holiday cheer and had a mini-tree decorating contest. Needless to say, some very beautiful and creative trees were made!

2. Holiday Cheer
Ryan and Nigel take some time out of their holiday cheer for a photo-op with Beth and Josh. If these two young men keep growing, they might be taller than Josh!

3. Valpak October Challenge
Thanks to our wonderful friends at Valpak, their support for the Bandana Bolt won us a $2,500 grant! Thanks to Kathleen and Chris Jacobs and their team at Valpak for making this possible!

4. Jingle Jam raised $5,500+
Josh poses with volunteers Erin, Emily, and Martika at 98PXY’s Jingle Jam. Rochester showed everyone how big its heart is by raising money for cancer programs and had fun at the same time!

5. Minute to Win It
Our friends from Double H Ranch came by the Center for a game of Minute to Win It! Thanks to Scott Liola and his crew for a fun filled evening of crazy games and competitions!
6. Painting with a Twist
Our friends at TLC Buffalo had a lot of fun at Painting with a Twist! Looks like a few even channeled their inner child and became Luigi for a photo shoot!

7. Dave and Buster’s
What’s better than going out for dinner with your best friends? Going out to dinner with your best friends AND playing games at Dave and Buster’s! That’s just what TLC Buffalo did.

8. Going for the High Score
Taysha and Nicole go for the high score on our new Center pinball machine! Right now Josh has the high score - stop by the Center to claim it for yourself!

9. 1,000 Paper Cranes Project
Maria and Carly, Seniors at Mercy High School, proudly display their paper cranes project which they donated to 13thirty. Based on the tale of young girl in Nagasaki who believed her pain from the atomic bomb would subside if she folded 1,000 paper cranes, origami cranes are now symbols of hope and optimism. Please take one the next time you visit the Center!

10. 13thirty Fit!
Two of our young adults, Meesh and Paige, get ready for Ladder Sit-ups during our 13thirty Fit Program. We also welcomed Katlyn to our 13thirty family to help us with our nutritional goals!

Happy Spring!
Goin’ Bald for Bucks has come to Rochester and its impact is now focused on a wider community. Every dollar raised in Rochester supports patient-care programming and research at 13thirty Cancer Connect, Wilmot Cancer Institute, and Roswell Park Cancer Institute, three organizations that take care of our teens and young adults with cancer.

In every school, you hear similar stories. The homecoming queen. The lead of the school play. The three-sport athlete. The honor-roll student. Your best friend. All of their lives turned upside-down after hearing those dreaded words - “You have cancer.”

Now, our community has a great way to show its support and fight back against cancer. The inherently good, caring side of the human spirit that cares for - and about - others drives Goin’ Bald for Bucks and Rochester’s spirit is strong!

Two local radio celebrities, Megan Carter and Corey James from 98PXY, are publicly helping to support patients right here in Rochester. Megan and Corey want to rally our Rochester community in the fight against cancer by helping your school, club, workplace or social circle Go Bald for Bucks! They’ll be in your corner after you sign up!

Even after an event wraps up, the energy remains. Seeing people from your community with buzzed heads and cut ponytails that will become wigs is inspiring. Next year, others will join the fight and shave their heads. This is how Goin’ Bald for Bucks becomes a movement!

For more information about how you can get involved with Goin’ Bald for Bucks, call:
Josh Symer, Special Events Coordinator
(585)563-6221

Remembering Our Friend

On Dec. 9, our friend Louis died the way he lived - with strength and dignity. Not even rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare soft tissue cancer, could steal his soaring spirit.

His was a life well lived that will long inspire those of us who loved him.

#Louis Laws (of a good life)

1. “Always Look on the Bright Side of Life.”
2. Life is about learning to live certainly with uncertainty.
3. Do what you can - and then do it again.
4. When others say you can’t, don’t believe them.
5. Know what drives you and then put it in overdrive.
6. If you hit a roadblock, don’t stop. Kick it out of the way.
7. There is always something to smile about.
8. Doing something is better than doing nothing.
Megan Carter (M) and Corey James (C), hosts of the 98PXY Morning Show, have joined us in the fight against cancer by promoting and advancing Goin’ Bald for Bucks in Rochester! We wanted to know a little more about them, so we sat down and asked them to share pieces of their stories!

Q: How long have you been on the radio at 98PXY?
M: We’ve been on the radio for 12 years. Corey has been at 98PXY for 2 years and I’ve been here for 8!

Q: Who is your inspiration?
C: I know it sounds like a cliché, but personally it’s my dad. He’s an easy-going guy with a great attitude about life and is a good model to follow.
M: For me it’s my mom. She’s a breast cancer survivor and was a rockstar during her treatment. Goin’ Bald for Bucks is a way for me to give back to her with my heart.

Q: You work in radio. What’s your favorite movie and book?
C: Could have sworn you were going to ask about my favorite songs! My favorite movie is Rudy with Forrest Gump a close second. Favorite book has to be The Hobbit - nerd alert!
M: Curve ball! Forrest Gump is hands down my favorite movie and The Perks of Being a Wallflower is my favorite book!

Q: What drew you into Goin’ Bald for Bucks?
C: Some charity events can get a little stale but every Bald event is new, exciting, and uplifting. The positive energy just radiates through the room and you can’t help but be moved!
M: I try to be a very positive person and I love seeing the young kids being civically engaged and making positive news for people in need!

Q: What are your goals for expanding Bald for Bucks?
C&M: We want to see at least one school in every district going Bald for Bucks - and then challenging the other schools in their district. You only need to experience one event to fall in love with the stories, impact, and love that spreads through the room like wildfire!

Q: What do you want people to know about Bald for Bucks?
C&M: I think that there is the misconception that you need a large school or group to make it successful. All it takes is one passionate person - we will help in any way possible to make the events remarkable. The first step is always the hardest, but once you take it, the snowball effect takes over and the next thing you know, you’ve raised a ton of money for people with cancer.

Thanks Megan and Corey for being great and supporting Goin’ Bald for Bucks!

How to Sign-up for Goin’ Bald for Bucks!
1) Visit www.baldforbucks.org
2) Click “Rochester”
3) Click “Register to Go Bald”
4) Click “Start a Team”
5) Fill out your information
6) Start spreading the word

It really is that easy! Sign up your school, club, group, or organization today and make a stand against cancer in our community!

Megan from Sodus Jr/Sr High School had THREE FEET of hair shaved and went Bald for Bucks! Thanks Meagan for being a rockstar and organizing the event! You’re a true leader!
I am proud to donate.
I wish to help teens and young adults with cancer live their very best lives...TODAY!

- $100
- $75
- $50
- $25
- Other

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

Name: _____________________________________
Address: ___________________________________
City: ___________________ State _______ Zip _______
Phone: _________________________________
Email: _________________________________

Please make your check payable to:
13thirty Cancer Connect
1000 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester NY 14620

or
Donate online at: 13thirty.org/donate

YOUR SUPPORT WILL MATTER!