ANNUAL REPORT
2018
Lauren’s Foundation was created by the family of Lauren Fitzgerald, a life-long Berks County, PA resident who died in 2005 from complications related to a brain tumor. In May, 2004, while a freshman student at Drexel, Lauren was diagnosed with a primary brain tumor - a stage 3 anaplastic oligodendroglioma. She underwent 2 surgeries that summer followed by chemotherapy treatments at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. Lauren returned to Drexel for the fall, 2004 semester, then took a leave of absence for the winter term to focus on fighting her prognosis. In May, 2005, the tumor grew back aggressively. A scheduled 3rd surgery at Duke University Hospital was canceled. Lauren died on July 18, 2005 at Duke, after lapsing into a coma, at age 20.

The Foundation honors Lauren’s memory by supporting local families through a variety of charitable funds that support high school seniors, families with seriously ill children, brain tumor research and organ donation awareness.

A quote from American poet Maya Angelou, adopted by Lauren following her diagnosis, serves as a guiding principle for much of the Foundation’s work. That quote reads “I can be changed by what happens to me. I refuse to be reduced by it.” The Foundation recognizes, supports and celebrates individuals and families that persevere despite significant, adverse life circumstances and difficulties.

The signature fundraising event for the Foundation is our annual “Fitzy’s Run,” a 5K run and Halloween Festival held in the Borough of Wyomissing on the last Sunday in October. Lauren’s Foundation is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit and is registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charities.
MISSION STATEMENT

Through Lauren’s Foundation, it is our goal to:

1. Support families that are caring for loved ones afflicted with a brain tumor or other serious illness by providing financial assistance with living expenses.

2. Provide scholarships and recognition for students that have faced adverse life circumstances, yet persevered in the face of their adversity to excel academically and personally.

3. Raise awareness of brain tumors and how they affect individuals and families.

4. Promote brain tumor research and the search for a cure with an annual donation to the American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA).

5. Raise awareness of the organ donation process and encourage people to consider organ donation.

“I CAN BE CHANGED BY WHAT HAPPENS TO ME. I REFUSE TO BE REDUCED BY IT.”

- MAYA ANGELOU
How do we utilize the monies that our sponsors, supporters and patrons donate? We put it back into the community in the form of scholarships, family assistance, brain tumor research and children’s programs - over $230,000 to date!

1. BERKS HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
   $72,000, 60 students

2. SUNFLOWER FUND FOR FAMILIES
   $70,000

3. BERKS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
   $35,000

4. DREXEL UNIVERSITY/DPE SCHOLARSHIPS
   $15,000

5. AMERICAN BRAIN TUMOR ASSOCIATION DONATIONS
   $12,000

6. DONATIONS TO LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED
   $12,000

7. SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS
   $8,500

1. Scholarships that have been awarded to Berks County high school seniors that succeeded academically despite adverse life circumstances and will continue their education at an accredited college or university.

2. Financial support for families caring for seriously or terminally ill children, by way of assistance with living expenses, allowing parents to focus on the care of their child.

3. Used to establish permanent charitable funds at Berks County Community Foundation (BCCF), that provide scholarships to Berks high school seniors and annual grants to the American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA).

4. Scholarships awarded to Drexel University students who are Delta Phi Epsilon sorority members that have persevered through adverse circumstances and challenges yet continue to excel academically.

5. Direct contributions to the American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA) in Lauren’s memory or in the memory of or support of local residents dealing with a brain tumor diagnosis.

6. Donations to local families that have lost a family member to a brain tumor/cancer or currently have a family member with a brain tumor/cancer and for other families in need.

7. Donations to local Parks, Recreation and Police Departments in Berks municipalities to fund and support children’s activities, programs and events.
A high school scholarship program has been established at Berks County school districts for high school seniors who have overcome significant adversity in their lives to successfully complete high school, and will be continuing their education after high school. In addition to completing an application, students are required to write an essay explaining how a quote from American author and poet Maya Angelou applies to their lives and circumstances. That quote reads: “I can be changed by what happens to me. I refuse to be reduced by it.”

Since 2006, Lauren’s Foundation has awarded over $70,000 in scholarships to over 60 students from Berks County high schools. High school seniors can apply for scholarships from January 1st through March 31st annually through our Foundation website at www.laurensfoundation.org.
I walk into my house and look into the heartbroken eyes of my family members and I collapse to the ground crying. She is everywhere, remnants of her life filled the halls. There is no way to escape it. Memories flood into my mind with everything I see. “This can not be happening”, I think to myself. This was one of the worst, if not the worst day of my life. This was the day my mother passed away...

As a young child, I endured many obstacles that have changed my life. At the age of 13, I was sexually abused by my father...

Seven years ago, when I was 10 years old, my father passed away from a seizure while I was in the same room with him... My little brother has the sweetest soul but was born blind... Two years ago my mother had a stroke paralyzing the left side of her body... six months ago, my stepdad, the one who keeps the family from drowning financially, left the family...

Recent scholarship winners receive a plaque in recognition of the adversity that they confronted and overcame.
In her freshman year at Drexel University, where Lauren was studying interior design, she decided to become active in Greek life, choosing to join Delta Phi Epsilon (DPhiE), a service-oriented sorority. Within DPhiE, Lauren discovered a community of young women committed to excellence in academics as well as the betterment of society. Lauren thrived as a DPhiE member, becoming an active participant in sorority functions and fundraising for charitable causes. After her brain tumor diagnosis, her DPhiE sisters provided much needed support as Lauren battled her disease.

Following Lauren’s passing, the sisters of DPhiE expressed a desire to continue their support by assisting with the Foundation’s annual fundraising event, Fitzy’s Halloween 5K. To this day, dozens of sorority members, most of whom never met Lauren, participate in the run and volunteer as child-care attendants and assist with traffic control. Lauren’s Foundation supports the sisters of the Drexel University chapter of DPhiE by providing academic and dues scholarships for deserving young women.
Lauren’s Foundation supports the American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA), a leading non-profit organization that sponsors research into the causes of brain tumors, effective treatments and, ultimately, the search for a cure, with annual donations made on behalf of Lauren and members of our community that have been impacted by a brain tumor diagnosis.

**By the Numbers: Critical Brain Tumor Statistics**
- Nearly 80,000 new cases of primary brain tumors are expected to be diagnosed this year. Approximately 32% of brain and CNS tumors are malignant.
- This includes more than 25,000 primary malignant and 53,000 non-malignant brain tumors.
- There are nearly 700,000 people in the U.S. living with a primary brain and central nervous system tumor.
- This year, nearly 17,000 people will lose their battle with a primary malignant and central nervous system brain tumor.
- Survival after diagnosis with a primary brain tumor varies significantly by age, histology, molecular markers and tumor behavior.

**Brain Tumor Statistics by Age**
- The median age at diagnosis for all primary brain tumors is 59 years.
- Brain tumors are the most common cancer occurring among those age 0-14, and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in children (males and females) age 0-14, according to a 2016 report that places brain tumors in children above leukemia for both statistics.
- It is estimated that more than 4,600 children and adolescents between the ages of 0-19 will be diagnosed with a primary brain tumor this year.
- Brain and CNS tumors are the third most common cancer occurring among adolescents and young adults (ages 15-39) and the third most common cause of cancer death in this age group.

Lauren’s Foundation supports American Brain Tumor Association

*Source: American Brain Tumor Association website - find out more at www.abta.org*
The Gift-of-Life Donor Program is a nonprofit organization serving the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware, and is responsible for recovering and distributing organs and tissues used in life-saving and life-enhancing transplants.

Founded in 1974 by the Greater Delaware Valley Society of Transplant Surgeons, Gift of Life is one of the oldest and largest of 58 organ procurement organizations (OPO) in the U.S.

Gift of Life is part of the nationwide organ and tissue sharing network run by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). In addition, Gift of Life coordinates life-enhancing tissue transplants for area residents who are in need of corneas for sight-restoring procedures, as well as skin, tissue and bone to repair injuries.

Lauren’s Foundation is a committed advocate of Gift-of-Life. Lauren Fitzgerald chose to donate her organs and as a result, was able to give five (5) people the gift of life – her heart, lungs, liver and kidneys were used to serve those in need. Become a donor today! Enroll at http://www.donors1.org.

Bob Potts (at left) received Lauren’s liver. Maryann Deans (pictured above with son Waylon) received Lauren’s lungs. Both Bob and Maryann have traveled to Berks County to participate in our annual Fitzy’s Halloween 5K Run! They understand the tremendous impact that organ donation has - not just for the recipient, but for their families and friends!

“You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”

Khalil Gibran
“Because of Lauren’s gift of life: I was able to see my youngest daughter Kelly graduate from high school and enter college. My son, Kevin, safely returned from his second tour in Iraq. I was so glad to have the opportunity to see him arrive safely home. I feel like since this transplant I have had an angel looking over me. I cannot believe how things have fallen in place for me.”

Excerpt from letter by Bob to Lauren’s family, 2007.

Something we learned from our experience as a organ donor family - organ donation creates a ripple effect that extends far beyond the recipient. Children, spouses, parents, friends, extended family, co-workers - all are impacted by the decision to become an organ donor...

"Where is the yesterday that worried us so?"

A favorite quote of Maryann Deans, Lauren’s lung recipient

One of Maryann’s favorite quotes after her surgery was "Where is the yesterday that worried us so." This quote was significant for her because she struggled immensely before the transplant and felt she was given a second chance. She truly lived her next 7 years carefree and incredibly thankful for each moment and every breath.
Lauren’s Foundation believes in giving back to the community in ways that create and cultivate civic engagement. WE LOVE KIDS! They represent our future - and for that reason, we support and provide resources for children’s activities and programs offered and conducted by the Parks, Recreation and Police Departments of local boroughs and townships.

Programs and activities that we sponsor entertain, teach and often provide experiential learning opportunities for children. Some of the programs we support have included the following topics:

- Halloween Safety
- Playground Rules and Etiquette
- Zoo America
- Clown and Mime Performances
- Magicians and Entertainers
- Family Movie Night
- T-shirt Design Contests
- July 4th Parade and Games

Photos courtesy of Wyomissing Boro
Zoo America, with their traveling menagerie of critters is always a popular event at local playgrounds and summer camp programs!

Playground safety, Cub Scout visits and safe trick-or-treating practices are among the programs sponsored by local police departments.

Photos courtesy of Wyomissing Boro
The Sunflower Fund was created to help local families struggling with the costs of caring for a child with a serious illness. Once a family/child is selected, the Sunflower Fund is used to help pay household expenses (mortgage/rent payments, utilities, medical expenses, car payments, etc...) for a period of time, providing much needed financial assistance and allowing caregivers to spend more time with their child. The Sunflower Fund benefits local families. The contributions and donations we receive from our sponsors and patrons help real people - your neighbors - right here in Berks County.

Please visit our website to learn more about some of the families that have benefitted from Lauren's Foundation assistance, their circumstances and the struggles they're facing - and what your donations mean to them.

If you are the parent or caregiver of a seriously or terminally ill child and need help with living expenses, you can apply for assistance from Lauren's Foundation by downloading and completing an application found here:

www.laurensfoundation.org/sunflower-fund

AH SUNFLOWER, WEARY OF TIME,
WHO COUNTEST THE STEPS OF THE SUN;
SEEKING AFTER THAT SWEET GOLDEN CLIME
WHERE THE TRAVELLER'S JOURNEY IS DONE;
WHERE THE YOUTH PINED AWAY WITH DESIRE,
AND THE PALE VIRGIN SHROUDED IN SNOW,
ARISE FROM THEIR GRAVES, AND
ASPIRE WHERE MY SUNFLOWER WISHES TO GO!

WILLIAM BLAKE
Sunflower Fund Families

**2016-17**

Brittany faces many challenges. She has intellectual/developmental disabilities, seizure disorders, spastic quadraplegia, cerebral palsy and other conditions. She needs a respirator to breathe and she has to be fed through a tube. Melissa, a single mom and Brittany’s mother, tends to Brittany’s needs around the clock. Melissa is unable to work as she is Brittany’s primary caretaker.

Lauren’s Foundation paid this family’s rent, utility and insurance expenses for twelve months (2016) and their electric and cable bills (2017).

**2015**

Ethan was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, which is a terminal condition that results in muscle degeneration, loss of strength and muscle control. Lauren’s Foundation provided financial assistance for this single-mom family, so they could focus on getting Ethan the care and therapy he needs.

Lauren’s Foundation paid this family’s utility and insurance costs for twelve months.

**2014**

Hunter was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, which is a terminal condition that results in muscle degeneration, loss of strength and muscle control. Lauren’s Foundation provides financial assistance for this family so they can focus on getting Hunter the care and therapy he needs.

Lauren’s Foundation paid this family’s utility and insurance costs for twelve months.

**2013**

Hannah lost her leg due to chronic infections and surgeries for spinal tumors that she has endured since birth. As Hannah was adjusting to a prosthetic leg, she fell and broke her elbow. Her mother Chris, a single mom, juggles her career with caring for Hannah and her other children. Lauren’s Foundation provided rent assistance so Chris could focus on Hannah’s rehabilitation and care.

Lauren’s Foundation paid this family’s rent expense for ten months.

**2012**

When Jillian was 3 years old, she was diagnosed with Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis, a life-threatening condition that required her to receive regular chemotherapy treatments, steroids and, more recently, a bone-marrow transplant. With two other young children and the father out of work, this Boyertown area family struggled financially with living expenses and medical bills.

Lauren’s Foundation paid this family’s mortgage expense for six months.
Fitzy’s 5K is a fun-filled, family-oriented, community event sponsored by Lauren’s Foundation. It is held each year on the last Sunday of October in Wyomissing, PA. This event raises money to support our charitable funds!

Featuring kids and adult costume contests, face painting, music, entertainment, pre-race breakfast, post-race lunch buffet, children’s activities, games and more...!

**5K RUN/WALK**

Everyone from competitive runners to those out for a leisurely stroll through scenic portions of Wyomissing participate! Unique medals for age-group winners, team competitors and terrific trophies for the top 3 men and women!

**KID’S .3 MILE FUN RUN**

After your run, watch or participate with your child on our .3 mile fun run course!

**SILENT AUCTION**

Come prepared! Our silent auction will feature dozens of items from local merchants including gift baskets, gift certificates for restaurants, spas/massage, sports items and much more!

**HEALTH SERVICES FAIR**

Free Consulations
Speak with local health-care practitioners and try a free sports massage session!

**Gift of Life Donor Program**

Learn about organ and tissue donation and how it saves lives!

**KID’S ZONE FUN**

Delta Phi Epsilon sorority sisters from Drexel University are on-hand to provide supervised play for kids. (Children must be 2+ years old)

Contact e-mail: Fitzys5K@laurensfoundation.org, or visit us at www.laurensfoundation.org!
# Fitzy’s Run - Sponsorship Opportunities

## 5K Run/Walk & .3 Mile Kids Fun Run

Each year on the last Sunday in October  

*Stone House Park, Wyomissing, PA*

## Sponsorship Levels and Benefits

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<th>Sponsorship Level</th>
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| **Title Sponsor** | - Only 2 available - Exclusivity for business type guaranteed! Plus, ALL features with Family Sponsor level!  
- XL Logo prominence on event T-shirt, website, sponsor banner, 5K course signage and recognition during event. | $5,000 |
| **Family Sponsor** | - Sponsorship supports a local family in need, caring for a seriously ill child. (Optional: help us select the family!)  
- Logo on 15,000 count brochure - includes direct mailing to 8,000+ households (need commitment by 5/1).  
- Large logo on event T-shirt, website, sponsor banner, 5K course signage and recognition during event.  
- Distribute promotional items/print materials/coupons in participant bags and/or event day (provided by sponsor).  
- Optional: Set-up company table/banner displayed at event (banner provided by sponsor, we provide table!) | $2,500 |
| **Scholar Sponsor** | - Provides a $1,000 scholarship to a Berks high school senior. (Optional: help us select the student & high school!)  
- Logo on 15,000 count brochure - includes direct mailing to 8,000+ households (need commitment by 5/1).  
- Large logo on event T-shirt, website, sponsor banner, 5K course signage and recognition during event.  
- Distribute promotional items/print materials/coupons in participant bags and/or event day (provided by sponsor).  
- Optional: Set-up company table/banner displayed at event (banner provided by sponsor, we provide table!) | $1,500 |
| **Gold Sponsor** | - Large logo on event T-shirt, website, sponsor banner, 5K course signage and recognition during event.  
- Distribute promotional items/print materials/coupons in participant bags and/or event day (provided by sponsor).  
- Optional: Set-up company table/banner displayed at event (banner provided by sponsor, we provide table!) | $1,000 |
| **Silver Sponsor** | - Small logo on event T-shirt, website, and sponsor banner.  
- Distribute promotional items/print materials/coupons in participant bags and/or event day (provided by sponsor). | $500 |
| **Bronze Sponsor** | - Company listing on event T-shirt, website, and sponsor banner.  
- Distribute promotional items/print materials/coupons in participant bags and/or event day (provided by sponsor). | $250 |

## Remittance Options

1. Payment in full - use enclosed envelope!  
2. Three (3) Installments Plan - 7/1; 8/1; 9/1.  
3. Custom Plan - let us know what works for you!

## Contact Information

1. Email us at: sponsors@laurensfoundation.org  
2. Phone - Michael Fitzgerald: 610-413-5658  
3. Visit www.laurensfoundation.org for more info

Lauren’s Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Sponsorships and donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.
Without our sponsors, we wouldn’t be able to fund scholarships, help families in need, promote brain tumor research or organ donation awareness - in fact, we wouldn’t exist! We are forever grateful to all of our sponsors, past and present, for providing Lauren’s Foundation with the opportunity to fulfill our mission!
About 600 turn out for annual benefit run in Wyomissing

About 600 runners participated in the Fitzy's Halloween 5K and Fun Run/Walk at the Stone House in Wyomissing on Sunday.

The annual event is hosted by Lauren’s Foundation in memory of Lauren Fitzgerald, a 2003 Wyomissing High School graduate who died in 2005 of a brain tumor. Proceeds fund brain tumor research and scholarships for local students.

The run also highlighted local residents and their contributions to the foundation.

Sofia Merolla, a seventh-grader at Wyomissing Junior High School, designed the T-shirts made for this year’s event, said Michael Fitzgerald, Lauren’s father. Sofia was one of several local students who competed in a design contest held at the Stone House during Wyomissing’s July Fourth parade.

In addition to raising money, the race also honored a woman who died in April of brain cancer.

A lot of work goes into staging the event, but we’re just humbled every year by the turnout and the sponsors,” Fitzgerald said.

As published in:
READING EAGLE
October 30, 2017

Hundreds take part in Wyomissing run/walk

The annual Fitzy’s 5K has become a Halloween weekend tradition at Stone House Park in Wyomissing. On Sunday, over 560 runners and walkers participated in the event, which featured a costume contest, plenty of food and fun activities for children and more.

The race honors Lauren Fitzgerald, who died of a brain tumor in July 2005 at age 20. It supports Lauren’s Foundation, the nonprofit that supports scholarships for Berks County students, donates to the American Brain Tumor Association and helps families caring for children with serious medical issues, among other causes.

Lauren’s father, Michael Fitzgerald, of Wyomissing said the event was a big success thanks to the support of community sponsors, volunteers and participants who keep coming back each year. “There’s so much community involvement in support of this event,” he said. “It’s very heartwarming and humbling to see that level of support.”

As published in:
READING EAGLE
October 31, 2016
Power's on for Brittany in her Cumru Township home

Experiencing a power outage was one of Melissa Kobylakiewicz's biggest fears. Until recently, not having electricity was a matter of life or death for Melissa's daughter, Brittany Winterstein, 21, who uses a ventilator to breathe.

"I freaked out, basically panicked," said Melissa, 45, recounting a power outage in October in her Cumru Township neighborhood. "How is she supposed to survive without power?"

Melissa provides constant care for her daughter and is not employed. Medical bills and everyday expenses would weigh even more heavily on the family if not for the Wyomissing-based nonprofit, Lauren's Foundation, who sponsored the family in 2016-17.

Michael Fitzgerald, from Lauren’s Foundation, reached out to Gabrielle Warner, owner of E3 Health and Wellness Center and to Home Depot in Wyomissing for assistance. With the help of others, Warner collected about $2,200 for charity, including $1,100 that went to Lauren’s Foundation to help Melissa and Brittany.

Home Depot Assistant manager Peter Duff helped find a generator that would work best with Brittany’s ventilator and provided a generous discount. The 5,500 watt generator will provide a consistent flow of power to the ventilator should another outage occur. As an added gift, Fitzgerald extended the foundation’s sponsorship of Melissa and Brittany through February, 2017.

Lauren's scholarship opens to all Berks grads

Although the goal was to add an additional high school each year, her father said its directors decided last month "to broaden our reach and open the scholarship program to all Berks high schools immediately."

The scholarship is open to students who have overcome adversity in their lives to successfully complete high school, and who will be continuing their education at an accredited college, university or trade school. Successful applicants exhibit a strong commitment to academics in high school; persevere through adverse personal circumstances to further and better themselves because of their strong commitment to personal growth and success.

As published in: **READING EAGLE**
January 1, 2017
Fundraising is a very important part of Lauren’s Foundation. It supports our funds and charitable giving. Would you like to help us expand our ability to help families and offer scholarships? While some people will have great success simply asking their friends, family and colleagues for donations, others might get creative and organize a fundraising event to benefit our Foundation!

If you’d like to undertake your own fundraising activity to raise funds for Lauren’s Foundation, please contact us at info@laurensfoundation.org to discuss your ideas. We can provide advice, information, tips and resources, and importantly, an “Authority to Fundraise” letter to support your activities!

- Approach your local school - enlist the help of a club or a faculty member to sponsor an event!
- Bake Sale
- Barbecue
- Bowling Night
- Car Wash
- Charity Dinner
- Corporate Ask Letter - who do you know?! Write companies and tell them what you are doing and why
- Dance-a-thon
- Join An Established Sporting Event - get a team together for Fitzy’s 5K Run!

Are you affiliated with a local high school and interested in connecting with Lauren’s Foundation to establish a fundraiser? Please contact Lauren’s Foundation at info@laurensfoundation.org to discuss how we might work together to expand and grow the families we reach!
WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE

To the extent Lauren’s Foundation has a positive impact on lives and families in the community, none of what we do would be possible without the generous and ongoing support provided by our sponsors, supporters, patrons, friends, family, and volunteers. At our essence, we are simply a conduit, directing the contributions and donations we receive to those in need. Words are inadequate to express our sincere gratitude for that support. You have helped us turn our personal tragedy and loss into something positive, while creating a rich legacy for Lauren - and in the process, you have facilitated our healing.

Members of Lauren’s family and co-founders of her Foundation include her mother Mary Ann Cairo, father Michael Fitzgerald, stepmother Sorita Averill-Fitzgerald, sister Liz Cairo-Koenig, brother-in-law Joaquin Koenig, cousin Keelie Fitzgerald, nephew Loren, niece Kayelyn and cousin Ava.

This bench, commissioned and installed in Lauren’s memory, can be found on the Boardwalk in Ventnor City, New Jersey. It overlooks the ocean and serves as a reminder of Lauren’s love for the beach as well as a place to sit and contemplate life.
Deb Hierl

Deb Hierl fought a long and courageous battle following a GBM brain tumor diagnosis. Doctors predicted she had only months to live - but Deb lived life on her terms and turned that prognosis upside down, living an additional 11 years. In that time, she inspired many with her gentle tenacity and determination. Deb’s family includes husband Fred, daughter Kyra and son Trevor. Deb left us on April 21, 2017 at age 48, but not before seeing her children graduate from high school and college.

Maryann Deans

Maryann Deans received Lauren’s lungs in 2005, after years of chronic lung and breathing problems. She once noted that she couldn’t garden or even make her bed due to her diminished lung capacity. Lauren’s lungs changed all that. For seven years, Maryann was able to enjoy the activities that were once off limits. Maryann left us on November 25, 2012, but not before meeting her son Waylon’s future wife Michelle, at right.

Candelario “Junior” Matos

Junior Matos handled his GBM brain tumor diagnosis with incredible grace and humility. He remained upbeat and reflective throughout his treatments, choosing to set an example for all of us to follow. It was his daily mission to brighten the lives of others, despite the stress and unpredictability of his own battle. Junior left us on February 2, 2018. He leaves behind his wife Jaime, daughters Skylie and Taylor and sons Mateo, Chase and Trey.