

CAMERON SIEMERS FOUNDATION

Inspiring Times

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SPREADING HOPE AND POSSIBILITY AROUND THE GLOBE!

ISSUE 1

PEOPLE

Miraculous Survival leads to Global Impact



When I was 2 years old I received a blood transfusion with HIV-infected blood. At age 7 I was diagnosed with AIDS and told I wouldn't live past 10. That was way back in 1989. I consider every day past my 10th birthday to be a miracle. I created this foundation to help other young adults like me—kids with life-threatening illnesses who are defying medical science and living into a future no one thought possible. And now they seek what we all seek: purpose and the chance to make a difference. Our organization provides Life Grants to these young adults to support them as they fulfill a dream, goal, or project that makes a difference in their lives and communities. We have found that when a person is focused on something more than their survival, they can make a huge impact. This issue of Inspiring Times shares some of these amazing stories—all of which would not have been possible without contributions from people like you.

Cameron Siemers, Age 27 HIV

HEALTH & FITNESS

Helping Kids Tackle Type 1 Diabetes with Fitness and Nutrition



I consider myself fortunate to have been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes six years ago at the age of 22. It may sound

strange to consider myself privileged with a health condition as invasive as diabetes, but I stand in front of you today a completely different person from the one I was in my early 20s. I was given the unique opportunity to re-evaluate my entire life at a very young age. I'm an athlete, I've always been an athlete and I hope to always be an athlete. For me, movement is at the very essence of my core; it's a gateway to a meditative state that has become a necessity and my passion. My goal is to share this passion for fitness with a generation of children with juvenile diabetes who simply don't understand the powerful effect exercise can have on their health. The Life Grant provides me the means to create an organization focused on educating youngsters with this confusing condition to use exercise as a substitute for insulin therapy, a tool for longevity, and a means for optimal health. I am truly indebted to this Foundation and to dedicated and enthusiastic supporters like you for providing me the opportunity to become a leader in this community. Your generosity touches the lives of more individuals than you or I will ever know.

Cyrus Khambatta, Age 29 Diabetes

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Sewing Sows Seeds of Hope in Africa



I have now been in Tanzania for almost three months and am very busy at work. My community has countless needs. I am addressing individual health needs, while also trying to implement health education. People let health problems go far too long; then sometimes it's too late to help. Early intervention is key. Because of the Life Grant I was able to purchase three new sewing machines for our sewing class. This may seem funny since I came here to be a nurse, but our sewing class is such an effective way to influence young women in a positive way. This age group has few opportunities, and sewing gives them work and helps them provide for their families. I have also used some of the grant money for much needed medical supplies and vitamin supplements. Every morning the children are given porridge with vitamin supplements. In the past five months, 20 students have gained an average of 7lbs each!

Emily Arneson, Age 28 Cancer



ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Cancer Survivor takes on Broadway with Inspirational New Play



Throughout my struggle with lung cancer I found my coping mechanism to be theatrical expression. I have been involved in theatre for almost my entire life and have always had a great passion for it. My dream was to create a play that would not only share my story but the stories of many other young adult cancer survivors. I have written a full-length play titled "In Search of Hope" and staged a professional reading at the New York Theatre Workshop. The Cameron Siemers Foundation for Hope Life Grant

program has given me an invaluable opportunity to create a piece that inspires and enlightens all who see it. Thank you all for your support. Jill Harrison-Snyder, Age 27 Lung Cancer

EDUCATION

Amazing Survivor Devotes Life to Students with Special Needs



From the day I was born my life has been a medical roller coaster, but throughout these hardships I have

remained focused on my dream of being a preschool special education teacher. I feel my happiest and most successful when surrounded by individuals with special needs. With the help of my Life Grant, I will be able to continue my schooling while teaching and achieve my master's degree in special education. This is a perfect way for me to show my students and their families that people with special needs—whether they are physically, intellectually, or emotionally disabled—can achieve great things with the help of others. I now have the opportunity to instill my determination and will to survive into my students. This will show them that when given the right tools they can achieve their goals just as I am on the road to achieving mine.

Melissa Merrill, Age 22 Systemic lupus as well as 3 other autoimmune diseases

ARTS

Creativity Conquers Cancer



Surviving has been a long journey filled with numerous surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation, and an

almost fatal stem cell transplant. In 2008, I became the very first Life Grant winner. My dream is to become an art therapist and help children with cancer find hope and inspiration through their creativity, just like my art therapist did for me. I have now finished my junior year of my undergraduate degree at Webster University in Studio Art, Art Therapy and Psychology and received a 3.9 GPA. I also completed an intensive internship this summer with an art therapist on a medical psychiatric unit. I will graduate in the spring and am applying for a master's in art therapy program. The Life Grant helped me stay on the path of my life's dreams by allowing me to afford college. Without it, it would have been an extra burden for my husband and I since my medical bills still cost the same as a mortgage. I am so thankful to have the support of the Foundation, as well as those who have donated to this cause. With your help, I have been able to realize my dream to use my talents to inspire others.

Rachel Lozano, Age 26 Askins Tumor of the Spinal Cord

Are you inspired? Now is your chance to make more inspirational stories like these possible. Donate to our Life Grant program, today, and we'll keep you updated on how your support is changing the world.

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INSPIRE HOPE AND POSSIBILITY IN YOUNG ADULTS WHO ARE LIVING WITH LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESSES.

