



mothers against cancer

by Ginger Bertrand

Photography by Pat and Rays Studio

- 1 in 285 children will be diagnosed with cancer.
- 43 children per day or 15,780 children per year are expected to be diagnosed with cancer.
- More than 95% of childhood cancer survivors will have a significant health-related issue by the time they are 45 years of age. These health-related issues are side-effects of either cancer or more commonly, the result of its treatment.
- Cancer is the number one cause of death by disease among children.
- Since 1980, fewer than 10 drugs have been developed for use in children with cancer. Only three drugs (Teniposide and Clofarabine, and Unituxin for use in high-risk neuroblastoma) have been approved for use in children. Only four additional new drugs have been approved for use by both adults and children.
- The average cost of a stay in a hospital for a child with cancer is \$40,000.
- Only 4% of federal government cancer research funding goes to study pediatric cancer.

Mothers Against Cancer held its 30th annual holiday luncheon on December 3, 2018, at Humble Civic Center. The event was attended by 625 people, including many honorees or their family representatives from the past 30 years.

Glenda Gordy received the Ann Denman Award and a lifetime membership for her ongoing support of Mothers Against Cancer. Also honored was Dylan Probe, a sixth grader at Woodcreek Middle School in Humble ISD, who lost her lower right leg to Ewing's Sarcoma in 2017.

The event raised \$332,000 from auction purchases and donations for pediatric cancer research for Texas Children's Cancer Center. Pictured with her auction win, a beautiful Bichon Frise puppy, is Melisa Dion. To date, Mothers Against Cancer has raised over \$6.5 million for specific research projects.

SG Business Services, LTD. was the presenting sponsor and Brian and Shirley Colona were the diamond sponsors.

Melanie McTaggart (pictured right with son Grant) provided a moving Gift of Love presentation about her son's journey with pediatric cancer. Grant was diagnosed with Philadelphia chromosome-positive, acute lymphoblast leukemia at the age of two. ALL, for short, is the most common form of leukemia in children and is treatable.

But when it includes the Philadelphia chromosome, an abnormal protein that overproduces white blood cells, it becomes more difficult to treat with chemotherapy. Now, 9 years later, it was gratifying to see her strong, happy son by her side.

Melissa Wilson (pictured left), news editor and medical reporter for FOX 26 in Houston, was the event's emcee and Tony's Catering of the Vallone Restaurant Group provided a delicious meal.

Mothers Against Cancer is a nonprofit foundation founded in 1989 to help the fight against cancer, a leading cause of childhood disease. Its membership is made up of volunteer women from the Greater Houston area. MAC keeps expenses to a minimum as the organization does not have any paid employees. Members visit the pediatric cancer patients at Texas Children's Hospital four times annually to give the children and their parents useful gifts, including weekly parking passes.

Upcoming Mothers Against Cancer events:

·7th Annual Virginia Gandy
5K Run and Walk
Saturday, April 27, 2019
Kingwood High School

·31st Annual Holiday Luncheon
Monday, December 2, 2019
Humble Civic Center

Both events are open to the public.
www.mothersagaincancer.org