



Meet the staff

Paige Anderson

While most 14-year-old girls are concerned about who's who in school and the new stores at the mall, Paige Anderson faced a far greater struggle. In 1997, after waging a valiant battle, Paige's father, Bob, succumbed to Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML), a fast-growing cancer of the blood and bone marrow.

"Even in the mid-90s, I remember thinking that there were few support outlets specifically focused on cancer patients' families, especially young children and teenagers of cancer patients. Working at The Foundation not only gives me a wonderful opportunity to honor my dad's memory, but also a chance to witness firsthand the amazing compassion and comfort offered by staff members to all those affected by a cancer diagnosis and the ensuing course of treatment. In a way, it is cathartic."

A native of Nashville, Paige joined The Foundation in September 2007. Being very familiar with Sarah Cannon and her beloved character, Paige excitedly seized the opportunity to join the Minnie Pearl team. Having previously worked in both nonprofit and for-profit sectors, she brings a good balance of knowledge and skills to her current role as administrative assistant.

Paige is a 2005 cum laude graduate of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), earning a BS in Electronic Media Communication. While in college, she became certified as a professional group exercise instructor and taught various aerobic and weight sculpting classes at MTSU's campus recreation center. "As an avid exerciser, I usually spend weekends hiking the trails of Nashville's beautiful Warner Parks. Incorporating nature into my fitness plan provides a nice alternative to the same old stuff at the local gym."

Paige enjoys spending time with all the special individuals in her life, and she is particularly grateful for her mother, Nancy, and sister, Leigh, who serve as constant sources of happiness in her life. An avid movie buff with a penchant for just about every genre, Paige likes everything from the humorous—*National Lampoon's Vacation*—to the timeless work of Grace Kelly, who, for Paige, epitomizes classic elegance. She also loves to travel, with some favorites being Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and the Grand Tetons; Kauai's Na Pali coast; and England, where she studied geography at King's College, University of London.

EVENTS

mark your calendars

THE 6TH ANNUAL MINNIE PEARL COMEDY TRIBUTE FEATURING BILL ENGVALL
Saturday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.
Lipscomb University's Allen Arena
For tickets call the Allen Arena box office at (615) 966-7075 or Ticketmaster at (615) 255-9600 and www.ticketmaster.com. For VIP tickets, call (615) 467-1936.

CHATTANOOGA WOMEN AND CANCER EVENT
Wednesday, April 23, 11:00 a.m. (EST)
Luncheon & Silent Auction
The Chattanooga
Dr. Barbara Haskew, a seven-year breast cancer survivor, will be the featured speaker. The event will benefit transportation and educational resources for Parkridge Medical Center. Individual tickets are \$80 or \$800 for a table. For more information, please visit www.minniepearl.org or call Laura Robinson at (423) 495-1865.

THE 8TH ANNUAL MEN'S EVENT
Monday, May 19
The Palm - Nashville
Cocktails and Dinner
For tickets, please call (303) 861-0866.

QUIT 4 LIFE
Free smoking cessation support group
Meets every Tuesday at The Foundation's Patient Resource Center 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets to these events, call (615) 467-1936.

The Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation is a nonprofit public charity committed to funding programs that provide the greatest benefit to cancer patients and their families. By supporting new programs in cancer research, education, and patient and family services, we honor the memory of Sarah Cannon, a cancer patient herself, who created the beloved character "Minnie Pearl."

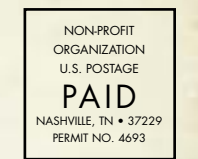


CONTACT INFORMATION

THE MINNIE PEARL CANCER FOUNDATION
A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

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Time to take flight
FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER!



Hobby-Lobby International, a Brentwood, Tenn.-based company, is a worldwide distributor of radio-controlled (RC) airplanes, helicopters and boats. Due to a manufacturer's error, they received 500 pink and silver fighter jets instead of their custom paint scheme. Turning lemons into lemonade, they are donating a portion of the sales of these jets to The Foundation. Please call 1-866-WE-FLY-RC (933-5972) for more information.

Take the fight against cancer up and away!

LIFETIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation

Hope through Research, Support and Education



THE PATIENT RESOURCE CENTER

The Heart of Our Work

At the core of The Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation's services is the Patient Resource Center (PRC). Opening our doors in July 2001, the PRC immediately answered a call from the oncology community to provide a place for patients and their families to turn to, outside the routine of medical consultation and treatment. With the increasing acknowledgment of and advocacy for caring for the whole cancer patient—including emotional, psychological and practical needs—the PRC continues to be an important development in the timeline of cancer care and a real, valuable presence in the cancer community.



The resources at the PRC offer opportunities to become better educated about options and to find others who understand cancer's difficult journey. Visitors and their families are invited to "come and sit a spell" (as Minnie Pearl herself would have put it); browse through the library shelves of cancer-related books and brochures; research diagnoses and treatment questions through our www.minniepearl.org cancer-related links section; seek assistance from on-site oncology social workers about emotional

and practical matters; and receive nutrition suggestions from our in-house dietician. With a comfortable conference room for educational programs and community meetings, the PRC plays host to various health-related organizations, such as the American Lung Association's Quit 4 Life smoking cessation program and the American Cancer Society's Look Good Feel Better cosmetology classes for women patients in cancer treatment.

Recent grant funding from generous partners such as Baptist Healing Trust, the Lance Armstrong Foundation, the American Cancer Society, the Greater Nashville Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for

the Cure, and Kroger has enabled us to design and implement meaningful patient programs to assist with transportation, nutrition, psychosocial needs and health screening. Our PRC allows us to witness the needs of cancer patients firsthand and, through valuable partnerships, offer real solutions to real problems. Our work does not have to be on-site; with the increasing flexibility

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DENEEN COLEMAN-RUFF

Dogged determination and a passion for creating soulful art have sustained Deneen Coleman-Ruff through some rough times. A survivor of abuse, a bitter divorce from a man who left her, raising three children alone, lengthy periods of homelessness, alienation from family, and breast cancer, Deneen is healing and ready to give back...and to get back to the world of art. Visiting our Patient Resource Center on a recent bitter cold winter day, Deneen was the warm, bright light that moved among us with her energy and certainty that the time was right for her art, that it would no longer take a back seat. She simply wants to give back to this world with thanks for the grace and humility she's learned through her hard times; and maybe help someone else who needs encouragement, inspiration and hope.



photo credit: Emanuel O. Roland II www.rolandphotography.net

Deneen credits her mother with inspiring in her the pursuit and appreciation of all forms of visual art. Although Deneen's family moved frequently during her childhood for military obligations, her mother, a copper-embossing artist, never failed to take Deneen to art galleries and museums to experience the impact of rich color and skilled brushstrokes firsthand. Whether living in Germany or the United States, Deneen cultivated her own skill primarily through school art classes and teachers/mentors who recognized her talent. Although hard times have surfaced all too frequently,

Deneen has always turned to her art for solace. To cope with her darkest hours when her husband abandoned her and her children or when she lost her home and lived in shelters with her children, lost her mother to cancer, and endured treatment for her own breast cancer, Deneen always found herself returning to her art—the safe and comforting world to which her mother introduced her at a young age. Deneen has volunteered countless hours to share her art and talents with school children and various art galleries and exhibits from Kentucky to New York and Massachusetts to Tennessee.

Deneen works in pastel charcoal, watercolors, pencils, color pencils, acrylics, gold leaf and rhinestones as well as creates quilts, pillows and dolls. Her portraiture and paintings reflect the genre of the African-American experience and speak of emotions naturally tapped into by a survivor. The positive, tangible expressions of her survivorship through her art are a community treasure and a clear reminder that art is a retreat for the human soul.

Deneen is currently seeking locations to exhibit her art and sponsorships to offset her business/art costs as she re-establishes her business.

For more information about Deneen's work, contact her at deneencruff@yahoo.com.

A Safe Place Deneen Coleman-Ruff



COMEDY TRIBUTE

THE MINNIE PEARL CANCER FOUNDATION & STATE WATER HEATERS proudly present THE 6TH ANNUAL MINNIE PEARL COMEDY TRIBUTE featuring **BILL ENGVALL**

APRIL 19, 2008 7:30 P.M.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY'S ALLEN ARENA

BILL ENGVALL BLUE COLLAR COMEDY TOUR

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
 THE ALLEN ARENA BOX OFFICE: 615.966.7075
 TICKETMASTER: 615.255.9600

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$38.50, \$55.50, \$75,
 STUDENT TICKET WITH UNIVERSITY ID FOR \$22.
 FOR \$125 VIP TICKETS CALL: 615.467.1936

The 6th Annual MINNIE PEARL COMEDY TRIBUTE

On Saturday, April 19, Bill Engvall will headline the Sixth Annual Minnie Pearl Comedy Tribute at Lipscomb University's Allen Arena in Nashville. Best known as a member of the Blue Collar Comedy Tour, Engvall's performance serves as homage to Minnie Pearl with all proceeds benefiting The Foundation.

"We are thrilled to have Bill Engvall continue the tradition of The Minnie Pearl Comedy Tribute," said Key Holleman, The Foundation's board chair. "His characteristic humor of pointing out the comedy of everyday situations really connects with audiences, much like that of our namesake."



social work comes DIALING FOR DOLLARS



Despite the social services system in communities where our patients live, there are often inadequate resources to meet many basic needs. Programs to pay rent, utilities, transportation-to-treatment costs and phone bills may be funded in one county but not in another. Some programs have limited funds available at the first of the month; but when these are spent, there are no additional funds until the beginning of the next month or quarter. Requests for assistance beyond basic needs (such as a cell phone for an indigent patient with whom an oncologist needs to communicate, dental work prior to cancer treatment, or nutritional products for patients who are unable to eat) pose an even greater challenge.

When confronted with the immediate needs of a patient, our social workers may spend countless hours on the telephone pursuing resources. Sometimes they may identify partial assistance, but the bottom line is that all needs are not met by the social safety nets in our communities.

The hunt for resources is never-ending, and finding new programs and services is cause for celebration at The Foundation. We encourage our friends and supporters to share information about what their communities can do to address the needs of cancer patients. If you know of resources and/or programs that you believe would benefit cancer patients, we would love to hear from you at 615-467-1936, or e-mail barbara@minniepearl.org or susan@minniepearl.org.

The Heart of Our Work CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that technology provides, we're just a phone call, e-mail or fax away from helping to direct someone coping with cancer to hopeful answers.

In 2002, our PRC supported 338 visitors; in 2007, our outreach supported more than 1,148 cancer patients and/or their families—an increase that clearly demonstrates the growth of our programs and extraordinary use of The Foundation's services. We warmly



welcome anyone with any cancer diagnosis from any treatment facility to take advantage of our free, comprehensive services.

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