



Medical Hero in the Spotlight

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Alexandra "Alex" Scott was an upbeat, spirited little girl who developed cancer before her first birthday. Three years later, after receiving intensive chemotherapy and stem cell treatments, Alex asked her parents if she could set up a lemonade stand by their house in Manchester, CT.

"We kind of laughed," says her father, Jay Scott. "We thought she was going to use the money to buy a toy."

But Alex surprised everyone. Her lemonade stand raised \$2,000, which she donated to 'her doctors.'

"All kids want their tumors to go away," Alex explained. Before Alex died at age eight in 2004, she had realized her dream of having volunteers throughout the country hold fundraising lemonade stands in every state. Since Alex held that first stand, the Foundation bearing her name has evolved into a national fundraising movement, complete with thousands of volunteers across the country carrying on her legacy of hope.

Alex's cancer treatments began when she developed neuroblastoma as a baby. Doctors removed most of her tumor, but more grew back. Over the next three years, Alex had chemotherapy and more surgery. When the chemotherapy no longer worked, parents Liz and Jay Scott brought Alex to the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia for experimental treatments.

"We were told by several hospitals that there were no more treatment options and we should just enjoy her last days," says Jay. "But the experimental treatments gave her 4-1/2 more years with us." "We were reassured that the doctors gave Alex very thorough checkups before she received treatment, to see if she was a good candidate," adds Liz.

Sunny little Alex braved through continued experimental treatments. Despite their heartbreak, Liz, Jay, and Alex's brothers stayed upbeat and positive for her. "Any strength and heroism we may have shown was coming from Alex, and seeing how she dealt with things," says Liz.

Word of Alex's annual lemonade stand spread. Everyone wanted to support the brave girl who raised money to help others. When Alex was seven, she had her lemonade stand despite a continuous drenching rain.

"We had a tent over her stand, and everyone stood there with

umbrellas," says Liz. "We opened up our house so people could come in out of the rain." The stand brought in \$18,000 that day.

Alex died from her cancer, at home with her family. Her parents credit the experimental treatment with giving her more time to enjoy herself and raise money to help other children with cancer.

"Experimental treatment is a different decision for every parent," says Liz. "In the back of your mind you're always hoping for a cure, but in Alex's case, the chances of a cure were small. The treatments gave Alex a lot more time. Even if you don't feel hope for a cure, there are ways to extend life and quality of life."



Above: Jay and Liz Scott of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

AWARE for All workshop creates spirit

Liz and Jay Scott, who are now respectively Vice President and Executive Director of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, were the keynote speakers at CISCRP's AWARE for All program in Philadelphia on March 28th. They were joined by renowned physician speakers at the one-day free educational workshop, which was open to the public. Honorary Co-chairs were U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell, and Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter.

AWARE for All programs help people learn more about participating in clinical trials, find out what's involved, and share the spirit with people who have participated. The workshops are held annually in Boston, Philadelphia, Indianapolis, and other major cities.

AWARE features information sessions and exhibits, a complimentary breakfast reception, and a free lunch with one or more presentations by prominent politicians. This year all attendees were able to get free health screenings for HIV, Body Mass Index, Breast and Prostate Cancer, Diabetes, and Vision and received a clinical research handbook. Local area residents talked about their participation in clinical research.

To register for future AWARE for All programs, visit www.awareforall.org; e-mail aware@ciscrp.org, or call toll free 1-877-MEDHERO.



Volunteers in clinical research are the heroes in the discovery of new medical treatments

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