

Results of 2004 Charity Unveiling Party

On February 4th 2004, YTAC conducted its second annual donation ceremony. The ceremony was designed to "unveil" the year's charitable organization recipients. This event is a way for YTAC to show our appreciation to all of our annual, lifetime and founding members, and to thank them for their participation and generosity.

This year, three charitable organizations were chosen by members of the Charity Selection Committee. The Charity Selection Committee members decided upon charities they wanted to research, they made contacts at the various organizations, and collected information about the organizations. Once the data had been collected, the committee was presented the information about the respective charities and asked to vote on the recipient of this year's donation. From that vote came our winners. This year's recipients of the YTAC 2003 donations are: The Periwinkle Foundation, Young Survival Coalition and Amschwand Sarcoma Cancer Foundation.

The Periwinkle Foundation has been providing programs for young patients and their families to "have fun" for 20 years. Camp Periwinkle and Camp YOLO ("You Only Live Once") are their two primary programs, however, they have recently expanded their programming to include "Making a Mark," an art and creative writing program for patients and their siblings and Celebration of Life, an annual event for families to discuss their experiences with cancer. YTAC's donation of \$5,000 to Periwinkle will be used to send children to Periwinkle's camps, to fund Periwinkle's day to day operations and to fund Making a Mark and Celebration of Life programming. (see www.perwinklefoundation.org for more information about their programs).

Young Survival Coalition (YSC) is the only international, non-profit network of breast cancer survivors and supporters dedicated to the concerns and issues that are unique to young women and breast cancer. Through action, advocacy and awareness, the YSC seeks to educate the medical, research, breast cancer and legislative communities and to persuade them to address breast cancer in women 40 and under. The YSC also serves as a point of contact for young women living with breast cancer. YTAC's \$2,500 donation will specifically cover the following expenses: 1) local pages on the YSC web-site, 2) educational brochures and educational materials such as "breast lump" charts and models, 3) mailing materials, 4) phone line, 5) banners for events and 6) registration costs for a presence at local events such as the Race for the Cure and the Sister's Network conference. See www.youngsurvival.org for more information on this organization..

The loss of his mother, Kathryn, to sarcoma, in addition to his own eighteen-month battle with the disease, led Tom Amschwand to establish the Amschwand Sarcoma Cancer Foundation. Tom founded ASCF with the purpose of educating the public about sarcoma, supporting those with the disease, and encouraging sarcoma-specific research. It was his dream that ASCF might be able to provide real hope and support to other sarcoma patients and their families.

Missy Phipps Amschwand, Tom's wife, serves as a member of the board of ASCF and helps carry out Tom's dream. While rare among adults (less than 2% of all adult cancers), sarcoma is one of the top five most commonly diagnosed cancers among children. A sarcoma is a highly malignant and rare type of cancer that arises in the connective tissues (not limited to fat, blood vessels, nerves, bones, muscles, deep skin tissues, or cartilage). YTAC's \$2,500 donation to ASCF will help ASCF with their day-to-day operations and will help fund an event ASCF and YTAC are hosting in the Fall of 2004 called "Catwalk for a Cure". This event will be a fashion show and luncheon to benefit ASCF. Details about the event will follow. For more information please see www.sarcomacancer.com.

YTAC looks forward to a continued relationship with Periwinkle, YSC and ASCF.

Lastly, YTAC (and I) would like to recognize all the members of the Charity Selection Committee. It is because of you that YTAC's dreams and goal are becoming a reality and I look forward to working with you all in the future.

Ashley Morgan
Charity Selection Chair