

Broward January 23, 2013

## Coverbox 2: Melissa Gomez, 5, and Sandra Muvdi



## JESSICA JUNE CHILDREN'S CANCER FOUNDATION

Don your dazzling denim to fight against childhood cancer.....36



SOCIETY BROWARD

## Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation puts ON their fancy pants

The Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation (JJCCF) will host its 5th annual "Fancy Jeans Party" sponsored by The Wasie Foundation and presented by Premier Beverage on Feb. 23 at Passion Nightclub at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Dance the night away from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. while enjoying tasty delights and an open bar, courtesy of Premier Beverage. Proceeds from the event will benefit children fighting cancer in the tri-county area of South Florida.

Chaired by Jen Klaassens, VP of Programs for The Wasie Foundation, and produced by

Ana Vento, of Events by Vento Designs, the "Fancy Jeans Party" will feature live interactive entertainment, surprise appearances, a "Best Dressed Fancy Jeans" contest, a raffle including a 2013 FIAT car plus two more unique prizes and a silent auction.

Melissa Gomez, a 4-year-old fighting Leukemia, has been chosen to be the 2013 Fancy Jeans Child Honoree. Due to Melissa's fragile medical circumstances and frequent hospitalizations, her mother had to stop working in order to become her fulltime caregiver. Her father works as a self-employed taxi driver, which has earned little income in last

year's unstable market.

JJCCF's Financial Assistance and Advocacy Programs have been providing funding to cover payments for electricity, water, phone, car and groceries so the family can focus on Melissa's survival. Individual tickets to attend the 5th annual "Fancy Jeans Party" are \$50 in advance (\$65 at the door), and VIP tickets are \$100 in advance (\$125 at the door).

The Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation also invites local businesses and individuals to support the "Fancy Jeans Party" through sponsorships, in-kind donations or program journal advertising.

Sponsorship opportunities start at \$1,000 and go up to \$15,000. Proceeds from "Fancy Jeans" will fund JJCCF's Emergency Financial Assistance Program benefiting families in crisis fighting childhood cancer. The signature event has raised more than \$385,000 to help families in crisis meet their everyday basic human necessities such as food, shelter and medical treatments.

Last year's "Fancy Jeans Party" was sold out with more than 650 tickets sold, and more than 700 guests are expected at the upcoming event.

Event sponsors include The Wasie Foundation, Premier Beverage, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Passion

Nightclub, Chris Evert Children's Hospital, Florida Panthers Foundation, AutoNation & Maroonie, SIDES, Miami Children's Hospital, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Bacardi, Holland America Line, American Airlines, MSC Cruises, Dacha Storani, Broward Bank of Commerce, Alan G. Kipnis from Arnstein & Lehr LLP, Events by Vento Designs, KP Design & Photography, Grille 401, Rice & Dough, Hard Rock Café and Chef George.

Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation was created in 2004 shortly after Sandra Muvdi lost her only child to

cancer. The Foundation has assisted more than 1,800 children and family members impacted by pediatric cancer through the Emergency Financial Assistance program. It also advocates for and raises awareness of childhood cancer.

The Foundation serves patients from all seven pediatric oncology hospitals in South Florida and is headquartered at Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale.

For more information, sponsorships and to purchase tickets, visit [www.JJCCF.org](http://www.JJCCF.org) or call 954-770-1745 or 954-712-6322. ■



Andrea Nolan, left, Marissa Homrighouse, Gineen Bresso and Rebecca Nicholson



Katie Leibick, left, and Mark Schuetz



Sandra Muvdi, left, and Jen Klaassens



Melissa Gomez, with Cindy Eisen, left, and James DeAnda



Denise Gomez, left, Melissa Gomez, Sandra Muvdi and Raul Gomez



Photos by Kara Starzyk



Diagnosed with Leukemia last year, Melissa Gomez, 5, is the 2013 "Fancy Jeans Party" child honoree for the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation's 5th annual "Fancy Jeans" Party sponsored by The Wasie Foundation, which takes place Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. at Passion Nightclub at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood.



Ana Vento, left, Kevin Blair and Jen Klaassens