

SOCIETY

Scene

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SCENARIO I

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'Amanda, We Stand by You'

Fifteen-year-old Amanda Blake is suffering from osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. Amanda and her two brothers are being raised by their single father, David, and have little contact with their mother. To care for his daughter, David had to leave his job and as a result, has reached out to the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation (JJCCF) for help.

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'AMANDA, WE STAND BY YOU'

Photos by Kara Starzyk

Scenario I

Standing by Amanda — A father reaches out to the community to help his daughter

Although many are coping with tough times, people still come together when one of their own is in need, as evident in the case of Amanda Blake. The 15-year-old South Florida girl is suffering from osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. Amanda and her two brothers are being raised by their single father, David, and have little contact with their mother. To care for his daughter, David had to leave his job, and since becoming unemployed, he has not been able to keep up with the household bills. The family, who resides in Margate, has relied on handouts and is living month-to-month with the threat of eviction

looming.

When David reached out to the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation (JJCCF) a non-profit organization that provides temporary financial assistance for needy children fighting cancer, its founder, Sandra Muvdi, sprang into action.

"This was an urgent situation that needed immediate attention," she said. I contacted one of our donors, The Wasie Foundation, and overnight we arranged a fundraiser to give this family as much 'breathing room' as possible while they deal with Amanda's illness."

The Wasie Foundation is fully sponsoring "Amanda, We Stand

By You!" with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting the Blakes. Attendees will meet this courageous girl and her family at the Thursday, August 6 cocktail reception, which is open to the public and will be held at Las Olas Grand Condominium Club Room in Fort Lauderdale from 6 to 8 p.m. A tax-deductible donation of \$75 is suggested. To RSVP, or make a donation if unable to attend, log on to www.jjccf.org.

"Our goal is to raise as much money as possible by bringing together government, business and the public to help this family," said Gregg Sjoquist, CEO of The Wasie Foundation, an

organization that provides grants to South Florida non-profits focused on healthcare and education. "We want to show that even during a challenging economy, a community can rally to support one of its children."

Amanda, a bright, outgoing girl who participates in drama and music at her school has a tough road ahead. She receives treatment at Miami Children's Hospital, but because she did not respond to chemotherapy treatments, her tumor grew and she recently had extensive knee surgery. Amanda is currently undergoing more intense chemotherapy and hopefully will respond to this new course of care. ■



Fifteen-year-old Amanda Blake poses with her father Dave and brothers, front to back, Dylan, 11, and David, 14.

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Amanda Blake poses with, left to right, Sandra Mudvi, Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation CEO and president, Gregg Sjoquist, Wasie Foundation president, Jen Klaassens, director of programs, and Fred H. Johnson III, board member



Amanda Blake poses with her father Dave and Gregg Sjoquist, Wasie Foundation president, and Jen Klaassens, director of programs



Dave Blake and his daughter Amanda



Gregg Sjoquist, left, Jen Klaassens, Sandra Mudvi and Fred H. Johnson III



Fifteen-year-old Amanda Blake poses with her father Dave and brothers, Dylan, 11, and David, 14