

## Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation Brings Awareness To Childhood Cancer

By Nicol Jenkins, Editor

After Sandra Muvdi lost her only child to cancer, she made it her mission in life to help children inflicted with this disease.

Since she founded the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation in 2004, she has successfully continued her goal.

"I heard my calling after Jessica's departure in 2003 and started the Foundation in her memory in 2004," said Sandra Muvdi, President and Founder of the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation. "The mission of the Foundation is to provide emergency financial assistance for children fighting cancer to ensure access to basic human necessities. Additionally, the Foundation advocates for and raises awareness of childhood cancer."

The Foundation has assisted over 1,800 children and family members impacted by pediatric cancer through the Emergency Financial Assistance program. The Foundation serves patients from all seven pediatric oncology hospitals in South Florida and is headquartered at Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale.

The Foundation recently held their biggest fundraiser of the season. Over 700 South Florida social notables, philanthropists and professionals showed off their dazzling denim while dancing the night away at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fancy Jeans Party, which was sponsored by The Wasie Foundation and presented by Premier Beverage at Passion Nightclub at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The event raised \$167,000 for the Foundation.

"A huge team effort orchestrated the outstanding Fancy Jeans Party results! South Florida families in crisis enduring pediatric cancer are the ultimate winners who will benefit from 100% of the proceeds. Relieving these families during their darkest moments provides all of us with priceless satisfaction and inner enrichment," said Muvdi.

The spectacular evening also featured a surprise performance by rap sensations, the Sugar Hill Gang. Party goers also shared in the joy as Grammy-winning Latin Pop Star Shakira appeared on the giant screens with a special dedication video to Melissa Gomez, the 2013 Fancy Jeans Child Honoree. Melissa is a 4-year-old who is currently fighting leukemia. Her dream was to meet Shakira. Since Shakira could not appear live, the pop icon paid tribute to Melissa via a video from Barcelona. Melissa was also surprised with the granting of a second wish – a Disney Family Vacation Package.

Although 2013 Fancy Jeans Child Honoree Melissa has struggled with leukemia since February 2012, she maintains a fun and positive attitude. Due to Melissa's fragile medical circumstances and frequent hospitalizations, her mother had no choice but to give up working in order to become her full-time caregiver. JJCCF has provided emergency financial assistance to cover the family's basic needs so they can focus on Melissa's survival.

Since inception, the Fancy Jeans Parties have raised over \$552,000 to help families meet their everyday basic human necessities, like food, shelter and medical treatments.

For more information on the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation, visit [www.JJCCF.org](http://www.JJCCF.org).



Sandra Muvdi, President/Founder of the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation, Anna Vento, Melissa Gomez, 2013 Fancy Jeans Child Honoree and Jen Klansett, VP of The Wasie Foundation-Photo Credit Ron Glazer



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