

Event to benefit teen burn victim

Hudson fights for life in Parkland burn unit | Posted: Saturday, January 17, 2015 3:12 pm

Once again members of the Aledo community are stepping up to help one of their own, Aledo ISD student Cameron Hudson, a teen who's been fighting for his life since Nov. 25, when he burned more than 90 percent of his body in a flash fire in the 100 block of Hudson Lane in Annetta South.

On the heels of a hugely successful Jan. 12 fundraiser at Fish Creek restaurant in Willow Park, Impact Athletic Training Center and CrossFit City View will host a benefit Saturday, Jan. 24, donating proceeds from the grand opening of their new location at 100 Nu Energy Drive, which begins at 1:30 p.m.

Aledo Mayor Kit Marshall will kick off the event, followed by a fire safety presentation from the Aledo Volunteer Fire Department.

The 18-year-old has defied the 108 percent mortality rate assigned to him by doctors when he was Care Flighted to Parkland Hospital's burn unit after an accident triggered by the addition of fuel to a campfire.

Another Aledo ISD student was also burned in the accident, but she has recently returned to school.

Doctors didn't think Hudson would make it through the first 24 hours, Hudson's mother Melissa Cannon said, and today describe him as the sickest patient in the hospital.

"It's been a nightmare that no parent should have to go through," Cannon, who rents an apartment a block from the hospital, said. "It's been a roller coaster. I take a picture of him every day, not just to show him what he's been through, but hoping to see progress."

In addition to his third-degree burns, Hudson is being treated for fungi in his blood and on his skin.

A biopsy of Hudson's skin was sent to a lab in Boston, Cannon said, where it will be cloned. In the meantime, skin from donors has been used.

"Only the crown of his head and his feet from the ankles down didn't burn," she said. "There were no donor sites to pull from."

The lows in this roller coaster have been really low, and Cannon can't even hug or kiss her son, lest she cause an infection.



Cameron Hudson

Encouraged by a kiss Hudson blew her Dec. 10, Cannon awoke at 4:30 a.m. the following day to learn that her son's heart had stopped.

"He flat-lined four times in one morning," she said. "A week later he did it again. After that they completely sedated him."

Friday, Hudson was to undergo his seventh surgery, this one to amputate his thumbs as well as to clean up his left leg after a partial amputation.

"And they say this is the easiest time for him," Cannon said. "He has overcome so many obstacles, but he has many mountains to climb, and it will be so extremely painful.

"I just got a bracelet with a charm that says, 'It's not a sprint, it's a marathon,' she said. "He's got a long way to go."

Doctors expect Hudson to be in the ICU for a year or more, Cannon said, depending on the number of infections and complications.

"They say Cameron will not be considered stable until the day we walk out of the hospital," she said.

Cannon is grateful for the support, prayers and encouragement that have helped her and her family manage day by day.

"Friends, family, the community, even acquaintances — they've all been incredible during this difficult time," she said.

Local businessmen Stanton Pearce and Joe Lane, owner of Fish Creek, packed the restaurant with hundreds of supporters Jan. 12, raising \$16,000 for Hudson.

An auction included big ticket items like Dallas Mavericks' and Dallas Stars' tickets, a guitar from Texas country singer Casey Donahew — who attended the event — and a watch from Grissom's Fine Jewelry, among others.

Online bidders were beamed in too, driving up prices.

"It was an honor to participate," said Lane, who contributed to the auction and purchased items in addition to hosting the event.

"Stanton was the reason it was as successful as it was, he went above and beyond. This is one of the things that makes me love living in the Aledo area. People here truly support each other."

Pearce credited Aledo Learning Center Principal Ron Miller for his fundraising efforts, such as getting a student to design a logo for Team Cameron, a logo that now appears on T-shirts, wristbands and bumper stickers.

"He's done an amazing job," Pearce said.

How to help

Those interested in helping with Hudson's medical bills can go to Cameron Hudson Medical Fund by Pt Fitnessdfw-GoFundMe, which Thursday showed that \$33,375 has been raised.

Checks payable to Melissa Cannon or cash donations can also be sent directly to:

First Financial Bank, 505 Farm Rd. 1187, Aledo, TX 76008.

The Prayers for Cameron Hudson website, which offers frequent updates, can be accessed at <http://www.prayersforcameronhudson.com/>.

During the Jan. 24 fundraiser, CrossFit City View will host a benefit WOD and FunWOD for kids with prizes for the top male and female finisher, and Impact's award-winning gymnastics team will perform and hold a flip-a-thon, in addition to games, cotton candy, a bounce house and more.

"We are so excited to show the community our new facility while also making an 'impact' on a local resident in need," said Sydnie Evans, owner and team director of Impact.

"CrossFit City View is deeply committed to the community and a big supporter of our local fire departments," said Amy Mays, owner of CrossFit City View. "We're very excited about showing the community what we are all about while also supporting a local family in need."

To sign-up for the benefit WOD or FunWOD, go to www.eventbrite.com and search for CrossFit City View Grand Opening Benefitting Cameron Hudson or find the link on the CrossFit City View Facebook page.