

Hey, Friend Can You Spare a Dime, or \$20?

SUBMITTED BY: **DONNA C. KREITZBERG**

I am asking for donations to help a local Sherwood family with medical bills, with day-to-day living expenses and to lift the crushing worry about money while they deal with their mother fighting to survive cancer. I am hoping to raise lots of money for the family, and need your help.

Jennifer Vranizan, is a petite, smiling, wife and mother of 3. After getting her kids to school she often goes for a run. Well, she used to go for a run. Now she is running for her life as she tries to stay ahead of a horrible cancer. Jennifer has Diffuse Large B-Cell Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. I don't know what most of those words mean, but I do know that it is killing Jennifer.

Last August Jennifer's life went from shuttling kids to sports camps and play dates to sitting in sterile-smelling doctors offices, trying to process all the medical terms flying around, enduring painful and frightening medical tests, and hearing the devastating news that she has the big "C."

Fast forward to now, Jennifer has gone through several rounds of chemo, lost her hair, got new hair, and had a few good months. But then the Dr found that the cancer had spread to her spinal column. In May she was rushed to

the hospital and had a shunt put in her brain to administer more chemo.

The cancer is unusually aggressive and now quickly comes back after the chemo. The medical folks have told her they have done all they can, that she should just go home and be with her family.

Jennifer wants to be with her family, but she wants to do so as a healthy, active mother, not lying quiet in bed, hearing the muffled sobs of her children trying to understand what is wrong with Mommy.

Right now Jennifer is preparing to go to the Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle and hopes to be accepted for a last ditch, heavy-duty, chemo treatment. Jennifer is too sick

to work, and now her husband Tim has had to leave work to care for Jennifer and the children. They may no longer have any income, but they still have to pay the doctor, hospital, lab and RX bills, and pay for lights, heating and groceries. They have burned through their savings. They need your help.

You don't know her, but just imagine a young, loving mother battling to stay alive so she can be there to raise and nurture her children. Jennifer is fighting to survive so she can help 8 year old Lily learn how to do two digit subtraction; cheer on 10 year old Henry at

FUNDRAISERS:

August 23 - Family Bingo Night at Sherwood Elks Club

September 15 - Family Fun Run at Stella Olsen Park, including 1 mile run/walk, live music, food, beer and activities for the kids; 100% of proceeds go the Vranizan family.



his Saturday morning baseball games; and listen intently to 14 year Abby babble on about the cute new boy at school and how she just 'has' to have a cell phone, and gently comfort her through her first heartbreak.

My mother died of cancer when I was all grown up. But sitting in that darkened hospital room with my mother staring up at me after they turned off the ventilation machine and watching as she slipped away still ripped my heart out. I can't imagine what these young, innocent kids are going through as they watch their mother struggle

and waste away while still trying to be strong and keep a smile on her face so her kids won't see she is terrified of leaving them.

Please donate for Jennifer. An account is set up at Chase Bank, under Tim and Jennifer Vranizan, account #3034276294 or, Checks can be sent to: Jennifer Vranizan, PO Box 3242, Tualatin, OR 97062. Please, please help and pray. Thank you.

Donna Kreitzberg is business and estate planning attorney in Tualatin. She can be reached at 503-691-5959.