

Woman starts 'Angel' foundation in memory of twin brother

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

July 11, 2011 was the worst day of Jessica Moore-Lane's life.

It was the first day in her 28 years that the Patrick County, Va. native would have to face the world without her beloved twin brother, Justin Moore, who passed away from cancer.

"I always pictured myself growing up with him and growing old - that's what I always envisioned," confessed the Virginia State University alumna, who is the executive assistant to the VP/chief construction officer at the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem (HAWS). "I never imagined my brother wouldn't be here."

Moore-Lane and her twin were close. The two talked on the phone on a daily basis and met regularly for lunch. Losing her only sibling was almost unbearable for Moore-Lane.

"A part of me went with him," she remarked. "You feel alone and you feel like you lost your best friend, basically. Life is very different without him."

As luck or fate would have it, the one year anniversary of her brother's death was the beginning of a new chapter for Moore-Lane. On July 11, 2012, she received the articles of incorporation from the Secretary of State, making The Caring Angels Cancer Foundation - which she founded in her brother's memory - a reality.

"I know it's something he would want me to do," related Moore-Lane, who graduated from High Point University in 2010 with a master's degree in nonprofit management. "It's something I always wanted to do, I just didn't have a reason, until now."

Moore-Lane envisions the organization, which is working to obtain its 501c3 nonprofit status, as a safety net for cancer patients that could help offset the non-medical expenses they often grapple with, including transportation, lodging, food, clothing and miscellaneous household expenses. Having watched her brother, who was too sick to work, struggle to make ends meet, Moore-Lane knows firsthand what a burden even small details can be for someone who is already fighting for his or her life.

"The simplest task, like cleaning the house, can be a struggle," she related. "It affects people



Jessica Moore-Lane has lofty goals for the new foundation.

Photo by Layla Garms

in many ways, not only the people with the cancer, but the family as well. Even the simplest things can turn out to be the most difficult."

Moore-Lane's brother lived in Pilot Mountain at the time of his death, and the distance, coupled with the demands of a full time job and caring for her husband and infant daughter, meant that Moore-Lane couldn't be there for her brother - physically or financially - as much as she would have liked.

"I felt bad because I couldn't be there like I wanted, and that was one of the regrets that I had. That was one of the reasons that I founded The Caring Angels Cancer Foundation, because that was something I didn't get to help him with," she explained. "...I know when you have a disease like that, you think that you're all alone and you don't have no one to turn to. We just want people to know that we're here to help and we do care."

The organization's name pays homage to the role Justin now plays in her life.

"He's my angel," Moore-Lane declared. "Even though he's not here, I know he's with me and that's why I (named it) The Caring Angels Cancer Foundation."

Alisa Quick, Moore-Lane's HAWS colleague and friend, has lent her support to the organization almost since its inception, including helping to organize its first fundraiser, a 5k Walk to Remember that was held at High Point University in October.

"I am always eager to give back to the com-

munity, but it hit home for me because I have family members who have struggled with cancer of various types," said Quick, who serves as director of Human Resources and Public Relations. "I liked what the organization was about, what it stood for. I just thought it could have a real positive impact in the community."

Moore-Lane hopes to partner with Social Services and other cancer agencies to identify patients that are in need of CACF's assistance. Her goal is to begin distributing aid, including gas cards, food, utilities assistance - and in the future, co-pay reimbursement - in January. She says founding the organization has helped to give her brother's death meaning.

"I want it to be as big as the Susan G. Komen foundation," she declared. "I want it to grow. I want people to know the name and recognize it and be proud of it, to know that the organization is one that is all about the people of the community, and that it really cares about them."

To make a donation or for more information about the The Caring Angels Cancer Foundation, visit <http://caringangelscf.org>.



Gabriela T. Pando

Pando completes Air Force training

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Air Force Reserve Airman Gabriela T. Pando graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

She completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen - the term the Air Force uses for all those in its ranks - who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Pando is the daughter of Julio Pando of Pfafftown. She is a 2011 graduate of Ronald Reagan High School in Pfafftown.

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UNC

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experienced harassment and isolation on campus.

In a list of 15 of Carolina's peer campuses included in the presentation, seven have a gender non-specific housing option. These institutions are both private (Duke, Johns Hopkins and Northwestern universities) and public (University of Maryland at College Park,

University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and University of California, Berkeley).

Thorp and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Winston Crisp, a Johnson C. Smith University and UNC Law grad, will determine details of the implementation plan.

"This action was taken out of a desire to increase

the health, safety and well-being of all students. We owe all students a safe place to study and live," said Alston Gardner, chair of the University Affairs Committee. "We trust the administration to implement this program in a manner that respects students' responsible choices about their living conditions."



Thorp

Blues

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including sex;

- Irritability or restlessness;
- Difficulty thinking, concentrating, remembering or making decisions;
- Fatigue or loss of energy;
- Thoughts of death or suicide;
- Feelings of inappropriate guilt, hopelessness

or worthlessness;

• Depression can affect anyone, regardless of race or ethnicity.

If you or a loved one are experiencing a cluster of these symptoms over a period of several weeks, and if they interfere with your normal routine, it is possible you or your loved one may be depressed. Talking with a licensed mental health professional or taking a depression-screening test

can help you understand how well you are coping. Seek help!

Do you need further information or have questions or comments about this article? Please contact us at the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, either via phone (toll-free) at 1-877-530-1824 or our website: <http://www.wakehealth.edu/MACHE>.

DCCC

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former Ken McIver Davis donated his time by playing and singing for guests.

Area hotels, medical centers, dental offices and other businesses donated a variety of items for the gift bags, including the bags themselves, combs, toothbrushes and toothpaste, dental floss, shampoo and conditioner, soap, deodorant, lotion, lip balm, as well as hats, gloves and scarves.

Aside from providing the people at the shelter with a special meal and comfort items for the holiday season, Whitt says the group wanted to introduce the guests to the campus environment.

"We hope that removing some of the intimidation that may accompany the thought of attending college and providing them with information on how to apply for classes and financial aid may



Ken McIver Davis performs.

DCCC Photo

have sparked someone's interest in furthering their education and bettering their lives," she said.

Whitt says that through the dinner, she and the nursing students hoped to spread the support that was once offered to them.

"There are several of us in the program that are now or once were not far from being in a similar

situation as the individuals and families that are utilizing the shelter, including myself," says Whitt. "Somewhere along the road, we were lucky enough to have someone that supported or believed in us if only for just a moment. We would like to spread that support. ... We truly hope this dinner becomes an annual event."

Tell us what you think.



The Board of Education wants to know the qualities you would like to see in a new superintendent. You're invited to four public forums where you can share your opinions directly with the board. Each forum begins at 6 p.m.

The next superintendent will run the daily operations of our school system as it prepares students to be successful in class and in life. Tell us what you want to see in that person.



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