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A different approach to fighting cancer

April 23, 2006

PATRICK BRENDEL - Victoria Advocate

With the approach of the American Cancer Society's signature event, Relay for Life, organizations and individuals, both large and very small, are working in the Victoria community to help find cures for cancer.



Patrick Brendel/Victoria Advocate

Bethany Burlison, 7, and her mom, Shannon Nowell, sell candy bars door-to-door to raise money for pediatric cancer research. Bethany, a first-grader at Victoria's DeLeon Elementary, was diagnosed with leukemia almost three years ago and finished her chemotherapy just three months ago.

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DeTar HealthCare System's Relay for Life teams raised \$3,110 in a silent auction Friday morning, public relations coordinator Judith Barefield said. The teams auctioned off themed baskets, such as "Tailgate Party," a Styrofoam ice chest filled with barbecue items, utensils and even a picnic basket and hibachi; "Gardener's Paradise," a planter filled with gardening tools and live plants; and "Child's Birthday," with everything a person needs for a young boy's birthday party, including the present.

Boy Scout Troop 363, meanwhile, has been surreptitiously placing three flocks of pink plastic yard flamingos in different yards around town to benefit Relay for Life. Assistant Scoutmaster Sharon Rojas said that when homeowners or business people discover they have been "flocked," the Scouts are more than glad to de-flock the yard. They ask for a donation of \$25, Rojas said, and all the money raised by the Scouts goes to the ACS. Plus, the person who got flocked gets to decide who gets flocked next.



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Lifestyle	
Local/State	"It's been really well-received," Rojas said. Troop 363 has raised about \$2,000 since the flocking began early this month.
Lotto Picks	
Matagorda Advocate	Scout Zachary Fiew is team captain of the flamingo flocking, which will continue beyond Friday's Relay for Life, Rojas said, so long as the troop keeps getting people to pay to flock one another.
Nation/World	
Obituaries & Public Records	
Opinion	Troop 363, sponsored by First United Methodist Church, received its flamingo flocking signs free from Sign Crafters, she said.
Outdoors	
Photo Gallery	To find out how you can flock the ones you love, call Rojas at 361-920-3101.
Religion	
Sports	
Weather	Like Troop 363, first-grader Bethany Burleson and her mom Shannon Nowell have also spent the past month going door to door, but instead of plastic flamingos, they arrive wielding candy bars.
Apr 23, 2006	
•Vocational students ready to walk into a better life	Bethany, who is 7, was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia in the summer of 2003. Bethany finished chemotherapy three months ago and had her port removed just about one week ago, her mom said.
•A different approach to fighting cancer	Bethany said she only has "one thing to do" now when she goes to the doctor - "poke my finger," she said - referring to having her blood drawn for cell-count testing.
•ROBERT O. PINA - VICTORIA	Nowell said she stumbled upon the organization Coaches Curing Kids' Cancer, which promotes the concept that an athletic team donate money to support pediatric cancer research rather than giving the coach a gift at the end of a sports season. The organization also has branched off into Teachers Curing Kids' Cancer, which operates on basically the same principle.
•Discrimination will be subject of EEOC meeting in Victoria	
•Victims of crime will be honored	"It was such an easy concept," Nowell said.
•Plants sell like hot cakes	And although Bethany is not on a sports team, she and her mom have been able to raise money independently by selling candy and through individual donations.
•Head Start registration is due by end of month	Bethany and her mom have raised several hundred in this manner, although Bethany can only last about "one good long block at a time" before tiring, her mom said.
•LILLIAN M. STANDIFER - VICTORIA	
Apr 22, 2006	Nowell said she stops to give out information about Coaches Curing Kids' Cancer whenever she drives by a baseball team's practice.
•Last night for Jazz It Up	
•BABY BOY RODRIGUEZ - VICTORIA	"They look at me like I'm crazy," Nowell laughed. "Hey, I am crazy."
•BRANDON M. BAZAN - VICTORIA	She said her daughter was shy at the beginning of their door-to-door sales drive, but Bethany said she has conquered her fears.

•ROSE NELON - VICTORIA

"I got used to it," Bethany said. "They're not going to do anything, just buy candy when you come up to the door. Everyone buys candy for kids' cancer."

•BEA SELBY - VICTORIA

Bethany said the worst part of having leukemia was getting a spinal tap, when a hollow needle is inserted into the spinal cord in order to withdraw spinal fluid for diagnostic purposes or to administer medication.

•ROBERT O. PINA - VICTORIA

Apr 21, 2006

Nowell said that it seems like every person to whom they speak has had their own lives touched by cancer.

•ROBERT O. PINA - VICTORIA

For more information, visit <http://www.curingkidscancer.org/> or call Nowell at 361-574-3712.

•DOMINGA RATCLIFF - VICTORIA

• Patrick Brendel is a reporter for the Advocate. Contact him at 361-580-6535 or pbrendel@vicad.com, or comment on this story at <http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/>.

•RAY W. GOLDSMITH - VICTORIA

•BABY BOY RODRIGUEZ - VICTORIA

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•BEA SELBY - VICTORIA

Apr 20, 2006

•EVELYN BROWN - VICTORIA

•BABY RODRIGUEZ - VICTORIA

•VFW will give annual awards

•JANET B. HELLAND - VICTORIA

•Dokken, L.A. Guns will play Victoria Saturday

•ROSE F. NELON - VICTORIA

•Submissions for Reedy Awards due by May 8

•DOMINGA RATCLIFF - VICTORIA

•BEA SELBY - VICTORIA