

young
achievers



Help Make a Difference

By residents **Tammy Faircloth** and **Mary Adzich**



LEUKEMIA &
LYMPHOMA
SOCIETY®

STUDENTS
OF THE YEAR

After hearing the life-changing words “You have cancer,” imagine how uplifting it would be to hear the words “... but we have some great treatment options for you.”

But we often don’t think much about the enormous effort that has gone into having those treatments available when our family or friends needs them, or even we need them ourselves.

The cancer treatments that patients expect and rely on are a culmination of hard work, diligent research and extensive testing all needed before the thorough review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval. Ensuring new treatments are available to better battle the toughest cancers, and funding the research that develops those new treatments, is an ongoing challenge.

Meet Liliana and Jade, freshmen at Foothill High School who are on a mission to inspire a thousand people to donate before the end of March in their community effort to help fund the development of more effective cancer treatment options in the future.

It started when they were back in Arroyo Elementary School where they learned two young schoolmates



Max and Ethan were fighting cancer. Seeing the effects of the cancer treatments and the powerful force of a community united behind a cause, Jade and Liliana were inspired to help. They became supporters of the MaxLove Project and Ethan & Choco’s Book Club, the organizations that grew from the efforts of Max and Ethan and their families helping pediatric cancer patients thrive during treatment and beyond.

Then cancer hit home two years ago for Liliana when her beloved aunt Teta Christy developed fast-spreading cancer that has exhausted all standard treatments and is benefiting only from trial treatments that are still undergoing research, motivating Liliana to want to help. Jade’s motivation is her family’s history of effecting change through action, like when her grandfather lost his mother in adolescence, it inspired him to become a doctor to help others. The girls were searching for something tangible they could do to help improve the lives of cancer patients.

When they heard about The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s (LLS) “Students of the Year” campaign available for high school students, they immediately wanted to participate. LLS funds the research behind many of the latest treatments available to blood cancer patients; in fact, since 2017, LLS has helped advance 32 of the 39 new blood cancer treatments approved by the FDA, and those treatments also help fight other diseases like breast and liver cancer, MS, diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis.

The “Students of the Year” campaign is a seven-week challenge where a dozen different teams led by high schoolers across Orange County raise awareness and funds on behalf of LLS. The high schoolers must apply and be interviewed before being chosen. The campaign develops leadership and team building skills, all while fostering altruism in these young adults and helping this worthy cause.

Jade and Liliana are honored to be chosen to lead a local team in this

seven-week challenge. They hope to raise \$20,000 in donations, but more importantly, they set their team goal to try to inspire over a thousand people to donate so they have named their team “Inspire a Thousand.”

“We hope to spread awareness of this amazing organization throughout our community to help speed new cancer treatments and to let everyone know every little bit makes a difference. Even a small donation has a big impact when it is made by a thousand different people,” Liliana says with a big smile, “... and coming together as a community is how we can make a difference!” adds Jade.

So, if you have ever felt like you want to help those with cancer but you aren’t sure how here is a great opportunity to both show support for these inspiring high schoolers and to join in the effort to improve the future of cancer treatments.

Beginning February 10 til the end of March, you can be a part of this community effort by giving a donation of any amount through cash or check made out to “LLS” and dated after Feb. 10 mailed to:

Inspire a Thousand
Faircloth Family
9952 Deerhaven Drive
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Or you can donate by credit card, and see their “inspiration gauge” showing how far along they are on their inspiring challenge to reach a thousand donations, by going to:
www.inspireathousand.com

