

Students fighting for a **cause**

Most students want to be remembered for making a difference, but this doesn't have to take a lifetime, and as these profiles suggest, it also doesn't have to wait until graduation.

Changing others' lives and accomplishing something great can happen now. Sure, getting an education and doing community service, all while having a social life, are both respectable and admirable, but how many lives have you changed for the better?

When several USD students were asked this question, their responses were immeasurable. All of them have started non-profit organizations to better the lives of others.

Scott Chesrown

BY MEGHAN ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

Scott Chesrown started Bleed Purple Foundation with the help of his fraternity brothers of Delta Tau Delta. The purpose of this non-profit is to aid and support college students who have some form of cancer. The inspiration for this great endeavor came from one of his fraternity brothers here at USD.

"The amount of support we received from the Greek community as well as the rest of USD was astounding,"

Scott Chesrown.

Jeff Piatt was Chesrown's roommate during his sophomore year and the following summer. While he was staying with Chesrown, he was feeling ill. He went to see a doctor many times over the summer, but they could not pinpoint the problem.

Doctors gave him a variety of free samples of various medicines with each visit; this became a running joke between Chesrown and Piatt. Things like "What'd they give you this time? Heartburn medicine? Sweet!" were

often said, Chesrown says. This humor did not last for long though; in August, lumps were found in Piatt's neck and arm. He had Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Two months later, the Delts held a head-shaving auction in order to help Piatt with his mounting medical bills; men auctioned off their heads to be shaved by women.

But it was more than the Delts who came out and participated in this event to show their support. Brothers from all of the fraternities, men from all the sports organizations and the general male population from USD all came to participate in the auction.

"The amount of support that we received from the Greek community as well as the rest of USD was astounding," Chesrown said.

The shave-off ended up raising more than \$4,000 for Piatt, and inspired the creation of Bleed Purple by Chesrown and Piatt.

Now Bleed Purple is a recognized tax-exempt charitable organization. As of now, its main goal is to help college students who are fighting cancer with their medical bills and tuition. All Delta Tau Delta philanthropy proceeds now go to the Bleed Purple foundation.

To help the foundation, you can purchase Bleed Purple wristbands. They are purple wristbands with a rain drop shape on them that cost a dollar each. These can be purchased at www.bleedpurple.org or from a Delt.

What is unique about Bleed Purple is that everything it makes is a direct contribution to the foundation.

"One hundred percent of donations to the foundation are given back to the college students. None of the administrators of the organization take a cut," Chesrown said.

Chesrown is graduating this year, and he does not plan to make Bleed Purple his career. He is most likely going into real estate.

"I will oversee Bleed Purple, but hire someone else to do what I am doing now, the CEO aspects," Chesrown said.

However, Chesrown has high hopes and aspirations for the future. Through the Unite Campaign, he wants Bleed Purple to have raised \$10 million by 2010.

"Another important goal of the organization is to unite Greeks everywhere because the Greek world has become so divided," Chesrown said.

A more personal aspiration is to ultimately build a cancer research facility where patients can live and be treated in a place that doesn't feel like a hospital.

"Those rooms that Jeff was in were just so ugly and depressing. I want the rooms in that future facility to be more like hotel rooms," Chesrown said.

Piatt had a relapse a little over a month ago. He is in San Jose undergoing radiation treatment. Bleed Purple continues to help him both financially and emotionally.



Jenny Luttrell

BY CHRISTINA WOODWARD
STAFF WRITER

One of the first phrases I heard from

Children's Cancer Network Fashion Show



The 3rd annual Children's Cancer Network Fashion Show, Auction and Luncheon raised almost \$30,000.



Models also walked the runway with dogs from "Healing Paws," an animal assisted therapy program at Pheonix Children's Hospital.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF JENNY LUTTRELL

21 year-old Jenny Luttrell was, "I am not going to lie; I grew up a spoiled brat."

At first I was taken aback by her candor, but when I heard what she went on to say, my feelings completely changed. Luttrell's story is one of a kind.

At the age of seven, she found out that her younger brother, Jeff, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

On the Children's Cancer Network website, Luttrell's parents write, "To learn that your child has cancer is both devastating and shocking because it just is not supposed to happen."

From that day on, Jenny Luttrell's vision for a cure would change forever.

Day in and day out Jeff would go from hospital to hospital receiving various kinds of treatments and medications.

"I never saw it as something sad, instead I thought my family was special," Luttrell said.

After a few months, visits to the hospital became second nature for the Luttrell family.

During one of Jeff's last bone marrow transplants, Luttrell heard crying coming from behind the curtain that separated Jeff and another patient.

She later learned that the little girl next to Jeff also suffered from leukemia, but her family was not financially stable enough to support the medical bills. The little girl ended up dying that night from the cancer and her family did not even have enough money for gas to get home to Phoenix.

At that moment Luttrell realized that not everyone in the world had money like her family did. Her "spoiled brat" personality quickly changed. She wanted to do something for everyone who could not afford the medical bills.

Luttrell began interning at the children's hospital in Phoenix, Arizona and decided she wanted to take her community service a step further.

In 2004 Luttrell started her own non-profit organization called "Children's Cancer Network." Her organization helps raise money to help find a cure for leukemia and for families who cannot pay their children's medical bills.

The first fundraiser Luttrell held was a fashion show with clothing donated by Dillard's. 300 people attended, and it raised \$3,000. The most recent fashion show she put on raised \$40,000 for Children's Cancer Network.

Currently, Luttrell is planning another fashion show in 2007 which is expected to raise over \$50,000 and have 800 attendees.

Jenny has been awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to the University of San Diego for her dedication to the community.

She also just received the "Points of Light" award that is presented by the president of the United States of America.

Jeff is now in his fifth year of remission and Luttrell plans on making Children's Cancer Network nationwide in the near future.

Katelin Butcher

BY MEGHAN ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

Katelin Butcher's non-profit organization may not deal with cancer or sickness, but it is no less important.

Butcher started a program called Katelin's Kickstands when she was only in the sixth grade. People would donate old bikes to the program, and then she would repair them and give them to under-privileged children.

What prompted her to do this was nothing more than an old bike of her own.

"I had a bike that I could not ride anymore, but I did not want to throw away," Butcher said.

She and her mother brainstormed and Katelin's Kickstands was born.

At first, Katelin, along with her brother and father fixed up the bikes, but eventually she was able to do

it alone. In the earlier days of the program, all the old or broken bikes were donated from around her neighborhood in Granite Bay in Northern California.

This first batch was 10 to 20 fixed-up bikes that were donated to children

they organize a present drive so that underprivileged families can have food and presents around the holidays. This is where Butcher could really put her efforts into giving the bikes to those in need.

In order to have more old or broken bikes donated, Butcher sent home flyers about her program in the elementary school Wednesday folders. She also put up flyers around the town and bulletins in her church newsletter. Word-of-mouth was also a large factor in enabling her non-profit organization to grow.

At the same time, Butcher was constantly talking to local businesses and getting them to donate money to Katelin's Kickstands.

Every year for six years she gave a large number of fixed bikes to the Rotary Christmas drive. As a result, many children who may otherwise never have had a bike in their lives recieved a nice bike as a Christmas present without straining the family's budget.

Now that Butcher is at USD, she no longer runs Katelin's Kickstands. A family friend does, but her education here is still all about giving back. She is choosing to study education and is hoping one day to become a French teacher.

"Education is the key to making a difference in someone's life. Helping people and changing lives is really my top priority in life," Butcher said.

Butcher encourages students to start non-profit organizations. She stresses that it is not easy and is basically as much work as having a job, but is worth it.

In the end she says the joy and help you bring to the people outweighs the work.

All three of these students are examples of USD's young adults fighting for a cause while changing others' lives as well as their own.

To learn more about these non-profit organizations, visit www.childrenscancernetwork.org or www.bleedpurple.org.

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Katelin Butcher.

in a 4-H program. Butcher got to set all the bikes up in a big room, and then the children came in and saw their presents.

"Everyone was so excited to have a bike," Butcher said. "It was very moving to see their happiness."

Butcher kept this program going through the twelfth grade. She got into contact with her local Rotary, The Granite Bay Rotary, in order to best distribute the bikes. Every Christmas

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