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## Lamorinda Cancer Crushers raise funds to crush leukemia and lymphoma

By Sora O'Doherty



Riley Perlman (left) and Mitchell Franklin (right), co-candidates in Leukemia & Lymphoma Student of the Year competition to raise funds to fight blood cancers. Photo provided

have spent a couple of hours per week on the project. "Jonathan is great," Perlman said, "he really guided us through the process, he made it so much easier."

Perlman says that cancer "devastated my family five years ago when my grandmother, Paula Katz, passed away within two weeks of her diagnosis." She adds, "I never got a chance to say goodbye and that has affected me over the past several years." Franklin chose to be a part of LLS because his grandmother, Joan Rolleen Franklin (whom his older brothers called "Lulu"), passed away from lymphoma before he could meet her. He says, "I wish I had the opportunity to meet her. I don't want others to be unnecessarily cheated from meeting their grandmothers."

Faulks is the campaign manager for the Student of the Year Campaign, Greater Bay Area. Although Faulks is new to the area, he has been a part of nonprofits for years, working for American Red Cross as well as other groups. When Faulks was 9, he overheard a doctor telling his mother that cancer cells were developing. This came about as the result of osteoporosis medication he was given following a horrendous car accident. He developed bone cancer. Following surgery, Faulks is now completely cancer free with no further issues. "It made sense for me to accept this role to help develop students and help them learn the importance of helping," he says. Faulks was also affected by losing individuals near to him from cancer.

The campaign began on Jan. 15 and the deadline to contribute is Mar. 7. Thus far, the Lamorinda team has raised over \$20,000. Last year Nuda from Danville raised over \$67,000 with Team Omar (named for her brother who had just passed away from Leukemia). The Society also has man and woman of the year programs.

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