

## 2008 Tourneau Co-Survivor Team Award Nomination

Catherine McGee, Team: "It's R Time, for a Cure"



My nominee for the 2008 Tourneau Co-Survivor Award exhibits exemplary strength and determination. Her journey began eight years ago when she participated in her first Race for the Cure along side her mother and aunt who had recently endured their first diagnosis and round of treatments. The initial year after brought hope to her family as the disease seemingly responded well.

Then late in 2001, with a recurrence for her mother in full swing, she quickly found herself spending days with her mother through a new round of treatments. She did the "normal" stuff

like bring her mother water or sit at her side, but most notable was the time she spent with pediatric cancer patients in the treatment center. She spent countless hours playing with them. This eased their hurdles and took their minds off what was going on in their very young lives.

My nominee is an inspiring young lady who has spread awareness to adults and children for eight years now. She perseveres through the challenges set before her and her family. She "thinks pink" every moment of her life. She always puts others first, taking time to cheer on 3-Day participants, raise funds for the Race each year or educate others in how they too can make a difference.

Last year, when her aunt lost her battle, my nominee willingly altered her life to help provide for two of her aunt's children. She suggested things she could give up in her own life in order to make their challenges easier and less painful.

In the months leading up to the one-year anniversary of her aunt's passing, reality began to set in. She struggles greatly with the ever looming fear of losing her own mother and the knowledge of what cards may already be dealt into her own hand.

She has lost the luxury of going to bed at night assuming everyone gets up the next day.

But through all this, she has never stopped giving to others. She maintains sparkle in her eyes and a genuine, caring smile across her face—a smile graced by two adorable dimples on each of her cheeks. My nominee, this amazing, inspiring, young lady, is only eight years old. Her co-survivorship has been all she has known her entire life.

Alex Antoszewski is the daughter to Sherrie Antoszewski, a 4-time cancer survivor and twin sister of Dawn Kahn. Dawn was Alex's aunt and godmother, and while she lost her battle, her spirit and strength lives on in Alex.

Alex is a fighter, a survivor and true inspiration to all those who know her and, I imagine, to many strangers along the way.

We love you Alex and are so thankful our paths in life have crossed. You and your parents are amazing, inspiring people whom we are blessed to call our friends.