



PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

Dear Commissioner Long:

I am writing on behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the more than 35,000 Americans who will die of pancreatic cancer in 2009, 2120 of whom live in Texas. Pancreatic cancer will afflict more than 42,000 Americans this year, 76% of whom will die within one year of their diagnosis, and 95% of whom will die within five years. I know that you have personally experienced the tragedy of this cancer. Your past support has not only been touching and appreciated, but instrumental in spreading awareness in Williamson County.

As you know, prior to 2006, cancer had no place in my family's history. Imagine our shock and heartbreak when we lost two family members within five month period. One of those family members was my mother, Mary Matthews. She died only seven weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. It is important to know that she sought the advice of three different doctors, all whom misdiagnosed her. Had she been diagnosed earlier, perhaps she would have had a fighting chance to survive her cancer.

Not only is pancreatic cancer the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, it is the deadliest, with the lowest survival rate of any major cancer. Further, there has been little improvement in the survival rates over the last thirty years. We need your help to shine a spotlight on this disease and finally make progress in developing treatments and early detection tools. By issuing a Williamson County proclamation supporting the observance of November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, you can help us to raise awareness in the community.

I have attached a draft of the proclamation text for your review. I am happy to provide additional official Pancreatic Cancer Action Network material, including pancreatic cancer facts and statistics and National Cancer Institute (NCI) funding information, upon request.

Please contact me at (512)917-2037 or epriddy@pancanvolunteer.org with any questions. I look forward to working with you to issue a proclamation that will recognize November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and bring much needed attention to this deadly disease. Thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,

Erika Priddy
Volunteer
Advocacy Coordinator
Austin Affiliate