

Livestrong Solution Series

A monthly interactive web-based series hosted and moderated by Livestrong. This series will facilitate collaborative discussions among Livestrong Solution Grant applicants all working on similar projects or with an aligned mission to collectively serve the cancer community.

Children and AYA Programs – Challenges & Solutions, August 26, 2020

Panelists

Amy Lejeune, Associate Executive Director, B.I.G. Love Cancer Care

Amy Lejeune is the Associate Executive Director of BIG Love Cancer Care. She holds a BS in Interdisciplinary Studies and MEd in Educational Management. Amy has 18 years of education experience including classroom teacher, instructional technology specialist, and university adjunct instructor as well as almost 3 years of experience in Pastoral Care Ministry.

She was introduced to BIG Love when her 13-year-old daughter, Paige, was diagnosed with leukemia in 2014. In just under 3 years, Paige fought through intense chemotherapy, radiation, relapses, and a bone marrow transplant before stepping into Heaven in October 2016. She did this with strength, determination, and awe-inspiring, unwavering faith that made an impact on everyone who crossed her path. Amy has seen firsthand the heart behind BIG Love and is honored to be part of its primary focus...to ease the childhood cancer journey. The organization's core mission is to meet the most vital and urgent physical, emotional, and financial needs of pediatric oncology and hematology patients and their families. **Today, BIG Love reaches more than 100,000 patients and their families annually through 20 programs at 6 Texas hospitals, 52 weeks a year.**

Marjorie Droppa, Bangor Region YMCA

Marj Droppa is the Director of Grants & Mission Strategy at the Bangor Region YMCA in Bangor, Maine. The Bangor Y has provided a year-round program for cancer survivors – including LiveStrong – in Central and Eastern Maine for 24 years. It is currently exploring a LiveStrong program for pediatric patients



Heidi Feyerherm, Monkey In My Chair Coordinator, The Cure Starts Now

Heidi started the Monkey in My Chair program in 2009 with her own foundation, The Love, Chloe Foundation. In an effort to grow the program, they joined with The Cure Starts Now Foundation. As program coordinator, Heidi manages the program and focuses on connecting with families that have children using the program. She also manages the DIPG Collaborative, including planning and organizing the DIPG Symposium.

Since the launch, the Monkey in My Chair program has grown and expanded into hospitals across the globe. Heidi loves helping other families and providing them with a resource to help them through their journey with childhood cancer. She's honored to continue the fight for a cure in memory of her daughter, Chloe.

Ashley Blakeney, Senior Manager of National Programming, The Pablove Foundation

Ashley Blakeney is the Pablove Shutterbugs Senior Manager of National Programs at The Pablove Foundation and a certified social-emotional arts facilitator. Pablove Shutterbugs, the signature art education-program of the Pablove Foundation, teaches kids and teens living with cancer to develop their creative voice through the art of photography. The program aims to improve the quality of life as students learn from caring professionals who help spark their creativity and foster a sense of discovery and accomplishment. Pablove Shutterbugs is open to patients ages 6-18 who are currently living with cancer or have completed treatment.

Devon Ciampa, AYA Clinical Social Worker and Patient Navigator, Ulman Foundation in partnership with Johns Hopkins Hospital

Devon Ciampa is currently the AYA Clinical Social Worker and Patient Navigator in pediatric oncology at The Johns Hopkins Hospital which is a partnership role with The Ulman Foundation. Ms. Ciampa has focused on the needs of adolescents and young adults in various crisis situations throughout her career through roles such as Senior Manager of Transitioning Youth at CASA for Children of DC and Education Consultant with Visions Global Empowerment. Ms. Ciampa has been invited to speak at various events on topics related to the young adult community including the Annual Neglect & Delinquency Practice Institute, the World Learning African Exchange on Children in Need and the AIR American/Russian Delegation Exchange on Transitioning Youth. She has run educational and leadership programs for youth throughout Asia including China, India and Sri Lanka. Ms. Ciampa also held the role of Language Learning Director of the largest Disney English school in Shanghai, PRC with The Walt Disney Company. Ms. Ciampa holds advanced degrees in film production from Boston University, International Educational Development from Columbia University and Social Work from Columbia University.

Len Forkas, Founder and Chairman, Hopecam Inc.

Len Forkas, a 20-year veteran in the wireless infrastructure industry, founded Milestone Communications in 2001. The Reston, VA-based company started small, focusing on a handful of projects near its Washington, DC base. Today, Milestone operates in six states and has partnerships with over 50 municipal, school and utility landowners.

Before Milestone Communications, Len had a successful career in commercial real estate. In 1996, he formed Milestone Communities Inc., a Washington, DC-based real estate development company. His past experience also includes senior management positions at Bank of America, Weyerhaeuser Real estate.

One year after he started Milestone Communications, Len founded [Hopecam, Inc.](#), a Reston, VA-based nonprofit that uses webcam technology to connect homebound children undergoing treatment for cancer to their friends at school. He serves as the chairman for the charity's 15-member Board of Directors.

He is a popular leadership speaker and the author of [What Spins the Wheel](#), a book that shares the team building lessons he learned while competing solo in Race Across America (a 3,000 mile, coast-to-coast event described as “the toughest bike race in the world”).

Ann Stratton, Lead Practitioner, Showers Family Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders, Akron Children's Hospital

Ann Stratton is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Akron Children's Hospital. She has been working in the subspecialty of Hematology and Oncology for the last 15 years. She received her Nursing degree at St. Louis University and her masters in Nursing at the University of Missouri. Akron Children's Hospital is a free standing children's hospital located in Ohio. The program is a mid-sized program and is currently working on expanding their Adolescent and Young Adult Program. Ann works with local organizations to raise awareness of the AYA needs. She is currently obtaining her PhD in Nursing with a hope to focus on Oncology research. Her current dissertation proposal is to look at ways to assess post-traumatic stress disorder and high risk taking behaviors in AYA patients immediately after therapy. As a provider, her goal is to improve access to care for the AYA population and provide alternative methods of care.