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Photo call for cancer fighters 📷

Local photographer seeks more stories of inspiration

Halifax News Net

By Lori McKay – The Weekly News

Shari Tucker is looking for 30 cancer survivors to share their story and inspire others.

As a follow-up to last year's Young & Fearless – Inspiration of Cancer Survivors exhibit, the Halifax-based photographer is looking to do another show with new stories of bravery.

For the 2009 exhibit, Tucker would like to find 30 participants under the age of 30. So far, she has 16 people on-board.

"I'm looking for survivors with all different types of cancer, of different races and cultures. Anyone who wants to raise awareness and share their story," said Tucker, 30.

She said they have several children between the ages of two and 10 and people in their 20s currently taking part in the project, but no teenagers so far.

"Teens are the group we are missing. And those years are a very difficult time to have to deal with cancer with so many other 'life' things happening."

The show will be launched in October.

"I found with some of last year's participants, people found a healing power in talking about their fight to survive. They got through it and are now strong enough to tell everyone about it.

"Their advice was to enjoy life, appreciate the people around you, don't try to fight it alone and let humour in."

And humour was included in many of her images representing a disease that involves very little to smile about.

Tucker said her image of Ryan Joudrey is a good representation of "Young & Fearless."

Joudrey, who is recovering from Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia, is in a boxing ring, bearing his scar, surrounded by all the things needed to fight cancer: pills, an IV and a commode.

"This image is very symbolic of someone fighting cancer, and winning," said Tucker.

Last year's show included 22 survivors, plus some of their friends and family.

"Everyone I photographed had a different take on how they got through it and what was important to them. I've met some truly amazing people," said Tucker.

Seven photographs from the 2008 Young & Fearless collection will be going on a national travelling exhibit for The Cancer Project by Photosensitive, a photography cancer project based in Ontario.

Tucker also completed a coffee table book with her 2008 Young & Fearless – Inspiration of Cancer Survivors exhibit, with photographs and each individual's story.

A portion of proceeds from the show and coffee table book (\$75) are going to the Canadian Cancer Society.

A book release party, and launch of her 2009 project, will be held March 5 at 6 p.m. at Queen Street Studios, 50 Queen St., Dartmouth.

Tucker, who is a member of Queen Street Studios, said she has found participants through friends and others through Facebook, but has exhausted her personal connections.

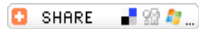
The only qualifications for participants are that they live close enough to Halifax for Tucker to personally photograph them, are 30 years old or younger, and are willing to share their story with the public.

"If one person can find comfort in what someone else has accomplished, then we've made a difference."






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Anyone interested in finding out more about the Young & Fearless project can contact Tucker at 431-3804, fearless@sharitucker.com, www.sharitucker.com or the Facebook site, Young and Fearless – Inspiration of Cancer Survivors.

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