

STONE FOREST

Flyer

May 2013

Volume 3, Issue 5

Drowning Is Preventable

The Texas weather is warming up. Summer is almost here. Pools will soon open and the cool water will be calling your name. You can almost hear your kids laughing and the playing in the pool. Your family deserves to have many Best Day Ever moments in the water this summer. Please do not let those moments be ruined by the sound of a life guard whistle blast or the need to do CPR in order to save your child's life. Most families love a trip to the swimming pool, the lake or the beach during the summer...but the water can be deadly for a child.

Did you know that drowning is a leading cause of accidental death for children between the ages of 1 and 14, with kids under the age of 5 at even higher risk?

Colin Holst's parents did not know either. Sadly, June 13th marks the 5 year anniversary of his drowning in a public, lifeguarded pool in Austin. Since Colin's drowning in 2008, Central Texas-based Colin's Hope has become a nonprofit leader in water safety and drowning prevention.

My name is Alissa Magrum and I am the Executive Director of Colin's Hope. But I am also a parent to 8 year old Ella. So, from one parent to another, please listen to this message. It is simple but filled with purpose: DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE. YOU can help protect your children. Following a series of simple water safety tips creates multiple layers of protection. These layers WILL keep children safer in and around the water and CAN prevent drownings.

THE FIRST 3 OF THESE TIPS ARE KEY.

Practice constant visual supervision. Always assign an adult "water guardian" whose ONLY responsibility is to watch children who are in, near and around the water. If that water guardian needs to take a break, they must transfer their "watching" duty to another adult.

Learn to swim. Enroll children (and adults too) in formal swim classes. For kids under the age of 4, taking formal swim lessons reduces the risk of drowning by 88%.

Wear life jackets. Children who cannot swim should ALWAYS wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket when in and around the water.

You can see additional tips, as well as more information on water safety and drowning prevention, on our website at www.colinshope.org.

Each year, Colin's Hope volunteers stuff and distribute 75,000 water safety packets to families in zip codes that have been targeted due to the high number of near drownings and drownings in recent years. This life saving information along with a Peel Inc. ad campaign, a Reagan National Advertising billboard campaign and a presence at many community events is helping to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning.

WE ALSO NEED YOUR HELP. PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION with family, friends, neighbors, teachers, babysitters...everyone! We have seen the difference that being aware and being prepared can make. Communities that have received our water safety information in prior years have seen child drownings and near drownings in their areas reduced to zero!

Please visit www.colinshope.org to find out how you can get involved in your own community. Find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, subscribe to our monthly newsletter or even support our efforts with a donation.

We envision a world where children do not drown. Please share that vision and together we will get there.

Wishing you the SAFEST AND BEST SUMMER EVER,
Alissa Magrum Executive Director, Colin's Hope

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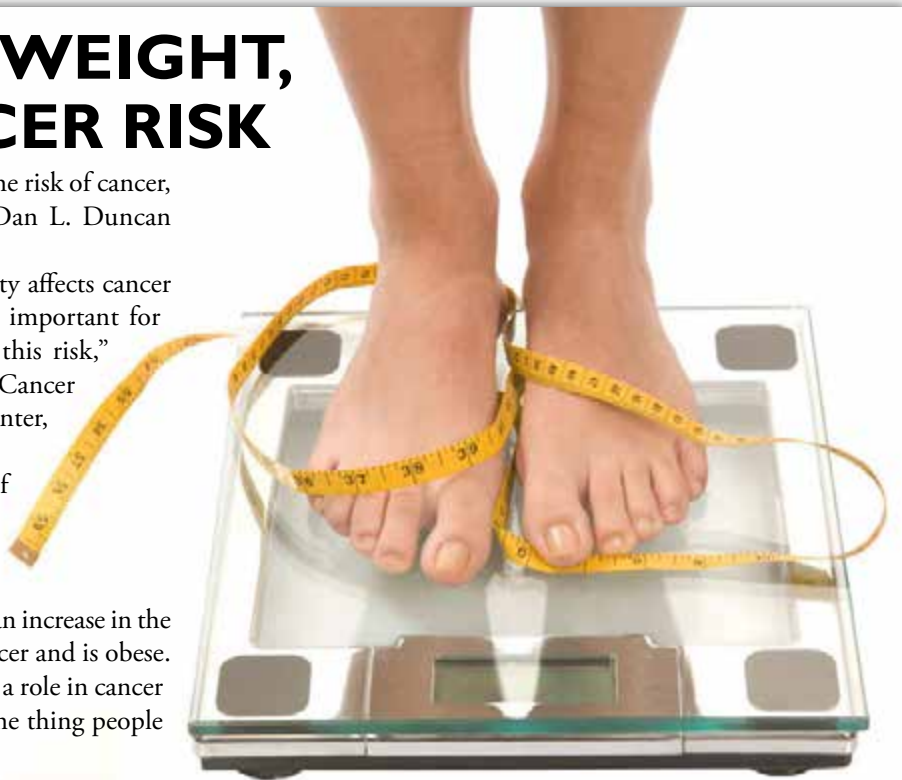
Controlling weight can help a person reduce the risk of cancer, said an oncologist from the NCI-designated Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine.

"We do not know exactly how and why obesity affects cancer risk, but we know there is an increase, so it is important for everyone to control their weight to minimize this risk," said Dr. Kent Osborne, director of the Duncan Cancer Center and the Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center, both at BCM.

Research has linked obesity to a greater risk of developing esophageal, pancreatic, colorectal, breast, endometrial, kidney, thyroid and gallbladder cancer, Osborne said.

In some cancers like breast cancer, there is also an increase in the risk of recurrence if a patient already has the cancer and is obese.

Many other factors, such as genetics, may play a role in cancer development, but keeping a normal weight is one thing people can change and it may help, he said.



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ADOPTION COALITION OF TEXAS

Marcus

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Marcus is a smart, funny and passionate young man. He is a thinker and a planner who likes to explore new ideas and gain knowledge. He likes to write and listen to rap music. Marcus craves acceptance and responds well to positive attention from adults. He is determined to have a bright future and works hard to reach his academic potential.

Marcus wants very much to be adopted so that he can have a family to love and support him in the future. His adoptive family needs to be nurturing, firm, patient and willing to provide him with much needed one-on-one attention. Marcus will do best in a family with older children and one with parents that can help build his self-esteem while encouraging him to discover his strengths and find his place in the world.

For more information on Marcus, please contact Stephanie Berka at the Adoption Coalition of Texas by email stephanieberka@adopttexas.org or by phone: 512-450-8750.



DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE



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May is Texas and National Water Safety Month

Ongoing: Volunteers needed to stuff and distribute water safety packets info@colinshope.org

Ongoing: Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed! <http://www.tinych.org/signup>

Now-June 18: Discount Schlitterbahn Tickets for sale. <http://www.tinych.org/tickets>

May 18: Colin's Hope Got2Swim Pure Austin Quarry Lake. <http://www.tinych.org/QuarryLake>



Water Safety Alert: 74 Texas children drowned last year.
Keep your children and families safe in, near and around all bodies of water.
Multiple layers of protection can prevent drowning.

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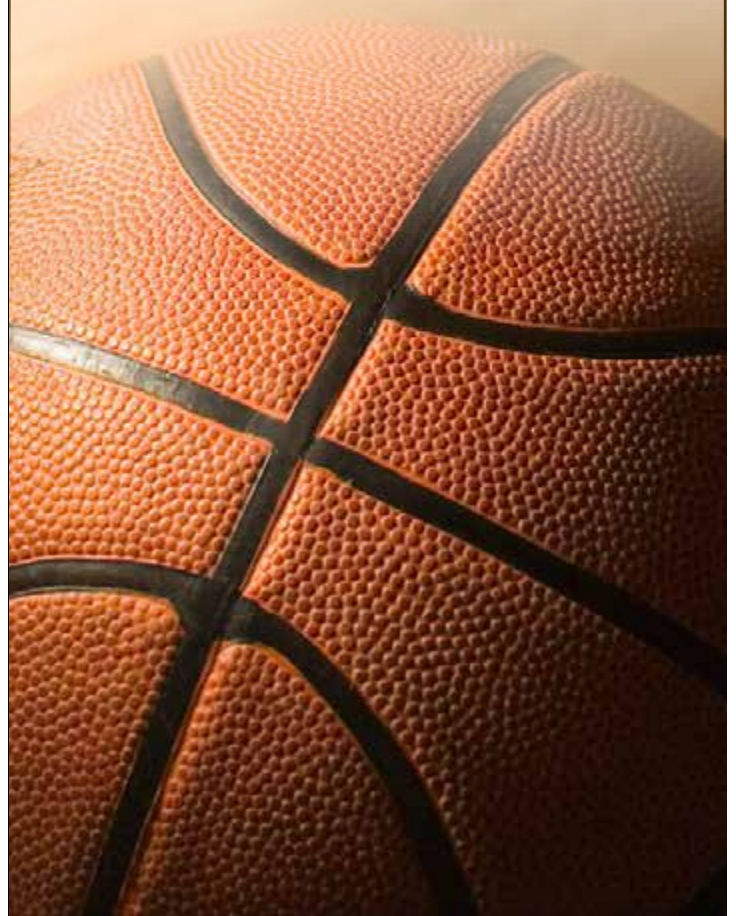
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