Nursing Student Using Family Inspiration to Raise Money for Cancer Charity

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A University of Worcester Nursing student is doing her bit for a charity close to her heart by organising a fundraising ball.

Emma Yarsley, a first year student, hopes to raise £3000 for Cancer Research UK by staging the event in her home town of Kidderminster in January.

After losing three loved ones to the disease in as many months, and supporting her mother through her cancer battle, Emma resolved to support the organisation which funds scientists, nurses and doctors to conduct the research needed to beat cancer sooner.

She explains: “Three years ago, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, and underwent a mastectomy and chemotherapy to reduce the risk of the cancer spreading or returning. However, about six months later, she had a CT scan after bumping her head in a fall, and they found a secondary cancer on her skull.

“From that day on I vowed to do something to raise money for Cancer Research UK. After losing three people close to me in as many months to this vile disease, and my mother discovering a further tumour on her spine, I felt that I had to do something to raise money and not sit back and let cancer keep destroying lives.”

As well as deeply affecting her personal life, her family’s health battles have also inspired Emma in terms of her choice of career.

“I believe that nursing is something that is naturally built into certain people, but personal circumstances can further develop qualities needed to be a nurse,” she explains.

“After seeing my nan struggle with various heart conditions, I decided I wanted to help people battling illnesses be as independent as possible in their own homes. Then, the fact that I have been with my mom for every step of her journey means I have experienced first-hand what it is like to be on the receiving end of nursing care.

“This has enhanced my desire to deliver the best care possible to my patients and has made me more aware of many areas which are so important in this respect, such as the keeping patient and family informed, individuality, dignity and respect.”

Jenny Pinfield, Programme Lead for Pre-Registration Nursing at the University of Worcester, adds: “Emma is an excellent example of the University’s commitment to values-based recruitment that encompasses the Chief Nursing Officer for England’s ‘6 Cs’ – care, compassion, competence, communication, courage and commitment.

“We encourage and support these values, which enable student nurses such as Emma to do work such as this while also studying full-time.”

Along with a friend whose life has also been touched by cancer, Emma will be staging the fundraising ball on Saturday January 31 at Kidderminster’s Gainsborough Hotel. Attendees are requested to wear blue or pink – Cancer Research UK’s signature colours, while entertainment will be providing by a DJ and a live band. For more information, please contact eyarsley@hotmail.com.

Emma also has a Just Giving page, where people can donate directly to the charity. This can be found at https://www.justgiving.com/emma-yarsley/.

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Henwick Grove, WR2 6AJ Tel: 01905 855000 - Last reviewed: Friday, 04 August 2017

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