



Rick Collins

photo courtesy of Leap for Life

LEAP *for* LIFE

Laura Anderson jumps in global skydiving event to raise money for cancer research.

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Last year Rick Collins was sitting 13,500 feet above Long Island, N.Y. The side of the plane was open and his legs dangled over the edge. His adrenalin was pumping. He was about to rock back and rock out to make his first skydiving jump. Not loving heights, he was conquering a fear; nevertheless, he acknowledged many people who have faced a situation far scarier—cancer.

“It was exhilarating and empowering,” says Collins, an attorney and body builder who raised \$15,000 for cancer research with his jump he called Leap for Life. As he was free-falling and parachuting three miles to the ground, he was thinking of his cousin, Donnie Fetta; he had lost his life to testicular cancer at 21. “My cousin helped me buy my first set of weights, and inspired me to become a body builder,” Collins says. “Back then, the death rate for testicular cancer was soaring, but now, because of donations and charities funding research, the survival rate is high.”

After the fundraising success of his first jump, he’s turned Leap for Life into a movement; Collins had 100 plus people from around the world join him in this year’s jump. Participants form their own fundraising pages by visiting his website at leapforlife.org and raise money for cancer research by linking their leaps



Laura Anderson

ON COMMUNITY

to the Lance Armstrong Foundation at Livestrong.org. (Drop zones across the United States are listed at the United States Parachute Association at www.uspa.org.)

Laura Anderson, owner of Laura's Closet, a clothing store in Arlington, Texas, heard about Leap for Life through social networking and immediately decided to jump. For her, the cause was personal. "My battle with cervical cancer began in 2004, with a second round in 2005. I was cleared in 2006 and as of my last check-up, I remain cancer free," Anderson says.

Anderson is an entrepreneur, a model and former spokesperson for several companies including Hawaiian Tropic.

"Throughout my life, many people have fought this battle—four aunts, two grandmothers, a great grandmother, my grandfather, father, mother, sister and one of my best friends. Some have lost their battles and some continue to fight," Anderson says. "When I saw Leap for Life on the internet last year, I knew in my heart that I had to participate. What better way to bring awareness to such a personal battle than to jump out of a perfectly good plane?"

Anderson set an ambitious goal to raise \$5,000 with her first jump which took place on Aug. 21st at Skydive Dallas, www.skydivedallas.com. "There were several people who were there to support me. Let's just say, I was extremely thankful to see all of their smiling faces that day!"

You might wonder what flashed across Anderson's mind seconds before free falling into open sky over the very real, very hard ground below. She was thinking about, "The people who to continue to fight cancer. The people I love. People I have lost and how very lucky I am to be here and have the opportunity to bring awareness in such a profound and memorable way." She says, "Cancer is something that is forever in your mind and makes you perceive life in such a different, but amazingly good way."

People as far away as South Africa and Panama participated in this year's jump as well as several participants in the United States. JoJo Wright, a nationally syndicated radio personality based in Los Angeles, announced his support for Leap for Life with his first skydive. "JoJo's participation in Leap for Life will

certainly help take our cause, message and visibility to new heights; his show broadcasts in 50 markets," Collins says. "He has many celebrity friends across the country that just may take him up on his challenge to skydive for a cause."

Collins didn't just pick any weekend for his global skydiving movement—he chose the anniversary of his cousin's death. "Cancer research is so important. My cousin would possibly be alive today with the advancement researchers have made treating testicular cancer. Everyone is connected by knowing somebody

who has been affected by cancer or who has lost a battle to cancer. Hopefully my efforts can mean something for the future of others."

Leap for Life is consistent with the message in a book Collins co-authored, Alpha Male Challenge, 10-Week Plan to Burn Fat, Build Muscle and Adjust Your Attitude. "It's about being your best and facing fears," Collins says. "Don't let any of your fears or demons stop you. Develop your courage muscle."

To find out more about Leap for Life visit www.leapforlife.org.



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