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Cancer survivor stages singing debut in Southfield

MAY 28, 2009

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Southfield resident and Hodgkin's Lymphoma survivor Marcus Weatherspoon will be making his local singing debut to raise money for his Man and Woman of the Year campaign to benefit The Leukemia Lymphoma Society. The event, "Life is a Cabaret," will take place Thursday, June 4 at Arturo's Jazz Theater Restaurant, 25333 W. 12 Mile Road in Southfield, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

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"I just believe that my life has a calling and there's something so deep inside of me that wants to entertain and wants to perform," says Weatherspoon. "I can't leave here until I've done it. I can't leave here until I'm sitting across from Oprah and she's interviewing me. I refuse to die until that happens."

The event will feature the song styling of Weatherspoon, who will perform at the 170-seat jazz theater. WDRJ-AM gospel station 1440 will be in attendance to hear the local musician.

All proceeds will be donated to LLS and Weatherspoon's Man of the Year Campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to provide support and a cure for blood cancer patients like LLS's Boy and Girl of the Year, Alex Wiser and Paige Malewicz.

Man and Woman of the Year participants work as a team to raise funds for the LLS mission, which is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Individual efforts are also tracked as the top fundraising man and woman from the team will be named as "Team Anchors" and will be recognized in a national advertisement in USA Today. The advertisement will also feature photographs of the top man and woman fundraiser in the nation.

In April of 2008, Marcus Weatherspoon received news that nobody wants to hear: He had cancer. It was Stage 4 (out of five) Hodgkin lymphoma and it had spread to his throat, chest, stomach and pelvis.

He was told by doctors that surgery was not an option because of the severity of his tumors. Weatherspoon would have to fight to stay alive and accomplish his dreams. Eight months later, in December, he received news that his cancer was gone.

"I believe that if you give up mentally, physically, your body is going to give up. I just chose not to go that route," says Weatherspoon.

For more information about the Man and Woman of the year program, visit [www.lls.org/mi](#); or contact Miriam Imerman at (248) 581-3884 or

miriam.imerman@lls.org

Hodgkin lymphoma is a type of blood cancer that affects the immune system. It can strike in people in their twenties or thirties. There were about 8,220 cases of Hodgkin lymphoma diagnosed last year in the United States. It is considered to be one of the most curable forms of cancer with a five-year survival rate of 86 percent. For more information about Hodgkin lymphoma or other blood cancers, contact the Michigan chapter of The Leukemia Lymphoma Society at (248) 581-3900 or [www.lls.org/mi](#).

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