



## CEDAR HILLS TO RECOGNIZE VALERIE SCOTT

CEDAR HILLS – As part of the Cedar Hills Champions program, the City Council will recognize Valerie Scott for her efforts in raising awareness for those who suffer with lung cancer.

In 2012, Valerie went to the hospital complaining of stomach pains. After several tests she was given the diagnosis of Stage IV lung cancer. This was a shock as she had never smoked a day in her life. After spending time talking with doctors and doing some research, Valerie learned that there are many instances of lung cancer that are unrelated to smoking. The most likely culprit is radon; a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that forms naturally from the decay of radioactive elements, such as uranium, and can be found in soil.

Valerie was determined to outlive her prognosis and has already exceeded her initial prognosis by six months. While she was able to take a short break from oral chemotherapy medications, her cancer has again started to grow and she has started infusion therapy.

Since receiving her diagnosis, Valerie’s goal has been to bring more awareness to lung cancer unrelated to smoking. From her experience, there is not as much awareness given to lung cancer as many see it as a self-inflicted disease. One of the first things she did was to partner with Reminderband Inc to design a wristband for lung cancer. The wristband is leopard print and says “Lick it! Lung Cancer”. As November is lung cancer awareness month, Valerie has been reaching out to several businesses and schools asking for help in raising awareness. Her goal is to encourage insurance companies to pay for screening as early detection can significantly improve outcomes. “In October we see sports players wearing pink to raise awareness for breast cancer,” Valerie stated. “How great it would be to see the same level of awareness for lung cancer.”

“Valerie is a wonderful example of how to turn negative news into a good cause,” stated Mayor Gary Gygi. “Receiving this kind of a diagnosis has to be very difficult but she has risen to the challenge and while fighting for her life, she is also fighting for awareness to help others.”

The recognition ceremony will take place during the December 3<sup>rd</sup> City Council meeting at 7:00pm at the Cedar Hills Community Recreation Center located at 10640 N. Clubhouse Drive. December 4, 2013 will be declared Valerie Scott day in Cedar Hills.

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