

Benefiting Pediatric Brain Cancer Research



THE CURE STARTS NOW®



LUNAR NEW YEAR BANQUET

❖ YEAR OF THE DRAGON ❖

FEBRUARY 10, 2024 | FUNG'S KITCHEN

DONATIONS: csnevents.org/LunarNewYear





LUNAR NEW YEAR BANQUET SCHEDULE



6:30 pm **Wine & Hors d'oeuvres**
Silent Auction Viewing

7:00 pm **Dinner & Program**

- Face Changing Performance
- Henry and Althea Lee – Nicole's parents
- Shaily Pasi – Lara Pasi's Aunt
- Special Guest – Keith Desserich
- Unity Lion and Dragon Dance Troupe

9:00 pm **Silent Auction Closes**
Live Auction

9:30 pm **Checkout**



ABOUT KEITH & BROOKE DESSERICH

Keith and Brooke Desserich live in Cincinnati with their daughters, Grace and Nina. They cofounded The Cure Starts Now, which has funded \$32,536,000 in pediatric brain cancer research to date.

They also co-authored the best-selling book, "Notes Left Behind" detailing Elena's battle with DIPG.

Keith is the President of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium Foundation, a member of the PBTC Steering Council, and founder of the DIPG Collaborative.



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XIE XIE! THANK YOU!



謝謝

Thank you for attending tonight and helping to support pediatric brain cancer research. You have a heart of gold!

PRESENTING SPONSORS

Dr. Cynthia Woo And Mayor Andy Chan

GOLD SPONSORS

**Dr. Henry and Althea Lee
P.S. Affairs Event Planning
Ellen Chin and Bing Yao**

BRONZE SPONSOR

Mission Wealth

HOUSTON HEARTS OF GOLD COMMITTEE

**Andy Chan, Ching Chan, Shirley Chan, Ellen Chin, Stephanie Coleman, Leah Exum,
Theresa Leong, Pitsami Norm, Shaily Pasi, Laura Shelby and Dawn Wilson**

P.S. Affairs Event Planning – Decor and Flowers

Houston Pallets & Crates LLC – Teddy Bears

Miya Shay – Emcee

Face Changing Sponsor - Daniel and Shirley Chan

Carol Kee – Noonday Collections Ambassador

Andy and Cindy Chan – Printing

Cameron Chan and Natalie Lee – Photography

ExxonMobile Employees – Volunteers

Dragons – Dean Todd and Daniel Chan

National Charity League Ticktockers and Mothers – Volunteers

Proofreading – Paul Tidwell

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XIE XIE! THANK YOU!



謝謝

THANK YOU TO OUR AUCTION DONORS

A.D. Players at the George Theater
Amy's Ice Cream
Angela Dispensa with Drawer By Drawer
Astros Foundation
Buffalo Bayou Partnership
Children's Muserum of Houston
Cowboys n Indians
Daniel and Shirley Chan
Dessert Gallery
Dream Dinners
Dresswell Givewell
Ellen Chin and Bing Yao
Esther Puig
Henry and Althea Lee
Houston Museum of Natural Science
Houston Arboretum & Nature Center
Josephine's Day Spa and Salon
Kendra Scott
Kristin Valicek
Landry's Inc
Lee Austin Condo
Main Street Theater
ML2 Hair Design
Nice Winery
Palace Social
Segway Tours of Houston
Studio Movie Grill
Taste of Texas
Todd Greene - Memorial MRI
TUTS
Uchi Restaurants
Que Color!



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THE LION DANCE



The lion symbolizes power, wisdom, and superiority. The lion dance is a traditional performance during Lunar New Year and other celebrations to bring prosperity and good luck. The loud drums and cymbals scare off bad spirits. It is considered lucky for spectators to “feed” the lion red packets filled with money.

You are invited to participate in this tradition and bring “good fortune” for the coming year, filling the red packets at your table with a couple dollars if you like. When the lion approaches the table, slowly wave the packet back and forth. As the lion dances, he will open his mouth for you to pass the red packet. ***Red packet contents are considered a donation for the Unity Lion Dance martial arts troupe performance.***

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WHAT IS LUNAR NEW YEAR?



Lunar New Year

Rooted in the ancient Chinese lunar calendar, the basis of Chinese New Year, it served as a religious, dynastic, and social guide. Oracle bones from the 14th century BC, during the Shang Dynasty, evidence its existence.

Preparations include a thorough housecleaning to dispel any inauspicious breaths, known as “huiqi,” accumulated during the old year. Ritual sacrifices of food and paper icons are dedicated to gods and ancestors. Lucky scrolls adorn household gates, and firecrackers are set off to ward off evil spirits. Elders bestow money upon children.

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year holds utmost significance in China, tied to the lunar calendar. It's a time-honored occasion to pay homage to household deities, heavenly beings, and ancestors. Traditionally, it fosters family unity through feasting. After adopting the Western calendar in 1912, the grand tradition perseveres. The Chinese version of “Happy New Year!” is conveyed through the greeting “Gong hei fat choy,” signifying wishes for happiness and prosperity.

Chinese New Year Feast

Central to the celebration is the feast! On Chinese New Year's Eve, the extended family gathers around the table for a symbolic home cooked meal. Each dish carries meaning, consumed with hopes of growing family fortune, health, and prosperity.

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Traditional Chinese Dinner

ASSORTED COLD CUT SALAD SAMPLER



FISH MAW WITH CRAB MEAT SOUP



FUNG'S AWARD WINNING PEKING DUCK



RED DRAGON ROLLS AND PEKING DUCK ROLLS



SEAFOOD WITH VEGETABLES IN BIRD'S NEST



MUSHROOMS AND SNOW PEA LEAVES



HONEY BLACK PEPPER BEEF FILLET



HOUSE SPECIAL FRIED RICE



HUNAN FISH FILLET



SESAME RED BEAN PASTE PASTRY





IN HONOR OF



Nicole Faith Lee

July 9, 2002 – September 2, 2009

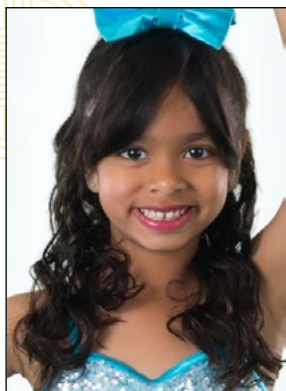


The Cure Starts Now, Houston Hearts of Gold chapter, was formed in honor of Nicole Faith Lee. Nicole was a spicy 7-year-old native Texas gal who wanted to be a teacher. Before her diagnosis, she was active in ballet and soccer. Our prayer was that she could live long enough for a cure to be discovered. She fought 18 months after diagnosis. Nicole never gave up hope for a cure, and neither will we.



Lara Pasi

December 5, 2010 – May 21, 2018



The Houston chapter also honors Drs. Asheesh and Latika Pasi's daughter, Lara Pasi. Lara was 7½ when DIPG took her from us. She was our ray of sunshine. Full of energy, she ALWAYS defended her big brothers when they were in trouble! Lara absolutely loved going to school and adored her teachers and friends. Lara fought bravely for 14 months and earned her angel wings May 21, 2018.

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THE CURE STARTS NOW



What do we do?

Since its inception in 2007, The Cure Starts Now's mission is to find the Homerun Cure™ TO ALL CANCERS, by funding grants worldwide for the latest research into the most difficult cancer — pediatric brain cancer.



- **Direct 97% of all donations** to researchers to fund ground-breaking pediatric brain cancer research.
- **Created a DIPG Registry** – an international database of brain tissue samples from child donors for researcher use. This speeds up the research and creates an instant valid cohort for trials and drug development.
- **Founded the DIPG Collaborative** – a coalition of foundations that believes it can make a larger impact by funding DIPG research, so significant advances in other cancer research will be made.
- **Host an annual DIPG Symposium** – we bring researchers together from around the world to collaborate, inspire, and challenge one another.
- **Expanding our reach with over 40 chapters** in four countries – and growing. Each chapter is run entirely by volunteers.
- **Formed a Medical Advisory Council (“MAC”)** – our MAC of doctors studies the grant requests and directs funds to the best and most promising research.
- This nonprofit is **run by families** who want to make a difference.

We need your help. Sadly, less than 1¢ of federal cancer research dollars is for pediatric brain cancer research (according to PNOG Foundation).





LIVE AUCTION: #1
SONOMA WINEMAKER
FOR 3 NIGHTS



Winemaker for a Day Experience with a 3 Night Stay at the Hyatt Regency Sonoma Wine Country for 2

Experience Includes:

Hyatt Regency Sonoma Wine Country 3-Night Stay for (2)

Raymond Vineyards Winemaker For A Day Experience to Include the Following Activities for (2):

Blackout dates are the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Tour and Chauffeured Town Car are only available from Sunday through Friday.

- Learn the art of winemaking with your very own blended red wine creation
- Personalized bottle of wine made during the experience with custom label
- 4-Hour private chauffeured town car for wine maker experience for (2)



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LIVE AUCTION: #2
GOING TO BROADWAY!
FOR 2 (2 NIGHTS)



New York Broadway Package – Includes Choice of Broadway Show and Dinner at a Popular New York Restaurant with 2 Night Stay for (2)

**Excludes Hamilton and sold-out shows. Blackout dates are the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year.*

Experience Includes:

- Orchestra or front mezzanine seats for your choice of any non-sold-out Broadway Show for 2
- Enjoy dinner for two at one of the following upscale popular New York restaurants: Strip House, Dos Caminos, and Atlantic Grill
- 2-night stay at one of the participating properties or similar:
- New York Hilton Midtown
- Sheraton New York Times Square



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LIVE AUCTION: #3
BEACHFRONT RESORT
WINNER'S CHOICE FOR 2+



**Excludes Hamilton and sold-out shows. Blackout dates are the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year.*

Experience Includes:

- 5-night club suite room stay in beachfront Mexico
- Winner's choice of 4-star beachfront resort - Los Cabos or Puerto Vallarta
- 1 bedroom, 2 bathroom suite with pull-out sofa accommodates up to 4 people
- Suite amenities include a balcony, kitchenette, jetted tub, and wifi
- Resort amenities include golf courses, mini-markets, kid's clubs, spas, restaurants, bars, and multiple swimming pools



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LIVE AUCTION: #4
BRACKENS VIEW
RETREAT



3-4 Nights at Brackens View Retreat
Outside of Asheville in Western North Carolina

Subject to availability. Blackout dates: July, Thanksgiving holiday, Christmas holiday, and New Year's holiday. Expires September 30, 2025

Over 2.5 acres, this newly built 4 bed, 4.5 bath custom home features a modern farmhouse feel. Open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, and brick gas fireplace welcome you upon entering. Featuring 4 bedrooms and a bunk room with 4 twin beds, there is plenty of space for up to 14 guests. There's a game room with air hockey, ping pong.

Enjoy the Blue Mountain Ridge view from the covered back porch, from the hot tub, or walk out to the fire pit to gather and make memories while making s'mores! You won't want to leave Brackens View Retreat!
Thank you Ellen Chin and Bing Yao for your generous donation.



DONATIONS: csnevents.org/LunarNewYear



LIVE AUCTION: #5

**TEXAS HILL COUNTRY
TREEHOUSE OVERLOOKING
LAKE TRAVIS**



**5 Days and 4 Nights Lake Travis Treehouse
in Spicewood, Texas. Sleeps up to 16.**

Situated in the Texas Hill Country, you'll witness sunrises and sunsets from the same porch with the 180 degree vista.

Subject to availability. Expires February 28, 2025

- 2-story home in a gated community
- Lakefront house on Lake Travis
- 2-story porches
- Four bedrooms
- A generous 10-person bunkroom
- 3 full bathrooms, and an additional half bath, you'll find ample space for everyone to unwind and rejuvenate
- Pickleball courts
- Community Pool



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CHINESE ZODIAC SIGNS



2024 is the Year of the Dragon

The dragon represents authority, prosperity, and good fortune. Those who were born in the year of the dragon are known for their captivating demeanor, distinct personality, and strong leadership abilities. Marry a Monkey or a Rat late in life. 2012, 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964, 1952, 1940



RAT

Imaginative, passionate, wise, intense. Most compatible with Dragon or Monkey. **2008, 1996, 1984, 1972, 1960, 1948, 1936**



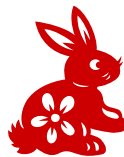
OX

Bright, inspiring, patient, and hard working. Marry a Snake or a Rooster. **2009, 1997, 1985, 1973, 1961, 1949, 1938**



TIGER

Loyal, courageous, generous, and enthusiastic. A Horse or Dog will bring you happiness. **2010, 1998, 1986, 1974, 1962, 1950, 1937**



RABBIT

Shy, discreet, prudent, and honest. Luckiest sign. Ram or boar is your ideal partner. **2011, 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963, 1951, 1939**



SNAKE

They possess wisdom and work imperceptibly so as to achieve their goals. **2013, 2001, 1989, 1977, 1965, 1953**



HORSE

Imaginative, passionate, wise, and intense. Most compatible with Dragon or Monkey. **2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954**



GOAT

Bright, inspiring, patient, and hard working. Marry a Snake or a Rooster. **2015, 2003, 1991, 1979, 1967, 1955**



MONKEY

Intelligent, influential, and ambitious. A gifted achiever. Avoid Tigers, seek a Dragon or a Rat. **2016, 2004, 1992, 1980, 1968, 1956**



ROOSTER

Obliging, pioneering, and brave. A little vain with a need for appreciation. Rabbits are trouble. Ox or Snake ideal. **2017, 2005, 1993, 1981, 1969, 1957**



DOG

Loyal, faithful, and unselfish with a need for tenderness. Look to the Horse or Tiger but avoid Dragons. **2018, 2006, 1994, 1982, 1970, 1958, 1946**



PIG

Tolerant, persevering, and chivalrous. Prosperous and generous. Avoid other Boars and marry a Ram or Rabbit. **2019, 2007, 1995, 1983, 1971, 1959, 1947, 1935**



Scarves, Necklaces, Clothes, Oh My!

SHOP NOONDAY BENEFITING THE CURE STARTS NOW

Celebrate Carol Kee's incredible 7 years of support for The Cure Starts Now by adding some sparkle to your life! Join us for a fantastic online event featuring dazzling earrings, beautiful scarves, and a fresh wardrobe from Carol Kee, Noonday Collection Independent Ambassador. Your participation will not only enhance your style but also contribute to pediatric brain cancer research. Thank you, Carol, for your unwavering support!

<https://noondaycollection.com/CarolKee-kdjzj677>



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