

## BLUE FAERY: THE ADRIENNE WILSON LIVER CANCER ASSOCIATION BEGINS ITS IMPORTANT MISSION TO CURE PRIMARY LIVER CANCER

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### Older Sister Makes Lifelong Commitment To Younger Sister Who Died Of Liver Cancer

BURBANK, CA - July 7, 2003 - Blue Faery: The Adrienne Wilson Liver Cancer Association, a non-profit organization whose mission is to prevent, treat and cure liver cancer (Hepatocellular Carcinoma or HCC) through education, advocacy, and encouraging research, has begun its worldwide efforts. Andrea Wilson, President and founder of the organization, explains that Blue Faery honors Adrienne Wilson, who died of the disease only 147 days after her diagnosis at the age of 15.

Despite the fact that Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) is the fourth most common cancer in the world, with approximately 16,600 new cases in the United States alone, Blue Faery will be the only non-profit organization in the United States solely devoted to fighting HCC. There is no known cure for HCC, and the five-year survival rate is 2%-6%.

Providing context to this monumental effort is the unique story of Adrienne Wilson and her older sister Andrea. Due to an abusive family situation, Adrienne began living with Andrea in 1994 when she was only eight years old. Andrea eventually became Adrienne's legal guardian. As a young teenager, Adrienne excelled academically and loved dancing, music, art and writing. She learned she had stage four liver cancer when she began experiencing intense pain under her lower right rib. Tumors were then discovered in her lungs and liver.

"Adrienne was my sister, my child and my hero," says Wilson. "Her strength was enormous and so was her courage. Establishing Blue Faery is my way of honoring her memory, as well as helping others who are suffering from the same disease."

Although the cause of HCC is unknown, contributing factors include viral hepatitis B and C, cirrhosis, hemochromatosis, and Aflatoxins found in foods in parts of Africa and Asia. Over 1 million people in the

United States and 400 million people in the world have hepatitis B. Over 3.9 million people in the United States and 170 million people in the world have hepatitis C. Doctors concluded that Adrienne's HCC was triggered by Hepatitis B and C, contracted from her mother during childbirth.

Blue Faery has produced a Patient Education Brochure that is available to doctors and other health care professionals to share with persons who are diagnosed with HCC and their families. The brochure, the first of its kind, is expected to be an important resource. Development of a Patient Education Video and other educational and advocacy programs are planned for the future.

Blue Faery has a number of upcoming fundraising activities, including a Marathon Training Program. Blue Faery is a state and federal tax-exempt non-profit corporation and is seeking private, corporate and in-kind donations. If you would like more information about HCC or Blue Faery please visit its website: <http://www.bluefaery.org>.

For further information, contact Blue Faery at 818-636-5624.