

**American Cancer Society
Jail & Bail Kickoff Luncheon
April 26, 2011**

Let me start with a quote from my favorite person in history . . .

Winston Churchill:

*“You make a living by what you get;
you make a life by what you give.”*

We are all here because we are unique.

We don't look alike.

We don't act alike.

We don't dress alike.

We have different tastes in the food we eat,

the books we read,

the cars we drive,

and the music we enjoy.

However, there is one thing we all have in common:

We know what it means to hurt.

Suffering is a universal language.

Tears are shed in the same way

for people of every color, every age and every faith.

Pain is non-discriminatory.

No one is immune.

There is a second thing we have in common:

We have the unique power to turn lives around.

But that power will remain untapped

until you have done something

for someone who will never

be able to repay you.

The world desperately needs to be lifted up from the darkness.

Did you know:

Every 3.5 seconds someone dies of hunger;

Every 11 seconds someone dies of AIDS;

Every 15 seconds a child dies from a waterborne illness;

2 million children die each year from a lack of vaccine;

11 million children die each year before age five;

40 million people live with HIV AIDS;

There are 153 million orphans in the world;

1.1 billion people have no access to clean water;

2.6 billion people don't have basic sanitation.

These are mind boggling statistics.

**If in the end all you are remembered for
is being a good lawyer,
or a successful business owner,
then you will have failed what is truly important in life . . .**

**Holding out your hand to others
who are unable to help themselves.**

**Take a minute,
look within and ask yourself,
“How can I best use
my skills, my talents and my abilities
to fill a need in my world?”**

**One thing we know for sure,
Cancer is an epidemic that affects all of us
at one time in our lives . . .
somehow, somewhere, some way.**

**Everyone fears the word “cancer”
and runs away from it
rather than standing up to it
and uniting as a community to wipe it out.**

**When you hear the “C” word
you don’t think of the statistics.**

You remember the faces.

You remember the lost battles.

**You remember the many bright lights that were
extinguished.**

I am here to tell you that together We CAN CURE Cancer.

**Knowledge is our greatest weapon in “the war on cancer”
and information is empowering.**

This disease has tormented us for four thousand years.

It seems like science fiction.

A malignant army of genetic mutations

Cancer cells growing, adapting and flourishing . . .

a relentless and insidious force.

An insatiable monster lurking in our own bodies.

A monster that gets bigger and stronger

as we get smaller and weaker.

We fight our own cells

until the monster finally kills us . . .

or we kill it.

My friends, we must win this war.

We have no other choice.

Each dollar raised in this fight

provides hope for the future

and progress towards a cure,

as we are just around the corner

from defeating this enemy.

Make no mistake

Cancer is like Al Queda;

it is not a single disease.

It is an umbrella of many diseases

which attack different parts of our body.

There is no magic bullet at this time.

The battle is filled with false starts,

shattered hopes, failed experiments

and exhausting setbacks.

**If you become a patient,
you enter a new world.**

**A journey to the depths of darkness
where pain rolls over you like a tsunami of sickness.**

**Avoiding the pain is impossible,
but the dream to find the CURE is not.**

**Those stricken with this disease
live with death as a constant companion.**

**Picked, probed and punctured,
filled with poison,
suffering from nausea, delirium
and a lack of sleep and a lack of peace.**

Physical strength is measured by what we can carry.

**Spiritual strength is measured by what we can bear,
and if you are one of the fortunate survivors,**

**you have the scars to remind you
that you came face to face with your own mortality,
that you looked it in the eye
and cheated death.**

**A friend told me he came to a point
where it all seemed unbearable,
until one day, he pressed the wrong elevator button
and ended up on the children's cancer ward.
He could only think of his own child being there,
and suddenly, everything was put in perspective.**

**This society has funded 44 Nobel Laureates,
and many other brilliant men and women,
who have made significant contributions,
working persistently over many years,
often in the face of being ignored, opposed
and even ridiculed.**

**Some say it is impossible to find a cure for cancer.
The same thing was said about smallpox 100 years ago,
and about polio just 60 years ago.
But nothing is impossible.**

**Somewhere in the world today,
there is a doctor, a researcher, or a child
who has the potential to find one of the cures for cancer.
To save the lives of our children,**

our grandchildren, and our great grandchildren.

How can we deny them the tools they need?

The 2011 Campaign will not be an easy task.

Hard times make for hard challenges.

I have learned through my years of experience

that people say “no” about 5 times

before they finally say “yes.”

It is hard to hear those no's.

We all fear rejection.

But keep this thought in mind:

When you help others suffering from cancer,

you not only make their world better,

you make yours better as well.

We need to maximize our fund-raising efforts

to the highest level possible

and keep raising the bar

until we reach our goal:

THE CURE FOR CANCER.

**Once this was an impossible dream,
but it has become achievable in our lifetime.
Your contributions and your tireless efforts
will join with us in this quest.**

To dream . . . the impossible dream . . .

And finally . . .

To reach . . . the unreachable star . . .