

## The Christina Rotering and Ashley Derrickson Memorial Fund for Starke County Cancer

Cowen was elected as Starke County Sheriff in November of 2010, just before his golf outing fundraiser that summer. He had held similar fundraisers for causes in the past, and they had proven successful. Oscar therefore saw the outing as a great opportunity to raise money for the benefit of Starke County residents who were struggling with cancer.

Oscar had been inspired to support this cause by two local teenagers, Christina Rotering and Ashley Derrickson, who sadly passed away after battling with cancer.



Christina Rotering

Christina was a student at Oregon-Davis High School. She loved basketball, but was unable to play due to her illness. Unwilling to give up basketball, she served as the team manager. She was also a member of National Honor Society, Oregon-Davis Student Council, Girl Scouts, Relay for Life, and Koontz Lake Missionary Church VIBE Youth Group. Her classmates also honored her by selecting her as the 2010-2011 Homecoming Princess. Sadly, Christina passed away in the spring of 2011 from Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Ashley Derrickson also had a passion for basketball. She was already making an impact as a North Judson-San Pierre High School basketball

player during her freshman year, when she was diagnosed with bone cancer in her left leg. However, she never gave up her dream of playing basketball. During her junior year, Ashley was finally able to play with her team again. She collected a few rebounds and made a free throw, and in return the gymnasium was filled with applause as the crowd rose to give her a standing ovation. Sadly, Ashley passed away in December of 2008, just months after graduating high school.

Oscar wished to commemorate the lives of these two young women by establishing a fund through the Starke County Community Foundation which would forever provide assistance to families in short-term financial distress due to cancer. He named the fund the



Sheriff Cowen, Gene Ladd, President of the Starke County Community Foundation and Terri Johnson, Exec. Dir. of the Northern Indiana Community Foundation



Ashley Derrickson

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The first golf outing was held at the Hamlet Golf Course and was supported by numerous local businesses and residents. A total of \$2,115 was contributed to the fund. Oscar wishes to hold the event annually in order to continue to grow the fund and spread awareness in the community.

The fund makes it possible for families to receive up to \$1,000 per year, based on very specific criteria, which ensures that the families with the most need will be supported by the fund.

To donate to, or receive assistance from, the Christina Rotering and Ashley Derrickson Memorial Fund for Starke County Cancer, contact the Starke County Community Foundation; Community Services of Starke County; Love, INC.; or the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in North Judson.