



M A S K S *for* A I D:
INTERRUPTED

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021 | 6:00P

JOIN THE EVENT AT
HNCLiving.org/WatchMasksForAid



THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

PRESENTING SPONSOR

LETTER FROM THE CEO



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the seventh installment of MASKS for AID. We are very grateful for your support in this unique year.

While we've all felt the jarring interruption of the pandemic, the challenges presented were significantly more complicated for people with a head and neck

cancer diagnosis. Not only did necessary support services continue to be too costly for our clients, but the shutdown actually closed off their ability to access many services.

When you meet Melinda, Kaden and Rhoda, know their stories are bigger than what we are able to share tonight. Their stories represent over 3,000 patients (and their families) served by HNC Living Foundation since its inception. We know there are thousands more that will experience the interruption of a head and neck cancer diagnosis. Your support tonight ensures our clients' stories do not end with the interruption of a diagnosis, but that they continue to live life fully throughout their treatment and recovery journey.

Sincerely,
Danielle Yearout
Chief Executive Officer

YOUR GIFT TONIGHT

We provide financial support for individuals during their treatment and recovery through funding vital services. A gift tonight means:

- \$50** Covers travel expenses for a week's worth of radiation treatments like those Melinda experienced.
- \$100** Covers a week's worth of nutritional supplements, important for keeping our patients healthy and able to continue treatment.
- \$250** Covers the co-pays for 4 visits to see a specialist, like those Kaden sees to build an obturator customized to his needs.
- \$500** Covers a portion of the costs of dentures, like those Melinda will receive on May 22, 2021, allowing her to get back to living fully.

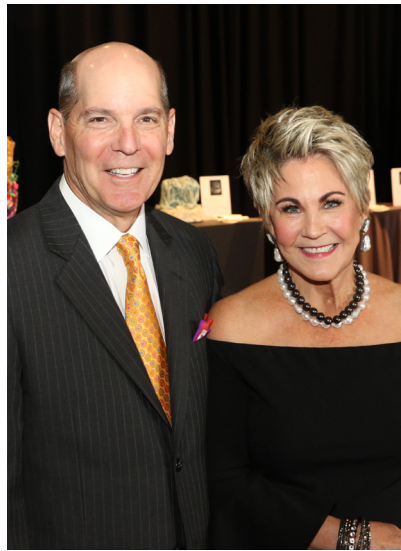
Gifts over \$1,000 make the greatest impact, allowing HNC Living Foundation to:

- Make oral device purchases, like Kaden's obturator.
- Provide a wide variety of emergency dental care, so that newly diagnosed patients can begin treatment as quickly as possible
- Purchase supplies for a tracheotomy patient so they can return to work.

PLEDGE OR DONATE GENEROUSLY NOW AT HNCLIVING.ORG.

Over \$2.3 million in funds have been raised during the six years of MASKS for AID.

LETTER FROM FOUNDERS



Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for the seventh annual MASKS for AID. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a major intrusion to everyone's status quo, including the tradition of this annual event. We have certainly been... Interrupted.

Amidst the interruption, your support of HNC Living Foundation

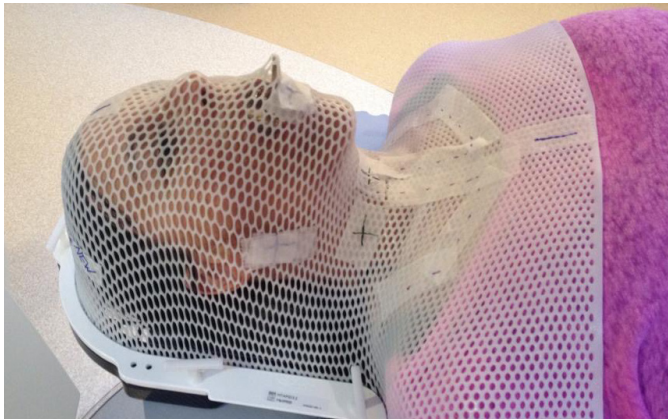
continues to provide the resources that empower our clients to live life fully throughout their head and neck cancer treatment and recovery journeys. Thank you.

We are proud to bring "MASKS for AID: Interrupted" into your home tonight. Reimagining our immersive, in-person event so it could be presented on your screen was an interruption to many years of gathering together in fantastic company. However, as we join together virtually, Melinda, Rhoda and Kaden remind us that the core of MASKS for AID is simple—an artful celebration of finding beauty amidst struggle.

Tonight, we invite you to experience the transformational effect of adversity, and the stunning new courses chartered by interruption that connect us all to hope and one another.

Sincerely,
Teresa & Tom Walsh

STORY OF MASKS FOR AID



Over the past year, the term “mask” has become part of everyone’s daily vernacular. However, for head and neck cancer patients, a cloth nose and mouth cover is not what the word “mask” brings to mind. Their masks are custom-fitted, thermo-plastic encasements that immobilize a patient’s head, neck and shoulders to

ensure accurate delivery of radiation treatment—it’s a device that evokes feelings of claustrophobia, anxiety and dread.

When treatments end, patients are offered the opportunity to keep their mask. As you may imagine, many choose to never see it again. For others, their mask represents a battle well fought—it has become their armor.

When Teresa Walsh, HNC Living co-founder, finished treatment for squamous cell carcinoma in her jaw, she commissioned the transformation of her radiation mask into a sculptural masterpiece. This inspired the birth of MASKS for AID. Over the past seven years, HNC Living Foundation has artfully evolved dozens of radiation masks from dreaded cages into stunning symbols of survivorship.

Tonight, you will do more than witness the physical transformation of a patient’s radiation mask. Now—more than ever before—MASKS for AID celebrates extraordinary feats of survival, accomplished despite unexpected circumstances.

Text “HNC” to 44321 to give!

MEET KADEN



Diagnosed at 14, Kaden is a survivor of osteosarcoma. Although this type of bone cancer is rare, it is the most common cancer developed during childhood. Under expert care from The University of Kansas Health System and Children's Mercy Hospital, Kaden endured surgery to remove his cancer along with several teeth

and part of his gums. He was fitted with an obturator, which made it possible for him to eat, speak and live fully following his surgery. As Kaden matures he outgrows his device and replacements are not covered by insurance. HNC Living Foundation provided funds to purchase three new obturators for Kaden.

HNC Living Foundation planned to feature Kaden's story at last year's MASKS for AID. Because the 2020 event was canceled, his story was shared digitally. Through Kaden's performance we'll experience the art of survivorship born from the pain of his interruption.

Diagnosed at 14, Kaden is HNC Living Foundation's youngest patient served.



LISTEN CLOSELY TO HIS LYRICS TO HEAR...

How Kaden was impacted by another patient succumbing to osteosarcoma:

*All of these thoughts, can't find the answers
I'm praying to God, "Why'd I make it from cancer?"
"Why did you take her away so damn early in days?"
To her I could never compare
All of the hell that she went through
And tears on her tissues,
She always gave others her care*

*I never told her how hard all the things that she said to me hit me
I know it ain't fair*

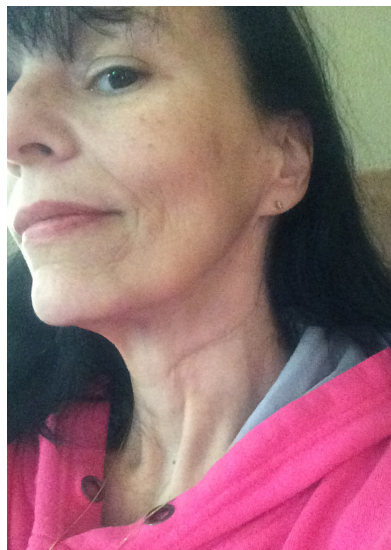
How last year's interview prompted Kaden to put his pain into words:

*Then I was given a chance to tell them my story
The goriness flooded my mind
Anxiety struck from behind
Months passed by I thought I was dying inside
But I was re-living the fight
Witnessing anything brought out the tears in my eyes
I'd rather just die*

How pain becomes healing art:

*But that doesn't mean that my life ain't a mess
But now I've found music I'm hella obsessed
Now I can open my feelings without a response
An ocean of healing came out of the pond
You know when I'm dealing with pros and no cons
I open the ceiling by making these songs*

MEET MELINDA



Melinda is a single mom and a tongue cancer survivor.

At 45 she received her devastating diagnosis of head and neck cancer. Melinda's treatment included a grueling series of two-hour radiation treatments for 45 days straight. The daily two-hour roundtrip from her home in Leavenworth to The University of Kansas

Cancer Center became too exhausting as her treatments intensified, and Melinda had to turn to her son for daily transport. Ultimately, this provided her with much-needed stability and support during her fight. Six years later, Melinda still feels the financial impact of the treatment, travel and supplements she needs to survive.

As Melinda heals, HNC Living Foundation in partnership with Delta Dental helps her procure dentures that are allowing her to get back to living fully. As you witness Melinda's story tonight, you are invited to make a gift that will change the lives of patients like her.



*“Without HNC Living,
I wouldn’t be able
to smile.”*

- HNC LIVING FOUNDATION PATIENT MELINDA

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Delta Dental of Kansas has been exceptionally generous in this unprecedented time, committing \$100,000 above their original gifts to enable HNC Living Foundation’s support of low-income Kansans through services that improve oral health before and after treatment.



Text “HNC” to 44321 to give!

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SPONSOR RECOGNITION

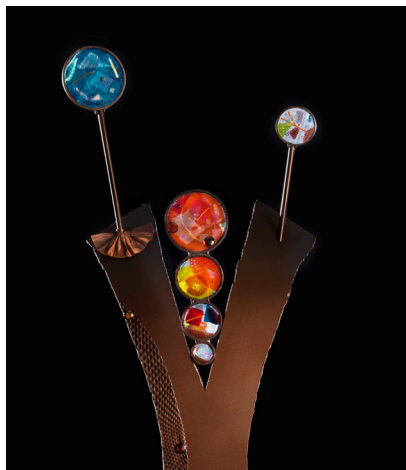
For many head and neck cancer patients, the financial challenges can seem just as overwhelming as cancer itself. Rehabilitation and regular follow-up care are critical to long-term health, yet many do not have the financial means to afford quality-of-life treatments and therapies. HNC Living Foundation's generous donors and partners make it possible to support these patients with necessary services to help them regain their lives.



The Walsh Family Foundation



STINSON



MEET RHODA

Rhoda J. Powers is an artist of all mediums, with a focus on incorporating glass into her works. Her work has been featured at MASKS for AID since its inception, but this is Rhoda's first time transforming the mask of a patient served by HNC Living Foundation. Working with Melinda, Rhoda has turned a grim reminder of painful treatments into a masterpiece of survivorship.

Above: A sampling of Rhoda's past commissions for MASKS for AID

“When you consider both the fragility and strength of glass, it feels appropriate to represent these patients with this medium.”

- EVENT ARTIST RHODA

DONATE NOW

Join a community of people who refuse to let the interruption of the past year stop our mission to minimize the financial burden head and neck cancer has on the people we serve.

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ABOUT HNC LIVING FOUNDATION

HNC Living Foundation supports head and neck cancer patients who may be underinsured, or lack the financial resources necessary to remain physically healthy and able to function during treatment and into survivorship. To date, we have provided more than \$1.6 million to directly improve the lives of people living with head and neck cancers.

EMAIL: info@hncliving.org | **PHONE:** 913-402-6028 | **WEBSITE:** hncliving.org