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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL NONPROFIT AND SWIMTEAM JOIN FORCES TO HELP FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CANCER

HOUSTON, TX– July 1, 2019* - Houston area cancer foundation, A Shelter for Cancer Families (ASCF), announces the second annual partnering with the Sienna Stingrays Swim Team. Together, they aim to take some of the “sting” out of facing cancer care in the Texas Medical Center.

Jake Phillips and his family know exactly how important the services offered by ASCF are to families making the cancer journey. At just 9 years old, Jake was diagnosed with a grade 3 cancerous brain tumor. “We had just moved to the area and didn’t know anybody here. We felt so fortunate to have support from our community when Jake was diagnosed and throughout his cancer journey,” said Jaime Phillips, Jake’s mother.

The impact made by the community was so profound that last year, the Phillips family stepped up in September to raise awareness for childhood cancer through ASCF’s Go Gold, Be the Answer to Childhood Cancer campaign. Local Fox 26 news anchor Melissa Wilson was moved by the family’s story and aired a story about their efforts.

“Does Jake look like your child? Does he look like someone you love? He could be. We all should do our part in raising awareness,” said A Shelter for Cancer Families’ founder Missy Bellinger. In fact, ASCF’s navigator and housing program grew out of Bellinger’s own personal experience. “ASCF provides precisely what I wish we had.”

Jake’s mother, Jaime Phillips, wants to do her part too. Today Phillips serves as a volunteer cancer family navigator for ASCF, serving as a guide for other families. As a navigator, Phillips attends appointments with cancer families, taking notes on everything the family learns. She is not only a second set of eyes and ears for families but she is someone who has walked in their shoes.

Supporters are encouraged to sponsor the team by donating money for every point scored or making a flat donation. If you would like to cheer for the team, please join us **Monday, July 1st at 5:00 p.m.** in Sienna Plantation at the Club Sienna Waterpark (Bucket Pool) at 9600 Scanlan Trace.

About A Shelter for Cancer Families (ASCF)

A Shelter for Cancer Families provides tangible support to families (not just patients) affected by cancer regardless of age, cancer-type, treatment status or income. All services are provided at no charge. Housing support is based on what out-of-town families affected by cancer need when seeking cancer care in the Texas Medical Center.

Navigation services (offered to both families from Houston and those from out-of-town seeking cancer care in the area) help families navigate the cancer landscape, make sense of medical jargon and explore options. ASCF values the time, dignity and privacy of each family member served and demonstrates these values in both work and program design. For more information, contact info@cancerfamilies.org or visit www.cancerfamilies.org

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