Brave Great Yarmouth girl to leap from great heights to raise money for underfunded cancer

Friday 24 January, 2014

Jackiie O'Neill from Great Yarmouth will jump from over 10,000 feet doing a tandem sky dive on 2nd June at Beccles Heliport in Suffolk for Pancreatic Cancer Action.

Jackiie hopes to raise vital funds by taking on this daring experience: "I am very nervous about the skydive but desperate to raise funds for a cause close to my heart. Sadly, my lovely dad was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer in September 2013. It came as a great shock as not long before he was diagnosed, he had had a full medical and was told he was fit and healthy. I guess he may have ignored some of the symptoms as a result and didn't go back to the doctor until he was in a great deal of pain.

"Everyone knows the signs and symptoms of breast cancer and testicular cancer because it's talked about often but hardly anyone talks about this disease," says Jackiie. "What is particular shocking is that it is the fifth biggest cancer killer in the UK and receives only 1 per cent of funding.

"I can't even really begin to explain the emotions you go through when you find out someone you love so much has a terminal illness, but when you research the cancer and find how little awareness and funding goes into research, it is quite a wake up call."

Currently only 3% of those diagnosed with pancreatic cancer survive beyond five years. Pancreatic Cancer Action is committed to working towards earlier diagnosis of the disease so that surgery, currently the only cure, is made available to the sufferer.

Ali Stunt, founder of Pancreatic Cancer Action and a rare survivor of the disease, said: "We are delighted that Jackiie is giving up her time to support Pancreatic Cancer Action.

"As a charity, we rely on the generosity of individuals like Jackiie to help us continue our vital work. Please back Jackiie in their fundraising efforts so that we can continue research into early diagnosis and raise awareness of pancreatic cancer. Her fundraising page is http://www.justgiving.com/Jackie-Oneill1?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=tweetfeed&utm_campaign=mypages

To find out more, please visit http://pancreaticcanceraction.org/support-us/fundraise/ or call 0303 040 1770

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Pancreatic Cancer Action

T. 0303 040 1770
E. comms@panact.org
W. https://www.pancreaticcanceraction.org/

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