

Collin County based non-profit, Carson's Crusaders Foundation, is the winner of the second round of DFW's Spark Tank, receiving a \$5,000 grant with an opportunity to compete in December for the \$20,000 grand prize.

Spark Tank, created by Dallas entrepreneur Marc Sparks and former Samaritan Inn Executive Director Lynne Sipiora, is modeled after the television show Shark Tank, giving local non-profits a platform to present their cause to a 7-member philanthropist panel for a chance to be awarded with a \$5,000 grant and to then compete for a \$20,000 grant in December. Carson's Crusaders Foundation presented, together with two other area non-profits, and was chosen as the 2017 round two Spark Tank winner.

"We are so appreciative of the opportunity to present to Spark Tank and it is an incredible compliment for our Foundation to be recognized for its hard work," said Executive Director Sharon Bothelo. "This \$5,000 grant will help fund our transportation assistance program and allow families to not worry about how they are going to fill their gas tank to get their child to life saving cancer treatments."

Marc Sparks is a Dallas entrepreneur who builds portfolio companies with founding entrepreneurs from his private equity firm. Marc met Lynne Sipiora over 15 years ago and together they took a small homeless shelter, The Samaritan Inn, in Collin County from a small run down house in McKinney, Texas to a \$3 million dollar annual operation that houses and feeds over 200 people every day. Together Marc and Lynne created Spark Tank. Spark Tank is an innovative concept that asks social service executives with an entrepreneurial spirit to present us their idea that will create a social success. The idea is to significantly reap social benefits within the community by funding grants and overseeing accountability from the non-profit management.

About Carson's Crusaders Foundation

Carson's Crusaders Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports families affected by solid tumor pediatric cancer. The Foundation was established in 2011 by the Richardson family in honor of their son Carson. Carson was diagnosed with hepatoblastoma in 2006 at the age of 3 and lost his battle on February 27, 2010 at the age of 7. Since its inception, Carson's Crusaders Foundation has provided transportation assistance to fund more than 13,000 trips back and forth to the hospital for cancer treatments and they have provided more than \$100,000 through their sibling support programs and events. Carson's Crusaders Foundation is the only organization in North Texas to focus specifically on sibling support for these families.

For further information you may visit our website at www.carsonscrusadersfoundation.org or via email at admin@carsonscrusadersfoundation.org