

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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YOUNG COUPLE HONORS MOTHER'S MEMORY WITH GIFT FOR CANCER RESEARCH

DALLAS – November 6, 1997 – Sharon and Keith Everett, a homemaker and immigration officer with two children and a third on the way, are giving part of a modest inheritance to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, a place with which they had no prior connection, in order to endow cancer research and to honor her mother's memory.

The couple is using \$50,000 inherited from Sharon Everett's paternal grandparents to establish the Jean Ann Plitt Cancer Research Fund. The Everetts had contributed yearly to various cancer funds, but because Sharon Everett wanted to do more for people like her mother, who died of cancer, the couple decided to establish an endowment with the Southwestern Medical Foundation, a public foundation which holds many funds in trust for UT Southwestern.

"This gives me a sense of closure," said Sharon Everett. "I finally am able to share this gift from my grandparents and do something positive. If you can make a difference, you should."

The Everetts, who live in Guam, have two children, Jeanne Ann and Savannah Lee, and are expecting a third.

"People like the Everetts, who are making a considerable personal sacrifice to help advance the cause of cancer research, are an inspiration for all of us," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. "They provide hope for the future, both for the scientists who are searching for cures and for the patients whose lives will be saved through research."

In 1985 Jean Ann Plitt was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 45. The Plitt family lived in Brownsville, and Sharon, who was in her early 20s and not yet married, accompanied her mother to each of her cancer treatments. Jean Ann Plitt died in October 1988.

Two weeks later, Sharon's paternal grandfather died of cancer. Her paternal grandmother died in January 1994, leaving Sharon a modest inheritance from both grandparents.

Sharon, who married Keith Everett shortly after her mother's death, expressed a desire to do more than make yearly donations to aid cancer funds. Her husband, a graduate of UT Austin, proposed setting up an endowment for cancer research in Jean Ann Plitt's name at UT Southwestern.

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