



Wonders & Worries

Professional support for children
through a parent's illness.

We will, together.

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PRESS RELEASE

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“Golf with a Shotgun” Raises \$225,000 for Kids with Sick Parents

9th Annual No Worries Classic Started by Mike Reynolds Returns

Buda, TX – Wonders & Worries, a nonprofit that ensures that children continue doing well in school and enjoying activities even though their parent is going through an illness, hosted its 9th annual No Worries Classic fundraiser on October 21. Returning to the **Texas Disposal System Exotic Game Ranch**, the team sporting clays event raised more than \$225,000.

Since the first shoot in 2008, the event has raised more than \$2.5 million. Wonders & Worries receives no government, federal or health insurance dollars, relying instead on the generosity of donors and events like No Worries Classic to provide free, professional support to children and teens throughout a parent's illness.

Sometimes called “golf with a shotgun,” the clay shooting tournament was founded by **Mike Reynolds of the King Ranch Family**. “When I first heard of Wonders & Worries, I wanted to help make sure that children receive the coping skills they need to thrive,” said Reynolds. “The fear, frustration and helplessness I felt as my Mom slowly died from cancer...frankly, I’m not sure I ever got over it.”

Jay Smith, founder of Every 90 Minutes, also shared his connection to the organization. In May 2014, Smith was diagnosed with ALS. He is wheelchair bound and uses a computer to speak. He and his wife, Missy, have two daughters, Peyton and Loghan, who use Wonders & Worries services.

“Living with a paralyzing disease isn't easy. The toll it takes on your kids is tremendous,” said Smith. “I think we're doing well as parents during all of this, but I don't know where we would be without Wonders & Worries. Wonders & Worries has provided support that quite frankly we wouldn't be able to afford right now. It's amazing to see how [my daughters] light up after each session. They have been able to express their emotions, talk openly about my disease, and actually grow from this experience.”

With his daughters and father looking on, Smith received a standing ovation.

Returning for their third year as honorary co-chairs for the No Worries Classic, **Denise and Jerry Conway** added: “As a cancer survivor I can imagine how scary it must be for a child to have a parent with cancer. That’s why I donate my money and my time to do all I can to spread the word and raise money.”

“I am filled with gratitude for the support our donors have provided Wonders & Worries,” said **Meredith Cooper**, Wonders & Worries’ executive director and co-founder. “Kid’s brains are still developing, and building a foundation of emotional resiliency allows them to reach their full potential. Our donors enable us to serve these children during their parent’s serious illness.”

Wonders & Worries is a unique nonprofit that was launched in 2001 to assist families with both the wonders and the worries that come along with the stress of a serious illness to a parent or primary caregiver. Its mission is to provide professional support for children ages 2-18 through a parent’s illness. Wonders & Worries services are free and offered in English and Spanish. www.wondersandworries.org

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