

UNMASQUE CANCER

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2ND ANNUAL UNMASQUE CANCER MASQUERADE BENEFIT ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS

*The Samfund for Young Adult Cancer Survivors to Honor Heroes
in Oncology Community*

BOSTON, Mass. (Mar. 21, 2017) -- The Samfund, the first and largest organization in the U.S. dedicated to helping young adults who are struggling financially because of cancer, announces the winners of its inaugural "Unmasque Awards," which will be presented at Unmasque Cancer Los Angeles on April 29, 2017. The following individuals will be honored for their significant contributions to the oncology field.

The Caregiver Award, which honors an individual dedicated to providing quality support services to individuals during and after their cancer treatment, will be presented to **Jackie Casillas, MD, MSHS**. Dr Casillas is the director of UCLA's Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Program and co-director of the UCLA-LIVESTRONG™ Survivorship Center of Excellence and co-director of the Patients and Survivors Scientific Program area at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center's (JCCC). Dr. Casillas has studied the impact of childhood cancer therapy upon young adults, and her research has provided a great deal of knowledge regarding the care of these patients and the additional burden these therapies have had upon them.

The Impact Award, which honors individuals or organizations who have helped cancer survivors manage the emotional, psychosocial, financial, or other aftereffects of cancer, will be presented to two recipients. **Lana Clay** has two masters degrees from Western University. A childhood leukemia survivor, Lana combines her own experience with her osteopathic studies and clinical work, volunteering with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and other organizations. She has a third Masters from Keck Institute and is working on completing her PhD with an eye toward eradicating cancer in her lifetime.

Aura Kuperberg, PhD has dedicated her entire life to helping teen and young adult cancer patients in Los Angeles. She has a doctoral degree in social work from the University of Southern California and founded Teen Impact at Children's Hospital Los Angeles in 1988 when she saw the need to create a special community for teens battling cancer. In 2015, Aura

relocated to the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center where she is developing a new support program for older adolescents and young adults with cancer, working with patients in the joint CHLA-USC adolescent and young adult program known as AYA@USC.

“We created the Unmasque awards to thank those who have gone above and beyond for the cancer community over the years. Their contributions as advocates and supporters of people with cancer have improved the lives of so many, and we are proud and honored to recognize them,” said Samantha Watson, Founder and CEO of The Samfund.

Unmasque Cancer is an annual masquerade ball showcasing entertainment, dancing, and a collective “unmasqueing” of all attendees to unite those who have been affected by cancer in Los Angeles and beyond. T Squared productions will produce the event pro bono, as it did for the inaugural event in 2015. The evening will feature a silent auction, cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, magicians and musicians, as well as the live awards ceremony. It will be emceed by Jesse Jensen, and include an acoustic performance by Kenli Mattus.

About The Samfund

The Samfund is a nonprofit organization that provides support to young adults who are struggling financially because of cancer. Since 2005, The Samfund has awarded over \$1.7 million in grants and provided free online support and education to young adult cancer survivors across the country. For more information, please visit <http://www.thesamfund.org>. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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