


# PERSONAL FUNDRAISING PAGE SAMPLE

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**ct challenge** **JULY 28-29**

**GOAL: \$10,000**  
100%  
75%  
50%

**Donald Cook**  
Team Captain Team SHU CT Challenge 2017  
**SUPPORT ME**



## Don Cook Riding in the 2017 CT Challenge

It's hard to imagine I am preparing for my fourth CT Challenge Bike Ride this coming summer, July 28 and 29.

I have been overwhelmed by the enormous generosity and thoughtfulness of so many. The checks and online donations have been powerful expressions of resolve in the battle against this insidious disease. The messages enclosed with the donations touched me even more. Not until I read many of those messages did it occur to me how cancer has impacted the lives of so many.

I suppose it's not until cancer hits home, and very personally, do people realize how horrible living with it can be. The outpouring of support I received from friends, as well others with whom I had only a passing acquaintance, has been overwhelming. As ironic as it seems cancer bonded me to people I had never met. The staff at the Ct Challenge especially is in this category. Jeff Keith, his administrative team and colleagues stood by me through the grief I was experiencing when

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Christopher died. I found that the simple act of talking to Jeff and the wonderful professionals who work for him about my loss and feelings has helped me take an important step to recovery.

As difficult as losing Christopher has been, and it doesn't get any easier, being surrounded by wonderful friends has softened some of the agonizing pain that comes from losing one's child. It compares to no other human experience.

For new people to the bike ride, especially those who have yet to visit this site, TEAM SHU has been dedicating its fundraising to Christopher's memory. In partnership with the CT Challenge Sacred Heart is awarding scholarships to student cancer survivors. Beginning with the spring semester of 2016 we celebrated the awarding of the **CT Challenge-Christopher Cook Scholarship** to 4 wonderful young women who are full time Sacred Heart students, Allison Clark (Ramsey, NJ), Jaime Fregeau Slatersville, RI, Haleigh Rapp (Ridgefield, CT) and Jean Cariello (Patchogue, NY). We are committed to renewing their scholarships to graduation.

We couldn't be more pleased with the selection of these 4 young women. Each has a deeply inspiring story of agonizing pain and courage in the midst of life's most difficult circumstances (see photo). Their stories offer lessons of strength for our own life's journey, no matter how difficult our personal trials might be. They are a wonderful credit to their parents' upbringing.

Christopher visited the Center frequently as he was able during the early stages of his disease. The Center's staff had a gift for helping people feel empowered to regain a healthier and happier life. As broken-hearted as we are that Christopher is no longer with us, I wanted to do something to keep his spirit alive by supporting the Center. With the continuing good will of Bobby Valentine, who each year serves as the Honorary Chair of the Bike Ride, along with loyal friends from the Athletics staff, we continue to support TEAM SHU in the fundraising effort in Christopher's memory.

I can think of no better way to celebrate my son's life.