



## CJHS student council adopts cancer research for service project

By Katherine R. Dougan

Two souls who lost their battle against cancer have inspired a year-long project to raise funds for cancer research, and the project has engaged an entire school in the fund-raising efforts.

Dodie Frazier, a Clinton Junior High School teacher and student council adviser, and CJHS Student Council President Katie Tracy started the project with an idea, and to date more than \$500 has been raised for cancer research.

Frazier's inspiration to raise funds for research came about when she began to follow native Clintonian Alana Rushing Weston's journey and battle with stage 4 breast cancer on Facebook. Weston's public videos chronicled her battle with the disease. "She put a face on cancer," Frazier said.

In a video posted in July 2018, Frazier's former Clinton High School classmate gave visitors an update about her cancer and the news she got from her doctor. She was out of options, with no more cancer-fighting drugs available to her. And she was almost out of time. Her doctor's advice:

Go make some memories. Her final video garnered record response on Facebook. In the video, Weston asks not for cancer awareness, but pleads for research funds to fight the disease. She died a month later.

After watching Weston's final video, Frazier knew she had to do something to make a difference. She decided to bring the idea of raising funds for

and told me her father had been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer," 13-year-old Tracy explained. As Tracy helped her friend go through the journey, they became close friends. Ste-

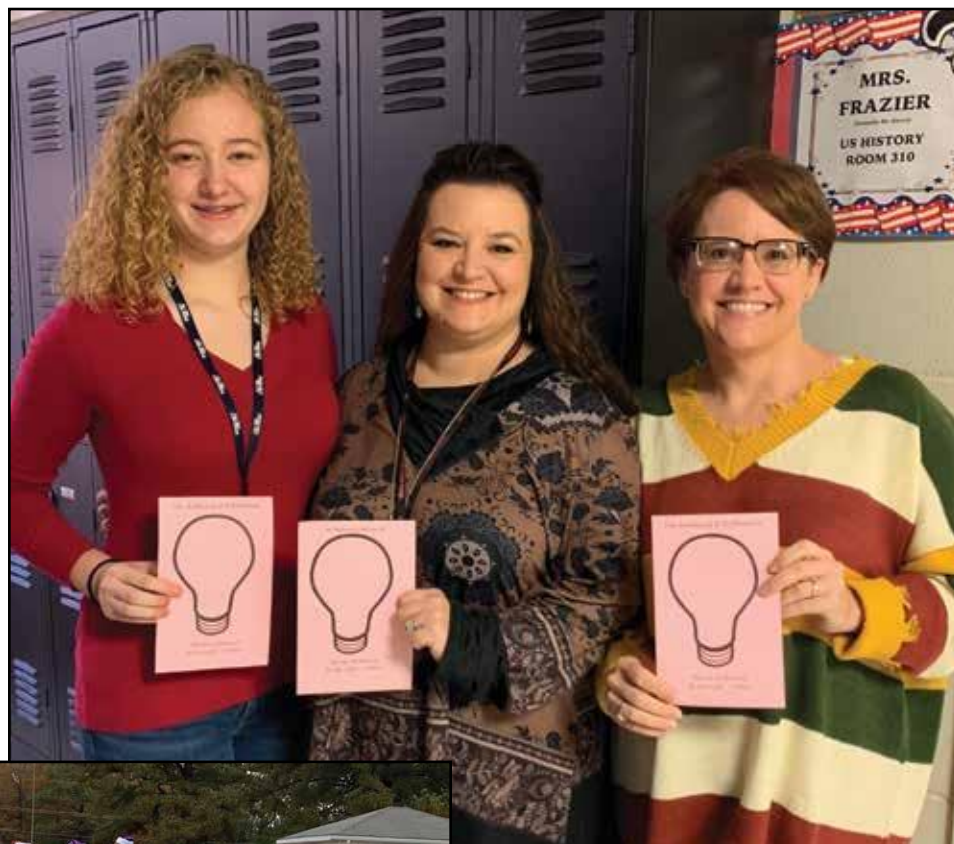
now in the eighth grade.

At the start of this school year, Frazier talked with Tracy and proposed the student council raise funds for cancer research, and Tracy was im-

### HOW YOU CAN BE THE LIGHT:

To donate money for breast cancer research, visit [www.MetaVivor.org](http://www.MetaVivor.org) and click the "DONATE" button.

To donate money for pancreatic cancer research, visit [www.PanCan.org](http://www.PanCan.org) and click the "DONATE NOW" button.



Special to The Clinton Courier

Clinton Junior High School Student Council President Katie Tracy (above left) and Student Council Sponsors Dodie Frazier (center) and Jill Penick (right) hold the paper light bulbs they are selling to the student body to raise funds for cancer research.

The Clinton Junior High School Student Council participated in the Clinton Christmas parade (left) with a goal of raising awareness to encourage community donations for cancer research.

breast cancer research to the CJHS student council as a service project. Her co-sponsor, CJHS teacher Jill Penick, was on board with the idea.

Independent of Frazier's idea, Tracy had been mulling some ideas of her own.

"When I was in third grade, my friend Alden [Stephens, of Clinton] called me

phens' father died when the two girls were in fifth grade.

"Since then, we've [Tracy and Stephens] wanted to do a big fund-raising thing." When Tracy was elected student council president at the end of last school year, she realized she was in a position to promote raising funds for cancer research. Tracy is

diately enthusiastic, explaining to Frazier that she was about to propose the same thing to her. Frazier was inspired to raise funds for breast cancer; pancreatic cancer was the disease Tracy wanted to fight.

Shortly after school started in August 2018, the full CJHS student council

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