



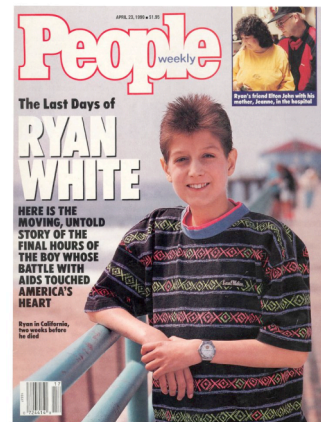
## *Golden Homecoming:* *An Evening* *with Greg Louganis* *and Jeanne White-Grinder*

Date: July 6, 2009

Dear Friend,

On Sunday evening, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009, a fundraiser for four local not-for-profit organizations will remember and celebrate the legacies of two cultural icons, Greg Louganis and Ryan White. Please join us at the International Swimming Hall of Fame, in Fort Lauderdale, for an evening with Greg and Ryan's mother, Jeanne White-Grinder, as we preview a new exhibit that will recall and keep alive events that changed America. As an attendee, you will also be invited to the "invitation only" public opening of the exhibit, on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, featuring Master of Ceremonies Tony Segreto, Greg Louganis, Jeanne White-Grinder, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Broward County Vice-Mayor Ken Keechl and Ft. Lauderdale Mayor, Jack Seiler.

In 1984, Jeanne White-Grinder's son, Ryan White became one of the first children to develop a full-blown case of AIDS. National media focused attention on Ryan when the local school in Kokomo, Ind. refused to let him attend, fearing he would spread the disease. Ryan was determined to continue at his school and live life normally. But not many people knew the truth about AIDS and Ryan's mother quickly learned that the recently discovered disease was still largely a mystery to doctors.



"One day, Ryan told me he had just talked to God," White-Grinder recalled. "He told me I had nothing to fear. I would be taken care of."

The experience changed White-Grinder. Raised as a strict Christian, she said her homophobic views were challenged when the gay community offered to help her and her son.

After legal battles, Ryan and his mother settled with the school to have separate restrooms and disposable silverware from the cafeteria. But fellow students vandalized his locker and called him names. Restaurants threw his dishes away after he left and a bullet was even fired into his home. Ryan's courage in confronting these challenges made him a national celebrity and an inspiration for millions of people, including Olympic diving great, Greg Louganis.

Greg, who also had a difficult childhood, made an effort to meet and show his support for Ryan in 1986. The two became friends and when Greg hit his head on the diving board at the 1988 Olympic Games, it was Ryan's force of character that inspired Greg to fight through the difficult moment and go on to win the gold. As a thank you, Greg gave Ryan his 1988, 3-meter springboard diving gold medal, and dedicated his autobiography, "Breaking the Surface," to him.

Although Ryan passed away almost twenty years ago, his legacy lives on in the form of the Ryan White CARE Act, a Federal program that provides funds for people with HIV/AIDS who can't afford expensive medicines. But the Act is only funded through September of this year.

Please, help keep Ryan's legacy alive by attending our event and urging our representatives to support the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. HIV/AIDS remains a critical issue in our country and around the world and should be recognized as such.

Sincerely,

The Golden Homecoming Organizing committee

