

# Tony Banda Memorial Scholarship

Lyons Township High School, LaGrange, IL

Supported by



**Be the Fight Foundation**  
BFF for Kids to Win

[www.bffkids.org](http://www.bffkids.org)

## ***Antonio A. Banda*** **1994-2019**

Hailing from the Class of 2012, Tony was a valued individual in the Lyons Township Community. He was a two-season athlete, member of the community theater, and mentor in faith. His humor and multidimensional personality brought together peers from all walks of life. This was evident in the wake of Tony's passing after a long standing battle with neuro-endocrine cancer. Strangers became family under one commonality: the friendship of Tony Banda.



The Tony Banda Memorial Scholarship which is supported by Be the Fight Foundation (BFF) was established in 2019 to honor Tony's larger-than-life character and celebrate those who emulate his eclectic personality, infectious humor, and unwavering love of life. The scholarship is to reward an LT senior who demonstrates a multifaceted sense of community (sports, arts, academics, local service, etc.) and has in some way been affected by cancer. The scholarship will be a one-time gift amount of \$2,000 to assist in the expenses of the student's post-secondary education.

### Applicants Must:

- Be a graduating senior of Lyons Township High School
- Plan to pursue a post-secondary education at an accredited institution
- Have been in some way affected by cancer (personally, a family member or friend)
- Have been an active part of the Lyons Township/surrounding communities
- Have two recommendations (one must be from an LT academic teacher and the other can be from another LT academic teacher or LT athletic coach or community/school service sponsor)
- Complete the attached application including two separate essays and include their unofficial transcript from Infinite Campus

### Special Consideration Given To (but does not solely determine choice):

- Those pursuing a degree in Engineering
- Those with demonstrated leadership
- Those who went to Pleasantdale Elementary and Middle Schools

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Please email or drop off your completed application and unofficial transcript from Infinite Campus to [info@bffkids.org](mailto:info@bffkids.org) or Be the Fight Foundation – 7023 Willow Springs Road, Suite 103, Countryside, IL 60525  
**by March 12, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Future Institution of Education: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE ATTACH TWO SHORT ESSAYS FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Please explain in detail how cancer has affected your life (must be between 300 and 500 words)
2. Please explain how you perceive the importance of community involvement, how your personality has affected others and what you would want to be remembered for during your years at LTHS (must be between 200 and 300 words)

**INVOLVEMENT IN LYONS TOWNSHIP EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:**  
(attach separate sheet if extra space is needed)

Activity	Role
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**INVOLVEMENT IN GREATER LOCAL COMMUNITY:**  
(attach separate sheet if extra space is needed)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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*Confidential Recommendation*

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I. What three words would you use to describe this student?

II. Please give specific examples of how this student is an asset to their community

III. Any additional comments or examples on why you believe this student emulates Tony's humorous, supportive, and multidimensional personality

Signature of Recommender \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email or phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email or phone number: \_\_\_\_\_



# Be the Fight Foundation

## BFF for Kids to Win

### **Everyone needs a BFF!**

Cancer is sadly a word we hear all too often and what makes it even worse is that it is all too common to many children and young adults. Everyone knows someone who has battled this disease and the toll it takes on his or her family.

After losing a wonderful man to the disease, we decided to do everything we could to help improve the lives of kids and young adults during and after cancer treatment along with their families. We want nothing more than to ease burdens, give them something to smile about and share more love than they ever thought possible. BFF believes that everyone can make a difference in someone else's life no matter how small the help may seem.

*Our Statement of Purpose: Be the Fight Foundation was created to raise funds to help kids and their families fight cancer by giving them the support that is needed during and after treatment. By working with the kids, their families and the facilities where they receive treatment, we can provide them with invaluable support so they can give their best fight possible against cancer.*

Bruce (Class of 1989) and Beth Schwartz are the founders of BFF and their daughter Cassidy (Class of 2017) and son Garrett (Class of 2021) are 4<sup>th</sup> generation LT graduates. Be the Fight Foundation is a 501(c)(3) and was started in honor of Bruce (Beau) Schwartz (Class of 1969) after he lost a very short battle with cancer in 2014. He was one of a kind and made a difference in so many lives. The entire Beau Schwartz Family and the BFF Executive Board are so proud to help honor Tony Banda who was another one of a kind man and his amazing family with this memorial scholarship at LT. Together, we want nothing more than to support our local community along with giving critical help to a large surrounding area of pediatric cancer patients.

Please consider helping Be the Fight Foundation (BFF) give kids and their families the best fight possible against pediatric cancer! Go to [www.bffkids.org](http://www.bffkids.org) to learn more about us, attend one of our events or simply just donate. Thank you!