



Bollywood Dance Troupe.

CANCER RESEARCH GETS A BOOST FROM BOLLYWOOD BENEFIT

Disha is that light of hope at the end of the tunnel.

The word Disha means "direction to hope" and it is this philosophy that spurred Tara Chandramouli and her committee to hold an inaugural dinner dance in early August to raise funds for cancer research.

The "Bollywood" themed dinner dance was an extravaganza of Indian culture. More than 300 guests were entertained by a professional Bollywood dance troupe, Indian music and fundraising auctions.

Event organiser Tara Chandramouli said the support from the community was overwhelming. "We had to turn people away because the venue was sold out," she said.

"Our friend Zahid was diagnosed with leukaemia in May 1997, which was a turning point in all of our lives because someone close to us had been affected. Eight years later,

my brother Boney was diagnosed with lung cancer in May 2005 – the same day as Kylie Minogue, he laughingly reminds us.

"We hope that we can blaze a trail called "disha" and raise awareness to do something worthwhile for the community," Tara said.

Thanks to strong community support, the group raised more than \$20,000 for cancer research at The Alfred and Royal Melbourne hospitals.



Event organiser Tara Chandramouli (Centre) pictured with her sister, sister-in-law and brother Boney.

Banding together

Hosted by music guru Brian Nankervis, the first annual "Plug in to Life Support" event showcased some of Melbourne's finest musical talent including Angie Hart and local Melbourne bands Even, The Suits, Gersey and The Guttersnipes.

The band night, which raised more than \$10,000 for trauma and burns services at The Alfred, was organised by Alfred supporters Gabby Sheehan, Jamie Strachan and Ben Turner.

"Having been the victim of a life-threatening accident myself, I know first hand the quality of care the Alfred provides and just how important their continued work and research is," Ben said.

"I've got some friends in the music business, so I thought it would be good to draw on those contacts to raise funds for, and awareness of, the work being done at The Alfred."

"We hope that the event continues to gain support and becomes a permanent fixture on the Life Support calendar."

Life Support is a group of young professionals supporting trauma and burns services at The Alfred. For information on Life Support and their upcoming events, including the glamorous "Golden Hour Ball" please visit their website at www.lifesupport.org.au or contact The Alfred Foundation on ph: 1800 888 878.



Ben Turner