



VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 2 • SUMMER 2018

# Enriching Lives

A Publication of the Cris Collinsworth ProScan Fund

## PINK RIBBON LUNCHEON

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

PRESENTING SPONSORS:

HCS Foundation &  
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The 2018 QCC  
Chess Tournament



American Wins  
Right to Play in Chess  
World Championship



2018 Pink Ribbon  
Luncheon:  
Pink is *Crazy Beautiful*



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STARRING  
**Andy  
Grammer**



## QCC Player Checkmates Illness



**ABOVE:** Chris Cunningham (far left) and the Mars Hill Academy team smile for a team trophy photo.

In 2017, Chris Cunningham, 9th grade chess player at Mars Hill Academy, was diagnosed with severe bacterial meningitis. This led to an emergency surgery in which doctors removed a large section of his skull. When the infection was still present three weeks later, Chris had to undergo another brain surgery.

"He spent one month in the hospital," recalls his mother, Lisa Cunningham. "When he returned home, he continued with a heavy regimen of antibiotics and wore a helmet for three months until it was time to replace his skull bone."

While in the hospital, Chris found that the game of chess gave him the strength to fight his illness.

"Chess was a motivator when my coach

visited me in the hospital," Chris says.

The game is helping him overcome many challenges he faces during what is expected to be at least two years of recovery time.

"He still suffers from tics and carries an emergency bag for possible seizures," Mrs. Cunningham notes. "He continues to work on social skills, tic management, and executive functioning skills."

The 17th Annual Queen City Classic Chess Tournament on March 3rd, marked one year into Chris's recovery. Chris competed in the tournament, where he placed fourth in his section and helped his team finish first overall in the 7-9 non-rated section! His success at the tournament was only the beginning. How long does Chris plan to play chess?

"Forever," he says. "You can keep learning new strategies no matter what level skill you have."

"It has helped his mind to regain some lost ground due to the brain injury," his mom adds. "It also helps him to communicate with other people in a non-threatening environment."

Through his strength, determination, and passion for the game, Chris personifies the empowerment that stems from playing chess.

Congratulations, Chris and the Mars Hill Academy team, on your success at this year's Queen City Classic! ■



**TOP RIGHT:** Cris Collinsworth recognizes Jeff Ruby as the 2018 Shining Knight Award recipient  
**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Shauna McDowell, principal of Pleasant Hill Academy, shares how chess has impacted students at her school.





## 17th Annual Pink Ribbon Luncheon: Pink is *Crazy Beautiful!*

Wednesday, October 3rd will mark the 17th Annual Pink Ribbon Luncheon! With multi-platinum pop artist Andy Grammer as the star of the show, it's sure to be another year for the books. Grammer will bring his catchy, uplifting music to the luncheon. His debut album featured the platinum singles "Keep Your Head Up" and "Fine by Me." His second album featured triple platinum hit "Honey, I'm Good," which was one of the bestselling songs of 2015.

Andy's third full length album, *The Good Parts*, was released December 1, 2017. The record includes his global smash hit single "Fresh Eyes," which has become a streaming phenomenon with over 300 million total streams, the catchy summer jam featuring LunchMoney Lewis, "Give Love," as well as his latest hit single "Smoke Clears. You won't want to miss this year's Pink Ribbon Luncheon!

*For information on Sponsorships or Hostess tables, visit [www.ccpf.org](http://www.ccpf.org) ■*



**ABOVE:** During the 2017 Pink Ribbon Luncheon on Wednesday, October 18, the Duke Energy Convention Center was transformed into the Pink Ribbon Comedy Club, where guests enjoyed lunch and laughs with stand-up comedian Tom Papa.

## American Wins Right to Play in World Chess Championship



Fabiano Caruana, an American chess player, is currently the third highest rated chess player in the world. In March of 2018, Fabiano won the Candidates Tournament in Berlin, Germany, giving him the opportunity to play in the World Chess Championship in November 2018. If he wins, Fabiano will become the second American in history to hold the title World Chess Champion. The first being Bobby Fischer in 1972. ■



18<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Queen City  
CLASSIC  
Chess Tournament**

**March 15-16, 2019**



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