



Providing Kids with Leukemia a Room  
to Grow and a Chance to Survive



Founded in Loving Memory of  
Anthony J. "Tony" Nata III  
May 11, 1999 - June 19, 2007

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## Courageous little boy from Slidell, LA inspires New National Foundation to Build "Clean Rooms" in the homes of children with Leukemia

**First Annual Tony Nata Fishing Rodeo to bring hundreds of anglers of all ages  
to "The Dock" in Slidell on Saturday June 21 and Sunday June 22**

*Proceeds of Fishing Rodeo to benefit Tony's Room Foundation*

**SLIDELL, LOUISIANA and NEW YORK, NY – JUNE 19, 2008** – When little Tony Nata III passed away at age 8 one year ago today after a courageous 4-year battle against Leukemia, he left behind a giant hole in the hearts of his family, friends, and hundreds of people across the United States who had the honor and privilege of helping to rebuild Tony's home after it was flooded in Hurricane Katrina. This weekend, those same people are gathering in Slidell, Louisiana for a very special fishing rodeo to honor Tony's memory and to officially launch the **Tony's Room Foundation** which is already busy at work building "clean room" environments in the homes of other kids around the country also battling Leukemia.

*"Tony embodied such a beautiful spirit and such a strong will to live life to the fullest,"* said his parents Robin and Tony Nata Jr. of Slidell. *"Tony was passionate about fishing and this fishing rodeo is the perfect way to capture the spirit of what he loved the most while helping to build hope for other families going through what we experienced with little Tony."*

### **A New National Foundation to honor Tony Nata III**

Tony's Room Foundation is a 100% volunteer-based non-profit initiative which seeks to bring leading construction companies and children's hospitals together nationwide in order to help families whose children are battling Leukemia by building "clean-room" environments within the family home. A "Tony's Room" can be as elaborate as a fully contained addition onto the existing family home where the child battling Leukemia can have a separate and comfortable bedroom and bathroom facilities to relax in and enjoy while recovering from treatments for Leukemia in an immuno-suppressed condition. A "Tony's Room" can also be as simple as working within the construct of the existing family home by remodeling the child's bedroom to replace materials that might collect germs and bacteria (like carpet and upholstery) and adding air filtration systems to the home's existing heating and ventilation system.

In either set up, the goal of Tony's Room is to provide the family a complete home environment where their child can focus on his or her recovery in as comfortable and as germ-free a living space as possible, surrounded by the love of family, friends, and care-givers.

### **The First "Tony's Room" for Kevin H. in Dallas, Texas -- New Orleans, LA and Jackson, MS next**

The Foundation has already started the process of building the first "Tony's Room" for an 11-year-old boy in Dallas named Kevin who was recently diagnosed with T-Cell Leukemia. Tony's Room Foundation has been working closely with Medical City Children's Hospital and Rogers-O'Brien Construction to install an air-filtration system into Kevin's home to provide as germ-free an environment as possible. Tony's Room Foundation also has plans to help the family take down a mold-infested addition on the family home and replace it with a clean and comfortable room where Kevin can recuperate from his ongoing chemotherapy treatments.

While the Foundation's goal is to start small and build one Tony's Room per year as funds and volunteer capacity allows, Tony's Room plans to establish its next affiliate in the New Orleans area to help benefit a local child being treated at New Orleans Children's Hospital where Tony received care. Local construction companies interested in helping out are encouraged to contact Tony's Room Foundation through the website at [www.TonysRoom.org](http://www.TonysRoom.org) to be part of this special community effort to help children battling Leukemia. Planning has also started to establish a Tony's Room affiliate in Jackson, Miss. and it is being spearheaded by some wonderful volunteers who rebuilt Tony's home following Hurricane Katrina and who see this as their way to help other children while keeping the legacy of Tony Nata alive.

### **The First Annual Tony Nata Speckled Trout Fishing Rodeo -- Saturday June 21 & Sunday June 22 at "The Dock" in Slidell**

To kick off the Foundation, Tony's family and friends have been working tirelessly with the St. Tammany Fire Dept. and Local 2455 of the International Association of Fire Firefighters in Slidell to organize what will be one of Southeastern Louisiana's premiere Fishing Rodeos. Hundreds of anglers of all ages are expected to turn out for this community-wide event which will include prizes for Adult and Junior divisions, food, music and fun for the whole family. Weigh-in will be held at The Dock in Slidell from 3PM to 5PM on Saturday June 21. On Sunday June 22, launch at The Dock starts at 6AM with weigh-in from 10AM to 2PM and Awards at 4PM and entertainment throughout the day. Families and children are encouraged to attend and 100% of the net proceeds from the Fishing Rodeo will go to support Tony's Room Foundation in its effort to help build "clean rooms" for children battling Leukemia.

The First Annual Tony Nata Speckled Trout Fishing Rodeo has received tremendous support from the local community including all our initial sponsors: The Dock, Coastal Waste Services, E.C.O. Builders, Lakeshore Chrysler\*Dodge\*Jeep, The Landing, Northlake Marine, Tymeless Flooring & Cabinets, Sal & Judy's, Southside Café, Marsh & Bayou.com and many others. PRE- REGISTRATION FOR THE FISHING RODEO IS AT [www.TonysRoom.org](http://www.TonysRoom.org) OR AT ANY SLIDELL FIRE STATION.

#### **Contact Information:**

For more info on The Fishing Rodeo June 21-22 in Slidell, contact **Erik Kreppein**, St. Tammany Fire District #1 at **985-788-6294**.

For more info about the Foundation, please contact **Jeff Parness**, Founder, Tony's Room Foundation at **917-806-8061**

**To Donate or learn more about Tony's Room Foundation Please visit [www.TonysRoom.org](http://www.TonysRoom.org)**