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Core Argument: If you want the future generation to have a chance of living in a cancer free funcworld, you should donate to the American Cancer Society.

OPENING

Thank you all for allowing me to speak after the service. I promise I will let you out with plenty of time to spare for lunch. I am here to talk about a program that the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center is running. They will match dollar for dollar to any group that can raise at least \$500 to donate to the American Cancer Society.

I just joined this church last week. For those of you whom I haven't met yet, my name is Curtis Lan. I am a mourner.

You see, I have never believed in things like faith, hope, and dreams. That is, until my mother died of pancreatic cancer. Now I am a mourner.

For a while, I hated everybody. I hated everything. I hated the world. I locked myself in my bedroom, I locked myself in the bathroom, and I locked myself into the deepest parts of my mind. I mourned the loss of the one person who yelled at me to pick up my clothes, who didn't let me play until I finished my homework, who never let me stay out past 10 pm. I mourned the loss of the one person who saved me the best pieces of pork during dinner, who used her vacation days to take care of me when I was sick, who held me close when I was heartbroken. I mourned the loss of my mom.

I could stand here and recite facts about cancer to try and compel you to donate to the American Cancer Society. I could tell you that 570,000 people die from cancer each year in the United States. I could tell you that 1500 people will die from cancer tomorrow in the United States alone. I could tell you that cancer is the second leading cause of death, right behind heart disease.

But I think I will try something more effective.

Think of a world where your mother, father, brother, sister, and friends are alive. Think of a world where your kids do not have to worry about losing anybody to cancer. Think of a world where tomorrow 1500 people do not have to die of cancer and 1500 families are rejoicing.

This speech is a tribute for all of you who have been affected in some way by cancer, death, or devastating disease. For all of you who had a mother or father, for all of you that had a brother or sister, for all of you who had a best friend but don't anymore. This is for you.

This speech is for the people who are hurting from a terrible loss, a loss that causes them to spend hours upon hours crying, missing, and thinking about the person that they will never, ever get a chance to talk to again. For the people who wake up in terrible emotional pain

because they had a dream about the person they lost, only to wake up and remember that they will never see that person again. For the people who will not have that special person in the audience as they receive their diploma, or at their wedding, or at the hospital when their first baby is born. For the people who can never have the same meaning on a traditional Friday family fun night, a Thanksgiving dinner, and a Christmas family gathering will never be the same, because that special person is not there, and never will be.

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This speech is for the people who want to stop this suffering and give our future a chance of not knowing the extreme emotional pain that comes with losing a family member or friend. This is a great opportunity offered to us by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, to aid grieving families as well as the 1500 families that unfortunately, will be grieving within a year. We can double our donation if just 20 of us donate \$25 each. A \$25 donation will become \$50, a \$35 donation will become \$70. Every little bit helps.

And for those of you that don't like paying taxes to the government (who likes paying the government?), all donations to the ACS are tax deductible. If you have to pay money, it better not go to the government, since it could finance the salary of the police officer who gives you your next ticket.

Now, you may ask "How can my \$25 donation help cure cancer? Even if we hit the \$500 mark, how can \$1000 help cure cancer? People have already donated millions!" And I agree. \$1000 might buy some needles, petri dishes, or 1/50th of a high powered microscope, but it won't be enough to finance the discovery of a cure.

But the \$1000 represents something. Do you know what the \$1000 represents? It represents faith in our scientists to find a cure, hope that the future will be cancer free, and a dream that one day, the world will be forever rid of cancer.

Let me tell you a story about how small change can change the world. It's about President Roosevelt. Do you know why the dime has President Roosevelt's face on it? It's because of his efforts in founding the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, more commonly known as the March of Dimes. President Roosevelt originally created the foundation to raise money for polio research by urging citizens to send a dime to the foundation. Now there is a cure for polio. You see, the money from any one person may not have a large impact, but the money from a great nation with a unified vision can achieve spectacular things.

Stories like that have turned me into a believer of things like faith, hope, and dreams. Let us start financing the cure for cancer here. Let us take advantage of the offer made by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Let us give our children a chance to be free of cancer.

I will pass around information on where to send your checks. Thank you for your time, and I wish you a good day.