

WHAT'S GOING ON? HEROES, CAUSES AND NEWS OF YOUR WORLD

Heroes of the Katrina zone

Exactly two years after the massive hurricane wrecked the Gulf Coast, these women are helping rebuild shattered lives. Inspiring!



Karen DeSalvo, M.D., 42
New Orleans

When Katrina shut down Charity Hospital, which provided health care to the poor, DeSalvo started a free clinic. "People stumble in with heart attacks and seizures," she says. "They're starving for services."



Evelina Shmukler, 30
Pass Christian, Miss.

The devastation drew Shmukler to Pass Christian as a volunteer, but this former Atlanta-based reporter found that the town lacked a newspaper of its own—so she started one. She says, "It helps the town feel like a community again."

Tracie L. Washington, 43
New Orleans

As New Orleanians scattered across the country in the wake of the storm, Washington worried they'd be denied a say in the rebuilding process. So she fought to get absentee voting rights for the displaced and also founded the Louisiana Justice Institute to find housing for returnees. "People are *desperate* to come home," she says.



Colette Pichon Battle, 32
Slidell, La.

Post-Katrina, Pichon Battle moved home from Washington, D.C., and cofounded Moving Forward Gulf Coast to help residents get housing aid. "This is my way to repay the people who put me through law school with fish-dinner fund-raisers," she says.



Christine Carroll, 30
New Orleans, pictured at right with a local resident

As a chef in New York City, Carroll fell in love with po'boys and pralines on a visit to New Orleans last fall. That inspired her to start the Culinary Corps., a group that sends 15 chefs there four times a year to make meals for struggling residents and construction workers. "Cooks are an ornery bunch, but we're happy to shred cabbage 14 hours straight to help people down here," she says.

WASHINGTON AND DESALVO: CHRIS GRANGER/POLARIS IMAGES; SHMUKLER: RON DALEY

—REBECCA WEBBER AND ANNETTE FOGLINO

Crazy, sexy... cancer?

It's quite the feat to laugh in the face of a deadly disease, but that's what Kris Carr—the woman behind the new documentary *Crazy Sexy Cancer*—does every day. She sat down for some soul-searching and black humor with *Glamour* staffer and leukemia patient Erin Zammett Ruddy.



My coolest, craziest cancer pal, Kris Carr, left

In 2001 Erin Zammett Ruddy, now 29, was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), a cancer that until recently proved fatal for many patients. For five years, she's chronicled her experiences in these pages. Now she's in remission, very pregnant and eager to give props to a woman who keeps her going.

As you read this, I may have already had my baby; the little guy is due to arrive any day now! I could easily fill this column with all the ups and downs of my last trimester. The ups: Number one, my cancer miraculously hasn't returned, even though I've been off Gleevec—the drug that put me into remission—for seven months. I also loved my pre-parenthood “babymoon” in the Bahamas, the guiltless ice-cream eating and nightly foot rubs from my husband, Nick. The downs: stretch marks, heartburn, people telling me I look like I'm “ready to pop.”

But enough about me. There's someone I really want you to meet: Kris Carr, one of my favorite fellow cancer survivors, whose autobiographical documentary, *Crazy Sexy Cancer*, airs August 29 on The Learning Channel. We met three years ago through Kris' cousin Suzanne, *Glamour's* photo director. Kris, who's 36, has epithelioid hemangiioendothelioma (EHE), an extremely rare vascu-

“Like my cancer, hers struck out of the blue.”

lar cancer that's invaded her lungs and liver. Like my cancer, hers struck out of the blue: Four years ago she was coming out of a yoga class and felt a searing pain in her side. Unlike me, though, there is no proven treatment or cure for Kris. And doctors can't say how long she has to live.

Kris' disease is slow moving, but she wasn't going to wait around for the worst. She went looking for a cancer specialist, and told everyone she was treating it as if she were hiring someone for a Fortune 500 company—“Save My Ass Technologies, Inc.,” she called it. Can you see why I love her? She also sold her apartment in New York City and hit the road to educate herself on alternative healing. As she traveled the country and met with nutritionists, researchers and spiritual gurus, Kris, a photographer and former actress (she's done Budweiser Super Bowl spots), documented everything with her video camera. She also interviewed other cancer patients she met along the way, which is how I got to be in the film along with my sister, Melissa, who is still in remission from Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Now Kris has finished her movie *and* a book, *Crazy Sexy Cancer Tips* (a nitty-gritty guide to facing cancer head-on—Sheryl Crow wrote the foreword!), so she had plenty of time to catch up with me. *(continued on page 287)*