

Livestrong Celebration with Charlie Mars

By [Michael Barnes](#) | Sunday, April 18, 2010, 05:15 PM

So it wasn't just me. Every time I've come into contact with Livestrong and the Lance Armstrong Foundation, I've felt their anti-cancer efforts were on par with the Austin athlete's efforts atop his bike. Winning is the only option.



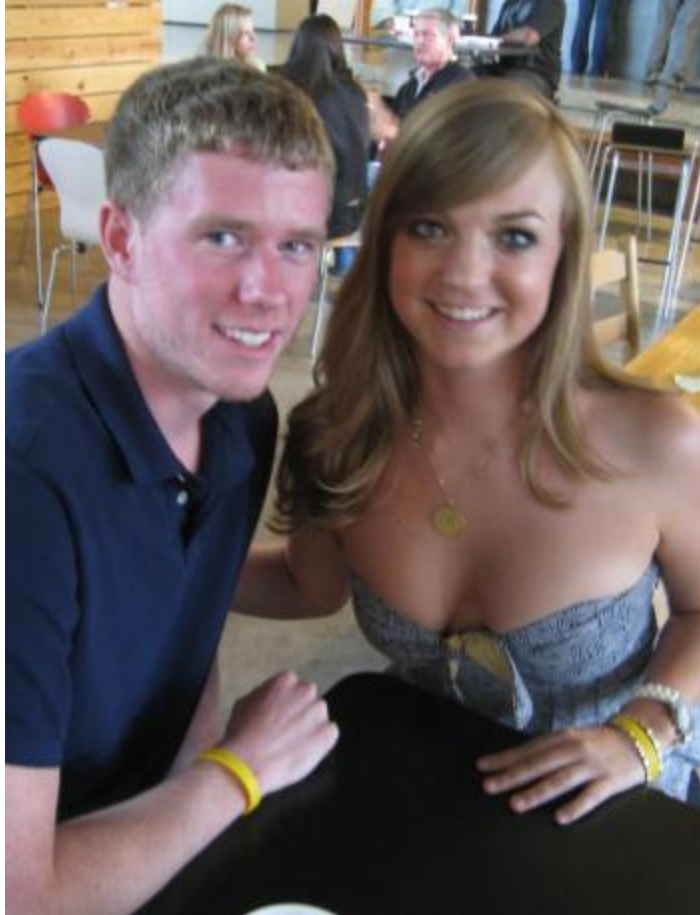
Charlie Mars and Lance Armstrong

Friday, the foundation celebrated two more victories: Recognition as one of the best places to work by both Outside Magazine and The NonProfit Times. These kinds of awards are derived from unsigned surveys about everything from governance to benefits. Also, work atmosphere, aided at Livestrong on East Sixth Street by its light-kissed renovated warehouse by Lake Flato Architects and the Bommarito Group. (So much dusk light that it fooled my camera into thinking I didn't need a flash. Forgive the images that look like I took them with my iPhone instead of my Canon.)



Stephen Sweeney and Messa Adjavon

To toast its success, Livestrong threw a Friday happy hour with barbecue and a band. Not just any band. But Charlie Mars (yes, the one linked to “Weeds” actress Mary Louise Parker). See his [interview](#) with music writer Brian T. Atkinson.



Sean Patton and Randyl Mauldin

I stayed long enough to hear a few bands, meet Mars and say hello to Armstrong himself. In case you are wondering, I know the seven-time Tour de France winner only insomuch as I talked to him on the phone. Once. And we've shared maybe 10 sentences in person. But why pass up a chance to welcome him back to his chosen hometown?



Israel Soto and Denise Burley

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