

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer  
Hosts Its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Dream Makers Gala In Memory of Debbie Zelman**

*DDF Celebrates its 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Helping Patients and Funding Research*

**Fort Lauderdale, Florida – (March 8, 2018)** – Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF) will host its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Dream Makers Gala on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at The Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, Florida beginning at 7 p.m. This year's Gala will honor the memory of DDF's Founder Debbie Zelman who passed away on December 23, 2017 after nearly a decade of battling stage IV incurable stomach cancer. Zelman, who made it her personal mission to advocate on behalf of stomach cancer patients, their families, and caregivers and to help raise funds for stomach cancer research will be remembered throughout the night as guests from across the United States gather for the evening to help make her dream of finding a cure a reality.

The night will feature a cocktail hour and a terrific silent auction followed by a delicious dinner, award, presentation, live auction, dancing, and tasty dessert. The theme for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual event is "Dressed to the Nines" and will be emphasized through the event décor and the attire of the wonderful guests in attendance. This year's MC is Lisa Petrillo, Entertainment and Lifestyle Reporter for WFOR, CBS4. Entertainment will be provided by Dale McLean of DaleTheHost.com and host of the Miami Heat's HEATv.

DDF Board Members David Kubiliun of Greenspoon Marder and Stephen Greenberger of Broward County Sheriff's Office return as co-chairs of this year's event. "Chairing this year's Gala has special significance for me because we also honor the memory of our founder and my friend, Debbie Zelman," said Kubiliun, who is leading the event for the fifth consecutive year. "I am proud to continue Debbie's extraordinary efforts on behalf of stomach cancer patients and their families. I will never forget her legacy of courage, positivity, and tireless devotion to this foundation."

Event sponsors include Title Sponsor The Salah Foundation; Diamond Sponsor Lilly Oncology; Emerald Sponsors Andrew Guttman and family, Envision Physician Services, and Ross and Liz Tannenbaum; and Ruby Sponsors Laura and Judd Zebersky. This year's award recipients are Noreen Salah Burpee and George J. Taylor, Esq. of The Salah Foundation; Janet Carrington and Charles Collins; Rosa and Rick Gross; Kristi Krueger of ABC Local 10; Daniel Catenacci, MD at the University of Chicago; and Daniela Schwartz of Cypress Bay High School.

Tickets are available for \$200 each or \$1,900 for a table of ten (10) guests. Sponsorship opportunities are available and program book ads/tributes and donated auction items will be

**(More)**

appreciated. For more information, to purchase tickets, become a sponsor, place an ad/tribute, or donate an auction item, please contact us at [Events@DebbiesDream.org](mailto:Events@DebbiesDream.org) or (954) 475-1200.

### **About Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer**

Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about gastric cancer, advancing funding for research, and providing education and support internationally to patients, families, and caregivers. Debbie's Dream Foundation seeks as its ultimate goal to make the cure for stomach cancer a reality.

DDF was founded in 2009 by Debbie Zelman after she was diagnosed with stage IV incurable gastric cancer in 2008 and given only weeks to live. Debbie is considered a pioneer by many for bringing awareness to the plight of stomach cancer patients worldwide, and the lack of federal funding for stomach cancer research. She did all of this while receiving hundreds of rounds of chemo, in addition to daily oral treatments. Debbie passed away on December 23, 2017 at the age of 50, almost a decade later. As a result of her leadership, DDF now has a Scientific and Medical Advisory Board of world-renowned doctors and chapters throughout the United States and in Canada and Germany. DDF strives to continue Debbie's mission to make her dream come true. To learn more about DDF, please visit us at [www.DebbiesDream.org](http://www.DebbiesDream.org).



**Photo One (l to r):** Gala Co-Chair Stephen Greenberger, DDF Founder Debbie Zelman, and Co-Chair David Kubiliun at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Dream Makers Gala

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