



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Hosted Its 7th Annual Stomach Cancer
Capitol Hill Advocacy Day**

*Advocates gathered on Capitol Hill to urge Congress to increase research resources
in the fight against stomach cancer.*

Washington, D.C. – (February 28, 2019) – Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF) held its 7th Annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. on February 25-26, 2019. The event allows advocates to meet with congressional lawmakers to share their personal stories and relay the latest statistics and facts about stomach cancer. Each year, advocates ask that stomach cancer remain eligible for funding through the Department of Defense's Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program. Funding increases for the National Cancer Institute and investment in stomach cancer research is also a top priority.

DDF presented Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, of California's 18th Congressional District, with the Congressional Champion Award in recognition of her commitment to reducing death and suffering from stomach cancer and other recalcitrant cancers that have a five-year survival rate of less than 50 percent and through the launch and continued leadership of the Deadliest Cancers Caucus.

"It is always an honor to be granted the opportunity to meet with lawmakers who are genuinely interested and committed to funding stomach cancer research," said DDF Executive Director Andrea Eidelman. "We've been fortunate to have had past support from congressional leaders such as U.S. Representative Lois Frankel and former Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. This year, we are looking forward to building new relationships and strengthening others to ensure our mission gets included in the conversation."

DDF was honored to have the support of fellow stomach cancer organization No Stomach For Cancer as a Platinum Sponsor. This support allowed DDF to provide scholarships to patients and caregivers that allowed them to travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in this year's Advocacy Day.

Also, DDF's California Monterey Chapter Co-Founder Branny Carrasco was presented the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award for her incredible devotion to the fight against stomach cancer.

To learn more about DDF and our Advocacy efforts, visit <https://debbiesdream.org/advocacy/>, call 954-475-1200, or email Events@DebbiesDream.org.

About 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. DDF seeks as its ultimate goal to make the cure for stomach cancer a reality.

(More)

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 achieved all of this while receiving hundreds of rounds of chemotherapy 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, comprised of world-renowned physicians, and chapters throughout the United States and in Canada and Germany. DDF strives to continue Debbie's mission and make her dream come true. To learn more about DDF, please visit us at www.DebbiesDream.org.



Photo One: (l to r) DDF Board member and North Carolina Chapter Leader Christy Leonard applauding as Congress woman Anna Eshoo (center) receives the Congressional Champion Award from DDF Board President Michael Ehren during the 7th Annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day in Washington D.C.



Photo Two: DDF Executive Director Andrea Eidelman with California Monterey Chapter Leader and 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award recipient Branny Carrasco.

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