

Debbie's Dream Foundation:
Curing Stomach Cancer

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Phone: 954-475-1200 || www.DebbiesDream.org



November 15, 2019

Dear Friend,

Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF) is a leading non-profit patient advocacy organization dedicated to supporting patients, families and caregivers impacted by stomach cancer internationally. Following the passing of our founder Debbie Zelman in late 2017, we suffered the loss of some of our most inspiring and tenacious patient advocates to this deadly disease in 2019.

Tony Leonard, a husband and father of five, was diagnosed with stomach cancer in 2013. Undeterred, Tony and his wife Christy co-founded DDF's North Carolina Chapter and became zealous voices for patients and caregivers nationwide. Each year thereafter, they have marched on Capitol Hill for DDF's Stomach Cancer Advocacy Day, hosted golf tournaments to raise awareness and research funding, and been some of DDF's most ardent supporters. Unfortunately, Tony passed away in January at age 46 after a six-year battle with this disease.

Branny Carrasco, a wife, mother of two young boys and U.S. Navy veteran, was diagnosed with stomach cancer in 2014 after contracting the H. pylori virus during her tenure overseas. Branny and her husband Albert also attended DDF's Advocacy Day each year to share her survivor story which was instrumental in making stomach cancer eligible for research funding through the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program given the higher incidence rates in the veteran community. Despite her valiant efforts and courageous wit, Branny passed away in September at the tender age of 37.

Stomach cancer did not stop there. As this year continued, more precious lives were lost: James McBrayer, DDF South Carolina Chapter Founder; Mark Goldstein, DDF Patient Resource Education Program mentor; Shirael Pollack, 39-year-old mother of two; Debbie Losey and Craig Siegel were all strong advocates in the stomach cancer community. These are just a few families who have lost their loved ones to stomach cancer, and unfortunately there are thousands of other families affected.

Thanks to you and the support of others who believe in our mission, DDF reached a significant milestone this year—directly funding \$1 million in stomach cancer research to date. However, despite being the third leading cause of cancer death worldwide, stomach cancer still receives the least amount of federal funding of any cancer. Make no mistake, increased research funding is the key to making our dream of finding the cure for stomach cancer a reality and we need your help.

Now is the time to get involved and to help make a difference for those who are still fighting! With your generosity, it is our goal to give the gift of hope to more patients and their families in 2020. To make your donation, please complete and return the enclosed envelope or donate on our secure website at www.DebbiesDream.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrea", is positioned above the printed name.

Andrea P. Eidelman, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer

Honoring Those Still Fighting