

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer



The Legacy Continues!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Director's Letter p. 2

Our Daughter's Legacy Lives On p. 3

Programs Overview p. 4

DDF Chapters p. 6

Advocacy p. 8

In The News Highlights p. 9

DDF Grants p. 10

Financials p. 11

Events p. 12

Ways to Get Involved p. 14

DDF Leadership p. 15

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Supporters,

Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF) understands persistence, tenacity, and the will to make things happen. Being the pioneer that she was, our late founder Debbie Zelman used her cancer diagnosis as an opportunity to help support others along their journey, and ultimately transform the landscape for those affected by this disease. She left an undeniable legacy that we continue to work hard so that we may one day achieve her dream of making the a cure for stomach cancer a reality.

Despite many challenges in 2018, we have made significant strides in our mission with the ongoing support of our devoted leadership, staff, volunteers, supporters and the stomach cancer community. Because of this support, we continue to raise awareness and research funding for stomach cancer research and provide resources, education and support to patients, families and caregivers through our Patient Resource and Education Program (PREP). We also continue to expand our reach and maintain our DDF chapters across the United States.

I am proud to say that Debbie's legacy lives on as we have awarded another \$200,000 in stomach research grants in 2018, and have continued to advocate for federal research funding through the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program. Our advocacy efforts have resulted in nearly \$18 million in federal research grants being awarded to stomach cancer researchers to date, and we are committed to gaining the support of lawmakers who can help us achieve further increased funding going forward.

DDF could not have accomplished any of this without all of your generous support for which we are deeply grateful, and we look forward to making an even greater impact for stomach cancer in the years to come. Thank you.

With sincere appreciation,

Andrea Eidelman, Esq.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OUR DAUGHTER'S LEGACY LIVES ON

Dear DDF Supporters,

Danny and I are devastated at Debbie's passing, as are all of her family, friends, fellow patients, and supporters. Still, it is important we all remember that Debbie, a true warrior, did not lose her battle with cancer. She won 365 days a year for almost a decade. Her goal was to make a difference, and she did just that. Yet there is much more to be done. We will continue to make Debbie's Dream of finding a cure for stomach cancer a reality with the same tenacity and passion she exhibited every day.



Debbie will no longer be going to Washington, D.C. with us for Stomach Cancer Advocacy Day. Nor will she be attending our board meetings, committee meetings, and events. However, she and her indomitable spirit and determination will be with us every step of the way as we derive inspiration from the courage she showed as she faced an incurable and fatal disease.

Going forward we must all work together to carry on Debbie's legacy and continue her efforts to create a strong international stomach cancer foundation in which doctors, patients, caregivers, and volunteers come together to make a difference. We are working closely with our chapters across the country and around the world to continue to develop programs, recruit volunteers, and provide support for stomach cancer patients.

The DDF international community is only going to become stronger and more formidable in 2018 and beyond. Debbie would want us to fight harder than ever to bring awareness to this deadly disease and to help people everywhere with stomach cancer, the world's #2 cancer killer. That's exactly what we are going to do.

DDF will live on not only to preserve her legacy, but also to ensure that patients faced with cancer ultimately win...and win big!

With appreciation in advance for your continuing support,

Madelyn and Danny Zelman

(DEBBIE'S PROUD PARENTS)

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

**"A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality."
- John Lennon**



Pamela Pierce, Texas
PREP Mentor since 2016



Steve Melen, California
PREP Mentor since 2017



Branny Carrasco, California
PREP Mentor since 2015

DDF offers many stomach cancer support services through our free Patient Resource Education Program. Upon receiving a stomach cancer diagnosis, patients, families, and caregivers can request a mentor. A mentor helps you understand your diagnosis, staging, treatment options, clinical trials, side effect management, research, management of the disease, and more. Mentors share their stories, tips, advice, and concerns with you so you will not be alone in your fight.

DDF has numerous in-person and online educational programs across the country annually. Monthly webinars and symposia topics cover the continuum of cancer treatment. All programs are free for patients, families, caregivers, the general public, and health care professionals. Educational programs are recorded and archived in the Lecture Library section of the DDF website.



2018 Stomach Cancer Educational Symposium

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

200

Patients served through our PREP Program, including approximately:



105

Registered for Mentors



95

PREP Kits Sent



1,000

Inspire Community Members

DDF Hosted

3

Webinars

3

Symposia



250+

Participated in our FREE Stomach Cancer Educational Webinars and Symposia

40K



Website Hits

More Than

20K

Lecture Library Views

Approximately

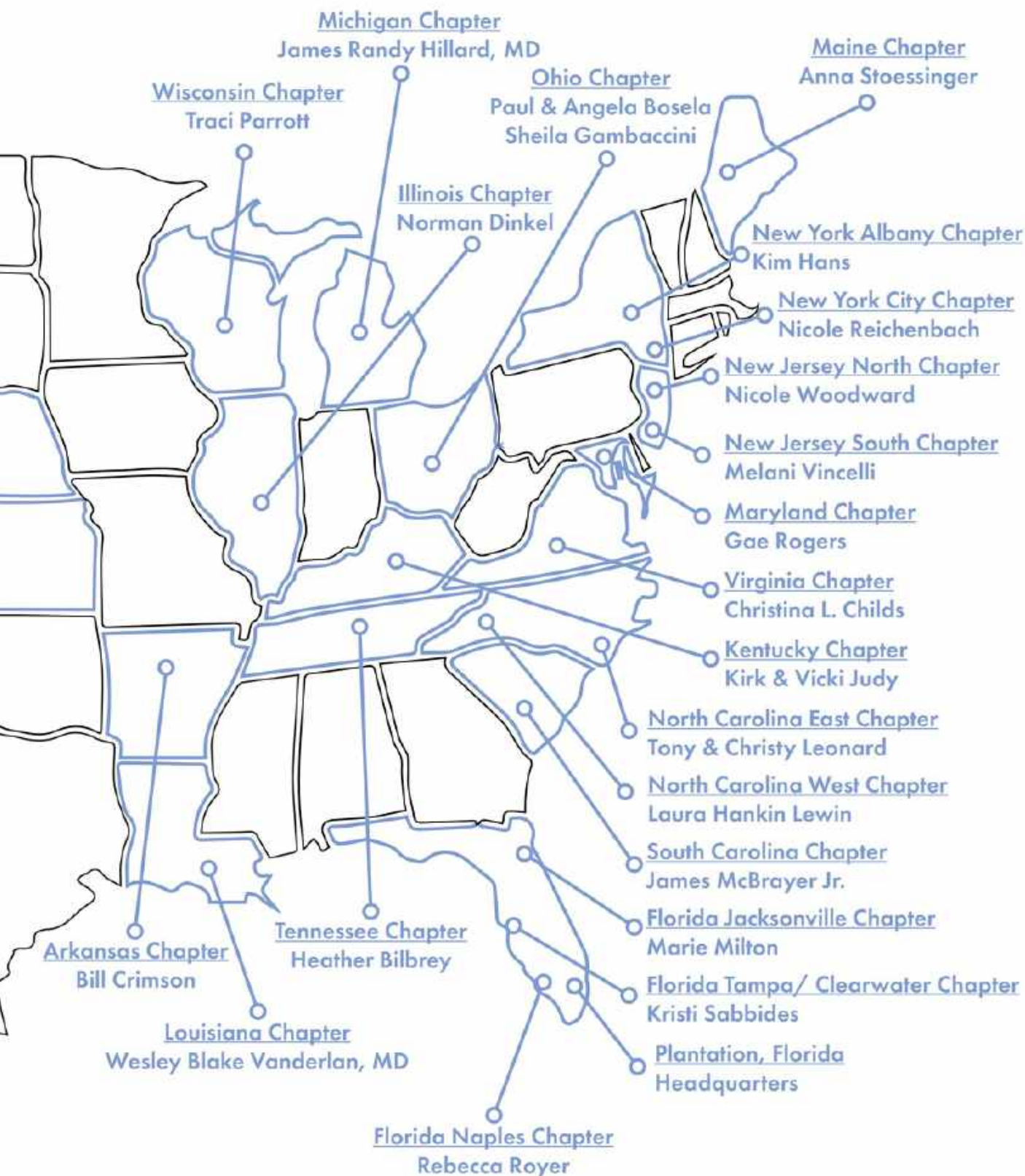
55%

of patients contact DDF within the first 3 months of being diagnosed.

DDF CHAPTERS



DDF CHAPTERS



ADVOCACY



Our annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day is attended by advocates from all over the country. For the past 6 years, advocates have met with Congress to discuss and urge lawmakers to maintain and increase federal funding for stomach cancer research. Solely based on the efforts of DDF advocates, stomach cancer has been added to the Department of Defense's Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP), making it eligible for federal funding among other cancer types.

DDF's advocacy efforts extend beyond the nation's capital through our active participation in groups such as One Voice Against Cancer, The Deadliest Cancers Coalition, Patient Equal Access Coalition, and State Patient Access Coalition. In addition, we help raise awareness about stomach cancer through our annual campaign where we encourage supporters to solicit their local governments to have each state declare the month of November as Curing Stomach Cancer Month. In 2018, California, Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin made the declaration.



DDF IN THE NEWS



In their February 2018 issue, DRW Magazine featured a story about the life and legacy of late DDF Founder Debbie Zelman. “Debbie Zelman was one of the most inspirational, special women I have ever met in my life,” said long-time friend JoAnne Silverstein. “Debbie’s Dream Foundation was born out of the love for her family, her desire to leave a lasting legacy for her children to remember her by, and a desire to support the countless people who did not have anyone to turn to while they faced stomach cancer.”

WPLG Local 10 News Reporter Kristi Krueger took time out to speak with stomach cancer survivor, PREP mentor, and DDF Board member Pat Campola about the significant work that DDF does to improve the landscape of stomach cancer for patients, their families, and caregivers.



U.S. House Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen highlighted the accomplishments of DDF and the pioneering work of our late founder Debbie Zelman during her one-minute speech on the House floor in April 2018.

GRANTS

Debbie's Dream Foundation awarded \$200,000 in stomach cancer research grants in 2018.



Valerie O'Brien, PhD

\$50,000 Gastric Cancer Research
Fellowship Award
*Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research
Center in Seattle*



Richard Hodge, PhD

\$50,000 Gastric Cancer Research
Fellowship Award
*University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill*



Ashleigh Poh, PhD

\$50,000 Gastric Cancer Research
Fellowship Award
*Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research
Institute in Heidelberg, Australia*



Spencer Willet, PhD

\$50,000 Gastric Cancer Research
Fellowship Award
Washington University in St. Louis

Past Award Recipients:

2017 - \$200,000 - Eunyong Choi, PhD,
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

2017 - \$50,000 - Karolina Kaczor-
Urbanowicz, PhD, DMD, *University of
California, Los Angeles*

2017 - \$50,000 - Haisheng Zhang, PhD,
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

2016 - \$150,000 - Elise S. Demitrack, PhD,
The Regents of the University of Michigan

2016 - \$50,000 - Holly A. Martinson, PhD,
University of Alaska Anchorage

2015 - \$50,000 - Eirini Pectasides, MD, PhD,
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

2015 - \$50,000 - Andrea Zamperone, PhD,
*Albert Einstein College of Medicine of
Yeshiva University*

2014 - \$50,000 - Dr. David Allison,
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Grant Recipient Accomplishments



3 Awards



2 Publications



5 Presentations

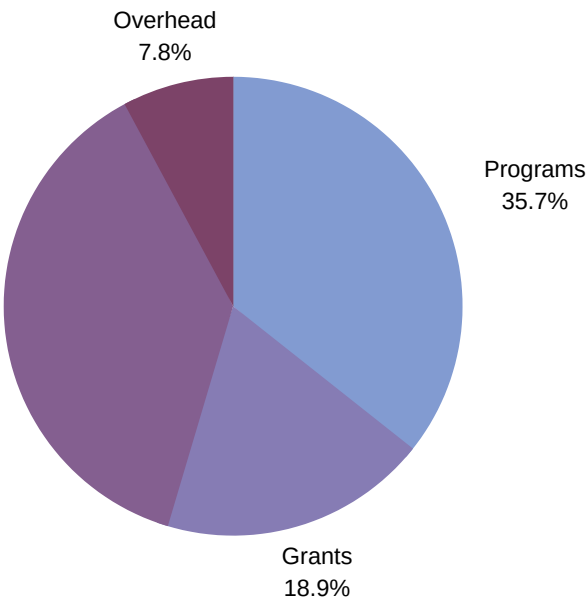
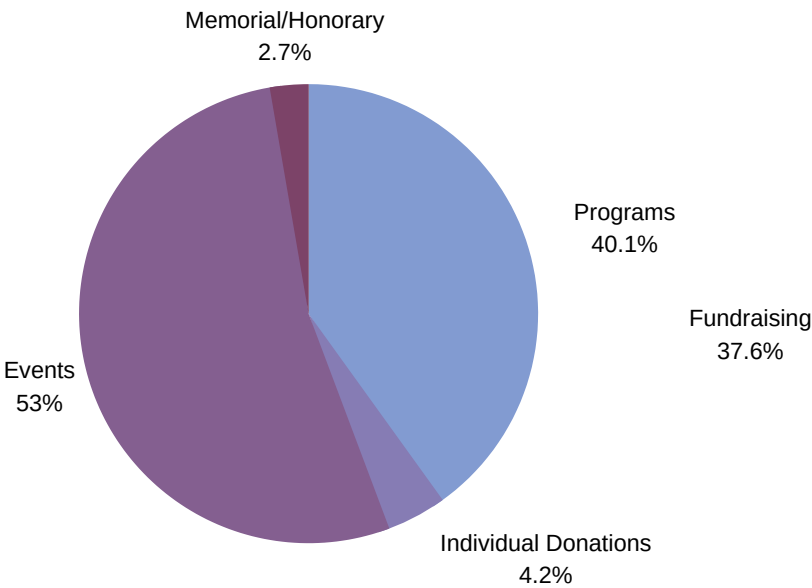


3 Collaborations



2 Additional Grants

DDF FINANCIALS



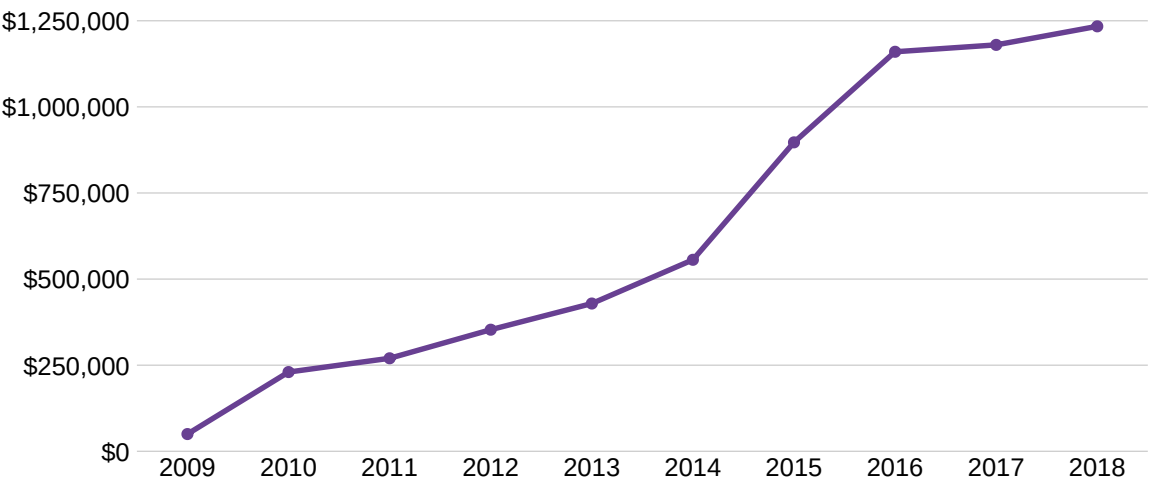
Total Revenue 2018 \$1,233,875.01

53%	Events
40%	Programs
3%	Memorial/Honorary
4%	Individual Donations

Total Expenses 2018 \$ 1,161,818.39

36%	Programs
19%	Grants
38%	Fundraising
8%	Overhead

Debbie’s Dream Foundation Total Revenue History



DDF EVENTS



ANNUAL DREAM MAKERS GALA

DDF celebrated its 9th anniversary at the 9th Annual Dream Makers Gala on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at The Diplomat Beach Resort & Spa in Hollywood, Florida. With 515 registrants, nearly \$334,000 was raised to fund research and benefit stomach cancer patients around the world.

FORT LAUDERDALE NIGHT OF LAUGHTER

On Sunday, January 28, 2018, DDF held its 9th Annual Night of Laughter at the Signature Grand in Davie, Florida. Event Chairs Mitch Starr, Sheri Albert, and Dr. Stephanie Davis and their committee hosted a sold-out crowd of more than 400 attendees.



NC ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT & CHARITY DINNER

North Carolina Chapter Leaders Tony and Christy Leonard hosted their 5th Annual Golf Tournament & Charity Dinner at Gates Four Golf & Country Club in Fayetteville, North Carolina on November 3, 2018. The event raised over \$15,000 and had over XX golfers, supporters, and volunteers in attendance.

DDF EVENTS

DREAM FORE A CURE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Event Co-chairs Jonathan Perillo and Michael Loudis hosted the 3rd Annual South Florida Dream Fore a Cure Golf Tournament on November 15, 2018 at the Fort Lauderdale Country Club. Participants enjoyed a beautiful day full of golf, food, and fun. The event raised over \$23,000 and had over 50 golfers, supporters, and volunteers in attendance.



DREAM BIG LEGACY LUNCHEON

More than 150 guests attended the 4th Annual Dream BIG Legacy Luncheon on November 7, 2019 to remember late DDF Founder Debbie Zelman. The event was held at the Jacaranda Country Club in Plantation, Florida and raised nearly \$50,000 to help fund stomach cancer research. Guests enjoyed a fabulous silent auction, a delicious lunch, and more thanks to Event Co-chairs Linda Gender and Sabrina Kurzman and their amazing committee.

NEW YORK NIGHT OF LAUGHTER

On Sunday, November 11, 2018, Event Co-chairs Andrew Elkin, Lauren Mandel, and Nicole Reichenbach hosted the 4th Annual New York Night of Laughter at Gotham Comedy Club in New York City. The night featured laugh out loud comedy with Saturday Night Live and Joe's Pub comedians, delicious drinks, and more! The event raised nearly \$62,000 for stomach cancer research.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

PARTICIPATE



- **Fundraisers and Events** - Turn your passion into action by hosting or attending a fundraising event.
- **Chapters** - Start or join a chapter in your state or area.
- **Patient Resource Mentor** - Become a Patient Resource Education Program (PREP) Mentor and help people just like you who need a little inspiration to keep fighting.
- **Share Your Story** - Share your story or the story of someone you know whether as a patient, family member, friend, loved one, or caregiver to inspire others!
- **Spread Awareness** - Help us get the word out by passing out, emailing, and/or posting information about Debbie's Dream Foundation on Facebook.

DONATE

- DDF is able to fund research, promote awareness, and provide education and support services to stomach cancer patients and their families because of generous donations.
- DDF is a 501(c)(3) charity so all donations are tax deductible.
- DDF encourages our supporters to design their own individual fundraising pages. This is a wonderful way to honor a loved one or support fundraising for an event.



ADVOCATE



- Have November declared as Curing Stomach Cancer Month in your state.
- Contact your elected officials to submit a proclamation request.
- Join DDF advocates and supporters from across the nation in Washington, DC for our Annual DDF Capitol Hill Stomach Cancer Advocacy Day.
- Ask Congress to invest more federal resources in gastric cancer research and to again include stomach cancer as one of the cancers under the PRCRP.

DDF LEADERSHIP

In Memoriam

Debbie L. Zelman, Esq. - Founder

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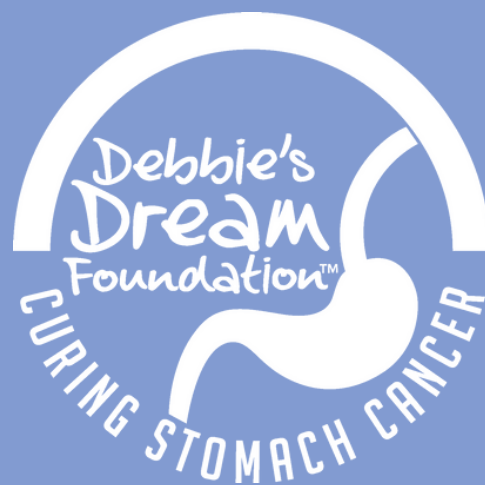


**Raising Awareness. Funding Research. Supporting Patients.
Achieving the DREAM!**

5TH ANNUAL STOMACH CANCER
CAPITOL HILL ADVOCACY DAY

Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Two South University Drive, Suite 326. Plantation, FL 33324
(954) 475-1200 | www.DebbiesDream.org

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer

Raising Awareness. Funding Research. Supporting Patients.
Achieving the DREAM!

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW



"We really appreciate your thoughtfulness. May you continue to be able to uplift those in need, and always be blessed with the resources to do so!" - PREP Patient

"This symposium was very helpful when dad was fighting cancer. One year we attended in person, one year we followed online. I highly recommend it." - Caregiver



"I have found your website to be the best source of consolidated informDDF's Online Support Community hosted 954 members with more than 100 posts per week in 2017.ation on gastric cancer. " - Patient

This organization builds hope in patients and caregivers. They strive to find better detection and treatments for stomach cancer. They also provide support for those who already have this devastating disease. From online tools to educational symposiums, they are an invaluable resource. - Dee Hunt (PREP Patient?)





DREAM

PHOTO ISSUE

MAGAZINE
EST. 1989 • 40,746 MAILED



BEYOND CANCER

We may have lost Debbie Zelman, but her dream & inspiration live on

He was afraid, confused, and worried about his future. After receiving the most devastating news that anyone could get, Pat Campola feared that he had nowhere to turn.

"When you are diagnosed with stomach cancer your world no longer is the same," said Campola, a stage II stomach cancer survivor who at the time was given a 50/50 chance of living another five years. "Thoughts of how long you will live, what suffering you may endure and what your life will be like takes control of your everyday thoughts. That happened to me in September of 2012."

That was until the day he sat in the waiting room for a doctor's appointment and started a conversation with woman who was sitting next to him. He recounts that she had a stack of papers on her lap and a cell phone that seemed to always be ringing. Campola asked if she was seeing the same doctor as he was, and she said yes.

"I asked what was wrong with her and she said she was being treated for stage IV stomach cancer," said Campola. "[She] told me about Debbie's Dream Foundation, which was starting to take off and asked if I would help. Let me rephrase that, she told me I needed to get involved. That person was Debbie Zelman and from that day forward I would always say 'You can never say no to Debbie.'"

A woman of great influence, Debbie began her journey in 2008, when she was diagnosed with stage IV stomach cancer and was told that her chance of living five years beyond her diagnosis was only 4%. At the time, she was a 40-year-old successful attorney with a husband and three small children. She founded **Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF)** in 2009 with a small group of friends, family, and neighbors, who she skillfully persuaded to join her cause. She would later convince a group of medical

experts, politicians, and volunteers from around the world to get behind her mission as she became the face and voice of stomach cancer survivors worldwide.

"She told me I needed to be a PREP [Patient Resource and Education Program] mentor," said Campola. "I would be matched to stomach cancer patients in similar stages as mine and be able to share my experiences with them. My time as a PREP mentor has been, and is still, one of the most rewarding experiences of my life."

During her nearly 10-year battle with stomach cancer, Debbie endured hundreds of rounds of chemo, radiation and treatments which would have left the average person exhausted. However, in spite of her own health issues Debbie still found time to travel to DDF's annual Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, speak at symposia and conferences, and run successful fundraising events in her home state of Florida.

"Debbie Zelman was one of the most inspirational, special women I have ever met in my life," said longtime friend JoAnne Silverstein. "Debbie's Dream Foundation was born out of the love for her family, her desire to leave a lasting legacy for her children to remember her by, and a desire to support the countless people who did not have anyone to turn to while they faced stomach cancer."

More than an advocate and pioneer, Debbie was a dedicated mother, a devoted wife, and a loving daughter and friend until the end. She always made family her number one priority; taking her youngest daughter Sarah to school every day, checking in with her twins Rachel and Zachary, who are both away at college; never missing a parent-teacher conference, a family vacation, or being there for family and friends when they needed her.

According to Silverstein, even when Debbie was going through her toughest treatments, she always made time for the people she loved. "I specifically recall a tough six week radiation protocol Debbie had at MD Anderson in Houston, Texas," said Silverstein. "After weeks of straight radiation, Debbie flew home on

a Saturday morning, got dressed up for my daughter Sydney's bat mitzvah, and showed up looking beautiful and radiant. She stood by my side and danced along with me with a smile on her face and joy to be sharing in our special event. The next day, Debbie flew back out to Houston to continue her treatments."

Resilience was a quality that Debbie often showed, which is what makes her death on December 23, 2017 so surreal to those who know her best. "Debbie's ability to recover and her will to share in life's most precious events were some of her greatest strengths," said Silverstein. "It was nearly impossible for people who did not know her story to reconcile the realities Debbie faced on a daily basis."

Gone but never forgotten, Debbie's mission to find a cure for stomach cancer will continue through DDF and the countless lives she has touched throughout her journey.

"She was a true warrior, a pioneer and one of the bravest women I have ever met," said Silverstein. "She had the heart of a lion and her legacy will live on forever in her children and her Debbie's Dream Foundation where her motto was always 'Dream Big!'"

"I attended Debbie's final services where there must have been over 1000 people paying their respects to this extraordinary person," said Campola. "I plan on continuing my help as a PREP mentor and carrying on Debbie's good work. She would want me to."

by **BRITTNEY STARKS**
DDF COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Pictured Above Debbie (second from left) with husband Andy Guttman, and JoAnne and Jeffery Silverstein in 2014. **Below Left** Debbie and Pat Campola. **Right** Debbie's parents Donald and Madelyn Zelman, her youngest daughter Sarah Guttman, her husband Andy Guttman, Debbie, and her twins Rachel and Zachary Guttman in April 2017 at the 8th Annual Dream Makers Gala.

