

DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



REMEMBERING THOSE WE'VE LOST,  
HONORING THOSE STILL FIGHTING



IN MEMORY OF OUR FOUNDER AND THOSE WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2019: (CLOCKWISE) BRANNY CARRASCO, DEBBIE LOSEY, MARK GOLDSTEIN, CRAIG SIEGEL, JAMES MCBRAYER, JR., SHIRAEAL POLLACK, TONY LEONARD, AND DDF FOUNDER DEBBIE ZELMAN (2017 - CENTER).



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dear Supporters,

Our theme for 2019 has been “Remembering Those We’ve Lost, Honoring Those Still Fighting.” because this year, we suffered great losses in the stomach cancer community. Following the death of our founder Debbie Zelman in late 2017, we lost some of our greatest advocates in 2019.

Branny Carrasco, age 39, Tony Leonard, age 46, and 38-year old James McBrayer Jr. all used their cancer diagnosis as an opportunity to help support others along their journey. Each of these individuals helped to raise awareness about stomach cancer in hopes of effecting change. Unfortunately, their lives were cut short by this deadly disease, leaving their families behind to carry on. They, along with those featured on the cover of this year’s annual report, and countless others, will be missed but not forgotten.

As a result, we’ve held fundraising events throughout the year in remembrance of those who passed away so that we never forget their contributions towards our cause. However, we must also remember to honor those who are still battling this disease by continuing to raise awareness and funds to help find a cure for stomach cancer. This was the vision of our late founder Debbie when she started this foundation in 2009. Since then, we’ve continued to work hard so that her dream of finding a cure for this disease, can one day become a reality.

This year, DDF has awarded \$150,000 in research grants in 2019, for a total of \$1 million awarded to date. Every year we continue to advocate for the inclusion of stomach cancer in the Department of Defense’s Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP). In 2019, our advocacy efforts resulted in not only the addition of stomach cancer in the federal budget, which increased to 110 million but also the addition of some of the most consequential language for stomach cancer research and early detection being signed into law. Therefore, we remain committed to continuing to gain the support of lawmakers who can help us achieve change in government funding priorities.

These accomplishments were made possible because of the support of our dynamic Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, donors, industry partners, and the stomach cancer community at large. Your generous investments and trust in DDF allow us to continue to provide our stomach cancer community with the information and support needed to navigate this disease through our Patient Resource Education Program and to expand our reach through our national and international chapters. More importantly, we will continue to use our voices to raise awareness and funding so that we can one day live in a world free of stomach cancer.

Thank you for supporting Debbie’s Dream Foundation.

With sincere appreciation,

**Andrea Eidelman, Esq.**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



# PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

"A dream you dream alone is only a dream.  
A dream you dream together is reality."

- John Lennon



Denise Leprine, New York  
PREP Mentor since 2019



Melani Vincelli, New Jersey  
PREP Mentor since 2013



Christy Leonard, North Carolina  
PREP Mentor since 2014

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 treatments. 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.





# PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

200

Patients served through our  
PREP Program, including  
approximately:



111  
Registered  
for  
Mentors



Nearly  
10K  
Facebook  
Followers



More Than  
1,000  
Inspire  
Community  
Members



337

Participated in our FREE  
Stomach Cancer Educational  
Webinars and Symposia

DDF Hosted

7

Webinars

2

Symposia

5K



Website Hits  
Per Month

Approximately

55%

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



# PROGRAMS 2019 INITIATIVES

## GASTROESOPHAGEAL CANCER EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM (DANA FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE)



DDF hosted the Gastroesophageal Cancer Educational Symposium in partnership with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 19, 2019. The event was led by DDF's Scientific and Medical Advisory Board members and co-chairs Adam Bass, MD, and Peter Enzinger, MD. The topics included early detection, radiation oncology, surgical methods and considerations, chemotherapy and immunotherapy, genomic testing, nutrition, and more.

## 2019 NUTRITION PROJECT



Patients and their families often reach out to DDF with questions about nutrition and how to eat through their diagnosis, especially through the holidays. That is why we partnered with Memorial Cancer Institute and Publix Aprons Cooking School to bring delicious holiday-inspired cooking videos and recipes modified for gastric cancer patients. View our cooking videos, recipes, and more at [www.DebbiesDream.org/resources/nutrition/](http://www.DebbiesDream.org/resources/nutrition/).

## 1ST ANNUAL COLLABORATIVE INTERNATIONAL GASTRIC CANCER EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM



Cleveland Clinic Florida partnered with DDF to host the 1st Annual Collaborative International Gastric Cancer Education Symposium on November 9, 2019, at Cleveland Clinic in Weston, Florida. The event welcomed leading oncologists and healthcare experts from around the world and presented the latest topics relevant to the stomach cancer community.



# ADVOCACY



Our annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day is attended by advocates from all over the country. For the past seven 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.



# GRANTS

IN 2019, DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION AWARDED \$150,000 IN RESEARCH GRANTS AS FOLLOWS:



Youn-Sang Jung, PhD

\$50,000 Young Research Fellowship Grant  
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center



Katsumi Yamaguchi, PhD

\$50,000 Young Research Fellowship Grant  
Johns Hopkins University-School of Medicine



Ankur Nagaraja, MD, PhD

\$50,000 Young Research Fellowship Grant  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

DEBBIES DREAM  
FOUNDATION HAS  
FUNDED A TOTAL OF

**\$1 million**

IN RESEARCH GRANTS  
SINCE 2014.

## PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2018 - \$50,000 - Valrie O'Brien, PhD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- 2018 - \$50,000, Richard Hodge, PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2018 - \$50,000 - Ashleigh Poh, PhD, Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute
- 2018 - Spencer Willet, PhD, Washington University
- 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



# EVENTS



## FORT LAUDERDALE NIGHT OF LAUGHTER

DDF hosted approximately 250 guests and raised nearly \$40,000 for stomach cancer research at its 10th annual Night of Laughter on Sunday, January 27, 2019. The event was held at Stage 954 at The Casino at Dania Beach in Dania Beach, Florida, and featured comedy by headlining comedian Ricky Cruz.



## ANNUAL DREAM MAKERS GALA

DDF celebrated a decade of serving the stomach cancer community at the 10th Annual Dream Makers Gala on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at the Margaritaville Hollywood Beach Resort in Hollywood, Florida. With 316 registrants, more than \$222,000 was raised to fund research and support stomach cancer patients and families worldwide.



## NC ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT & CHARITY DINNER

North Carolina Chapter Leader Christy Leonard hosted the 6th Annual Golf Tournament & Charity Dinner at Gates Four Golf & Country Club in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on November 2, 2019. The event was held in honor of her late husband, stomach cancer warrior, and NC Chapter co-founder, Tony Leonard. The event raised over \$17,000 for stomach cancer.



# EVENTS

## DREAM FORE A CURE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Event Co-chairs Jonathan Perrillo and Jon Carlson hosted the 4th annual South Florida Dream Fore a Cure Golf Tournament on Nov 14, 2019, at the Jacaranda Golf Club in Plantation, Florida. The tournament raised nearly \$17,000 in support of DDF's mission.



## DREAM BIG OCEANSIDE JAZZ BRUNCHEON

More than 120 guests attended the 5th Annual DREAM BIG Oceanside Jazz Brunch on Sunday, October 27, 2019, at Wild Thyme Oceanside Eatery in Fort Lauderdale Beach, Florida. The event raised more than \$22,200 and was held in honor of DDF's late Founder Debbie Zelman and other stomach cancer advocates who passed away in 2019, including DDF North Carolina East Chapter co-founder Tony Leonard, California Monterey Chapter co-founder Branny Carrasco, and South Carolina Chapter co-founder James McBrayer Jr.

## NEW YORK NIGHT OF LAUGHTER

On Sunday, October 6, 2019, event co-chairs Lauren and Bob Mandel, and Andrew Elkin raised nearly \$100,000 for stomach cancer research at the 5th annual New York Night of Laughter at the Gotham Comedy Club in New York, New York. Guests were entertained by some of New York's funniest comedians, including host Angelo Lozada, Saturday Night Live's very own Melissa Villaseñor, Sam Jay, and Gary Richardson. Ali Kolbert, who previously performed on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon and NBC's "Bring The Funny," also performed.





# EVENTS



## WISCONSIN GOLF TOURNAMENT

DDF supporter Scott Rank hosted the Inaugural West Bend, WI Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 22, 2019. The tournament was held in celebration of his late wife Barbara Rank, who passed away from stomach cancer on April 1, 2018. The event raised nearly \$13,000 as guests enjoyed a day of golf, food, and fun at West Bend Lakes Golf Club.

## ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES

DDF and stomach cancer survivor Steve Melen and friends celebrated Belmont Stakes Day at the first ever Day at the Races on Saturday, June 8, 2019 at Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley, California. Almost \$14,000 was raised in support of our mission.



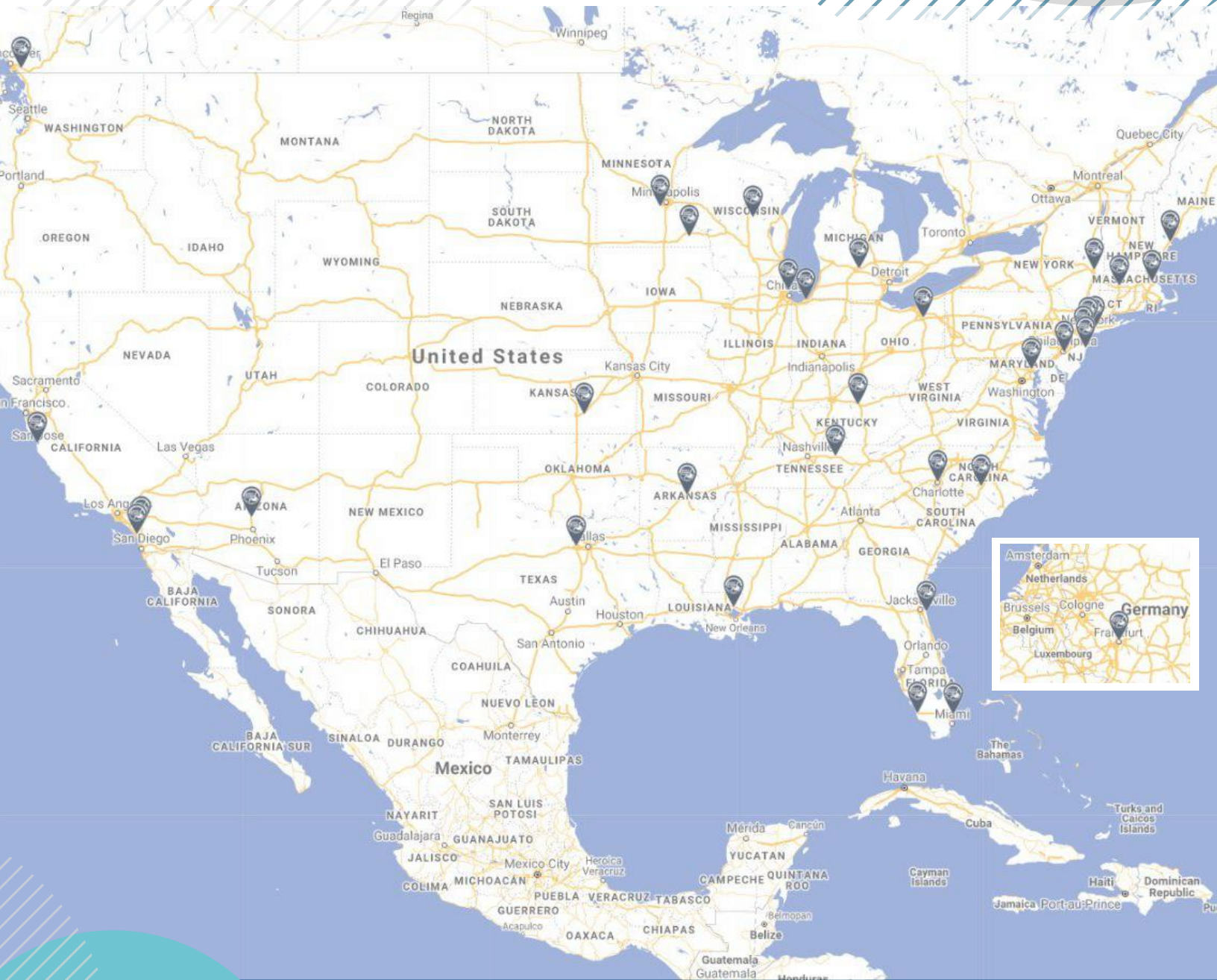
## DDF 2019 SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

DDF launched its annual scholarship essay contest in September 2019 for children between the ages of 5 to 18 across the United States. The contest consisted of three categories: elementary, middle, and high school. Nasir Thompson, 10, from Las Vegas won \$100 in the elementary school division for his essay on ways to treat stomach cancer and his dreams for finding a cure. Melanie McNair, 12, also from Las Vegas, won \$200 in the middle school division for writing about how she would work to improve the lives of stomach cancer patients if she were president. Amari Carpenter, 16, from Atlanta, Georgia, won \$700 in the high school division for his compelling essay on the importance of stomach cancer research and how he thinks the federal government should allocate more funds to that area.





# 2019 DDF CHAPTERS





# 2019 DDF CHAPTERS

## DDF Chapters

Arizona Chapter  
Christina Childs

Arkansas Chapter  
Bill Crismon

California Monterey Chapter  
Albert Carrasco - In Memory of Branny Carrasco

California San Diego Chapter  
Kathleen Clarke-Zumpone

California Temecula Chapter  
Cyndi Howard

Florida Jacksonville Chapter  
Marie Milton

Florida Naples Chapter  
Rebecca Royer

Florida Tampa/Clearwater Chapter  
Kristi Sabbides

Illinois Chapter  
Norman Dinkel

Kansas Chapter  
Rebecca Caliendo

Kentucky Chapter  
Kirk Judy

Louisiana Chapter  
Wesley Blake Vanderlan, MD

Maine Chapter  
Anna Stoessinger

Maryland Baltimore Chapter  
Lisa Lorden

Michigan East Chapter  
James Randy Hillard, MD

Nebraska Chapter  
Cyndi Howard, RN

New Jersey North Chapter  
Nicole Woodward

New Jersey South Chapter  
Melani Vincelli

New York Albany Chapter  
Kim Hans

New York City Chapter  
Nicole Reichenbach

North Carolina East Chapter  
Christy Leonard In Memory of Tony Leonard

North Carolina West Chapter  
Laura Lewin

Ohio Chapter  
Paul & Angela Bosela and Sheila Gambaccini

Tennessee Chapter  
Heather Bilbrey

Texas Chapter  
Pamela Pierce

Wisconsin Chapter  
Traci Parrott

## International Chapters

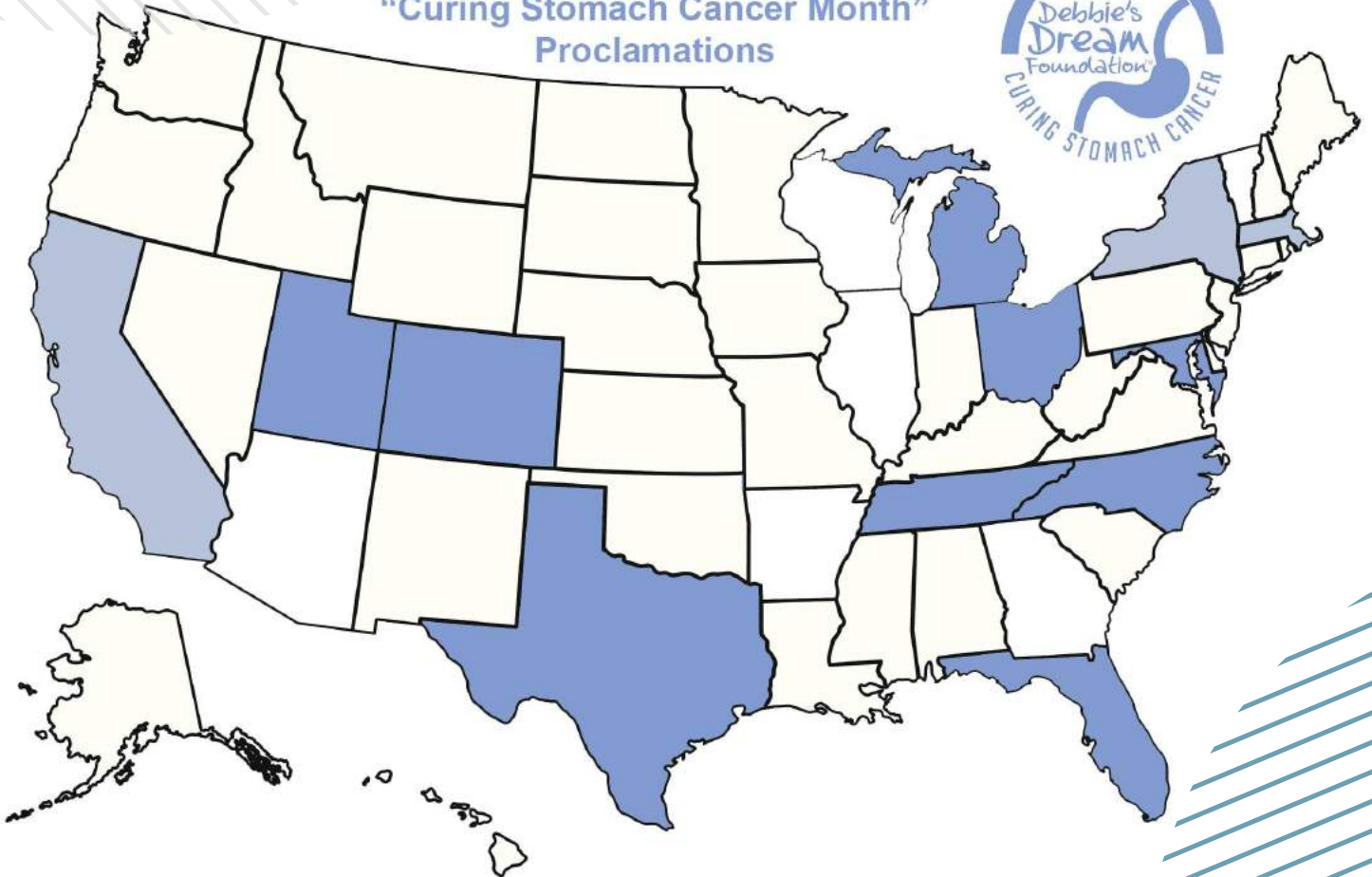
Canada Chapter - British Columbia  
Millie McConnell

Germany Chapter - Frankfurt  
Trudi Jung



# CURING STOMACH CANCER MONTH

2019  
“Curing Stomach Cancer Month”  
Proclamations



Our 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 2019, California, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah made the declaration.



# DDF IN THE NEWS



Steve Melen, DDF Board member and PREP Mentor, opened up to Health Central's Rachel Zhon about his addiction to painkillers in an article titled: Fighting Opioid Dependency After Stomach Cancer. He also shared how becoming a mentor through DDF has helped him find purpose in supporting and guiding others so that they can avoid some of the complications that he experienced.



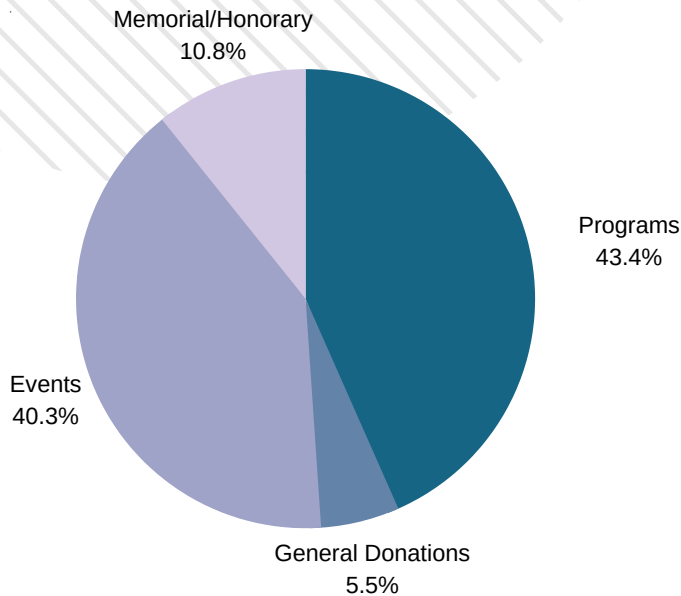
Florida Tampa/Clearwater Chapter Leader Kristi Sabbides shared her story with Cure Magazine of how she turned to DDF when her father received a terminal stomach cancer diagnosis. Kristi is also the author of Faith Over Fear: One Man's Fight With Stomach Cancer, where she shares her father's journey with stomach cancer.



North Carolina Chapter Leader and DDF Board member Christy Leonard opened up to Cure Magazine about how connecting with other caregivers through DDF led her to call upon home health nurses throughout her late husband Tony Leonard's stomach cancer journey.

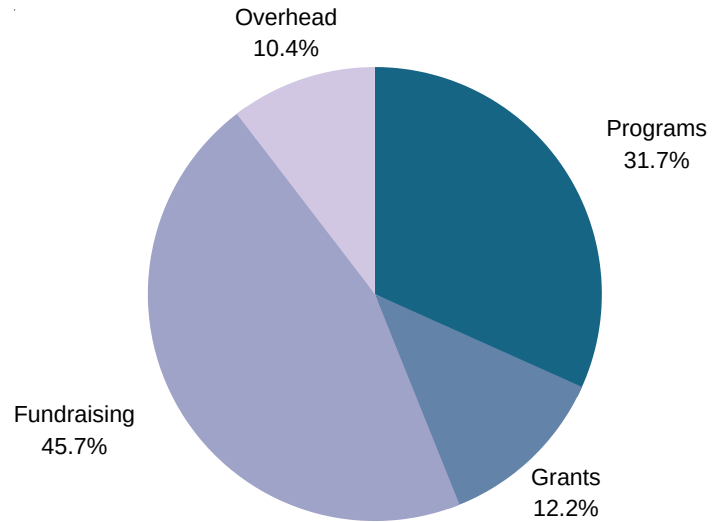


# FINANCIALS



## Total Revenue 2019 \$1,114,357.30

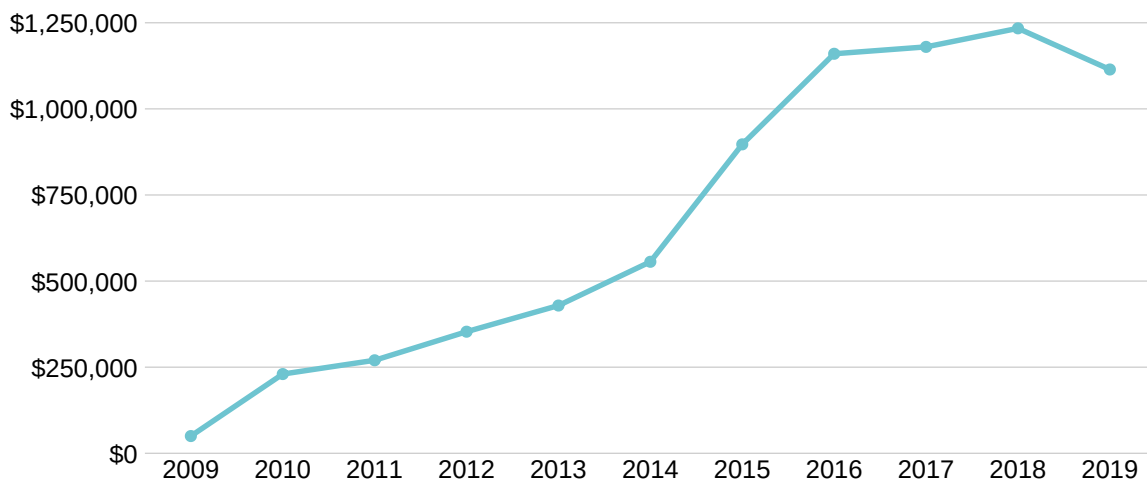
40%	Events
43%	Programs
6%	Memorial/Honorary
11%	General Donations



## Total Expenses 2019 \$ 901,408.43

32%	Programs
12%	Grants
46%	Fundraising
10%	Overhead

## Debbie's Dream Foundation Total Revenue History





# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

## 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.

## 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.

## 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!**

Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer

Two South University Drive, Plantation, Florida 33314  
(954) 475-1200 | [www.DebbiesDream.org](http://www.DebbiesDream.org)