

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# STOMACH CANCER NEVER STOPPED

ONE YEAR OF NAVIGATING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND A DEADLY DISEASE



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear DDF Supporters,

2020 was the year that none of us could have truly prepared for, but we were all forced to adapt to it. With the unforeseeable spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF) was forced to cancel most of our in-person events. At the same time, our staff worked remotely to comply with the CDC and other government and healthcare organization's safety guidelines. As a result, DDF marched forward and continued our mission to serve those affected by stomach cancer. We continued accepting patient inquiries and requests for mentorship during the pandemic through our Patient Resource Education Program (PREP) and offering Free Stomach Cancer Educational Webinars and Stomach Cancer Support Groups to patients and families.

Additionally, we launched our COVID-19 Resources and Support Program. The program's primary goal is to support, educate, and protect the already vulnerable stomach cancer community during these uncertain times. The initiative provides critical information and resources on COVID-19 updates and prevention, a meal delivery service, telehealth, and a mental health component. Through the program, DDF aims to help patients cope with fears and anxiety from the pandemic uncertainties. We were also fortunate enough to launch our Dream Makers Miracle Fund in 2020, which grants bucket list wishes for patients and families to help spread joy and create memories that will last a lifetime.

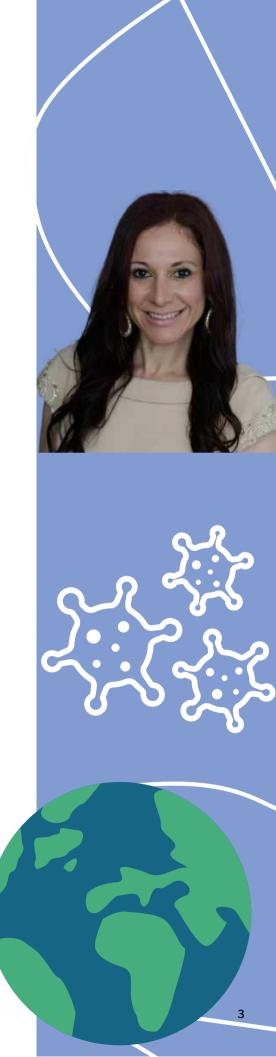
These accomplishments, and more, were made possible because of the support of our dynamic and devoted Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, donors, industry partners, and the stomach cancer community at large. Your generous investments and trust in DDF allow us to continue providing our stomach cancer community with the information and support needed to navigate this disease through our Patient Resource Education Program and expand our reach through our national and international chapters. More importantly, we will continue to use our voices to raise awareness and funding regardless of the challenges faced.

Thank you for continuing to dream BIG with DDF!

With sincerest appreciation,

Andrea Eidelman, Esq.

DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION | 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



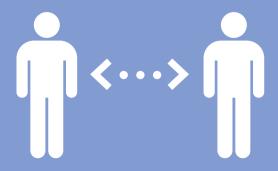
# PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

During the pandemic, DDF continued to offer 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 patients understand their 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 also hosted various online education programs, including monthly stomach cancer support groups and webinars and symposia topics covering 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.

"Not even COVID-19 could keep us away from celebrating our mom. Stomach cancer has taken so much from us already so there was no way we would allow COVID-19 to do the same."

- Jessica Alcantar, Caregiver







Top Photo: Carmen Muro, 56, stage 4 stomach cancer patient was hospitalized for 51 days without visitation from family during the pandemic.

Middle Photo: Carmen's three grandchildren, two sons-in law, and son held signs outside of her hospital window on May 11, 2020.

**Bottom Photo:** Stomach cancer survivor Simone Bee wearing a DDF mask.

# **PROGRAMS** OVERVIEW



1,639

Participated in our FREE Stomach Cancer **Educational Webinars** and Symposia



Registered for **Mentors** 



**Nearly** 

10K

Facebook **Followers** 



Webinars

**Symposia** 



**Nearly** 

Inspire Community **Members** 



**Website Hits** Per Month

## PATIENT RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

#### MONTHLY STOMACH CANCER SUPPORT GROUPS

We partnered with Catholic Hospice, Inc. to bring patients and caregivers monthly support groups, with the option of attendance via teleconference. The monthly support groups are open to the stomach cancer community, where topics vary by month and by group. Support groups in 2020 were held on the first Friday of every month via Zoom. Catholic Hospice Bereavement Counselor, Joshua Hernandez, LMFT, led each monthly group.

# Photo: Dream Makers Miracle Fund recipient and six-year stomach cancer survivor Kenny Rikard during his skydiving adventure.

#### 2020 DREAM MAKERS MIRACLE FUND

In 2020, DDF launched the Dream Makers Miracle Fund for stomach cancer patients and families. The initiative is part of our Patient Resource Education Program and aims to spread joy within the stomach cancer community by providing patients and families with bucket-list inspired experiences. The inaugural program was made possible by industry partners BeiGene, Ltd. To learn more about wishes granted, visit www.DebbiesDream.org/miraclefund.

#### COVID-19 RESOURCES & SUPPORT PROGRAM



Photo: Timothy Hewitt and wife Heather Hewitt, stomach cancer survivor, wearing DDF facemasks.

In response to the global pandemic, we remained committed to supporting our community through our COVID-19 Resource and Support Program. The initiative was launched to provide free COVID-19 Kits, free meal delivery vouchers, and mental health Facebook LIVE series to patients and families to keep them safe, supported, and informed. To learn more, visit www.DebbiesDream.org/covid.

Bottom Photo: Dream Makers Miracle Fund recipient and 17-year-old stomach cancer survivor Joey Siwe and family at Disney's Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge experience.



COVID-19 INFORMATIONAL WEBINARS







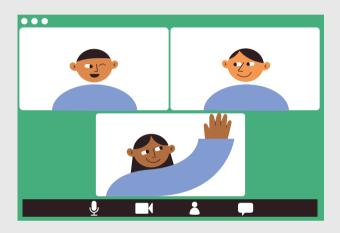
# CORONAVIRUS: WHAT THE STOMACH CANCER PATIENT NEEDS TO KNOW WEBINAR

We partnered with GI Oncologist, Dr. Michael Cusnir of Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Center for a presentation on "Coronavirus: What the Stomach Cancer Patient Needs to Know." Dr. Cusnir holds board certifications in internal medicine, hematology, and oncology. He is also a Scientific and Medical Advisory Board Member for DDF and is active in the stomach cancer community including local outreach, education, and advocacy.

#### HOW STOMACH CANCER PATIENTS CAN NAVIGATE THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

GI Oncologist Dr. Cusnir also did an interview with CURE Magazine, your guide to every stage of the cancer experience. Dr. Cusnir discussed how he became aligned with DDF, the challenges that the pandemic presents for patients and healthcare professionals, as well as tips for how stomach cancer patients can navigate the global COVID-19 pandemic.

## VIRTUAL STOMACH CANCER SYMPOSIA



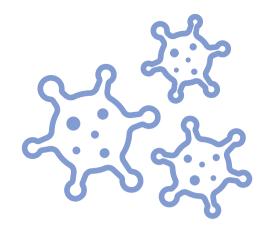
**Illustration:** Due to the global pandemic, DDF was forced to transition our in-person stomach cancer educational symposia into virtual expeirences to keep our community safe.

# 2020 VIRTUAL GASTROESOPHAGEAL CANCER EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

#### The James



DDF hosted a FREE Virtual Gastroesophageal Cancer Educational Symposium in collaboration with the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute on May 16, 2020. The event was chaired by Dr. Anne Noonan.



VIRTUAL – 2ND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL GASTRIC CANCER EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



We partnered with Cleveland Clinic Florida to host the 2nd Annual International Gastric Cancer Educational Symposium on Saturday, November 14, 2020. The symposium took place virtually, providing an opportunity for patients to hear from multiple leaders and experts in the field of gastric cancer on the latest research, treatments, surgical options, genomic testing, and more! This event was chaired by Dr. Raul Rosenthal.

# GASTROESOPHAGEAL CANCER EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



In partnership with with the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center we hosted the Gastroesophageal Cancer Educational Symposium on December 5, 2020. The event was chaired by Dr. Samuel Klempner.

2020 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 nutrition and culinary experts to provide cooking videos and recipes modified for gastric cancer patients. View our cooking videos, recipes, and more at www.DebbiesDream.org/resources/nutrition/.



#### NUTRITION EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR

We partnered with Oncology Dietitian, Marie Morande, RD, CSO, LD from Lynn Cancer Institute to answer patients' frequently asked nutrition-based questions.

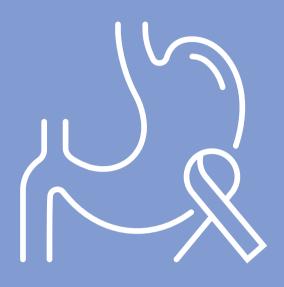
#### SUMMER MEALS WITH THE STOMACHLESS CHEF

We teamed up with 'The Stomachless Chef" Hans Rueffert to bring patients a LIVE virtual cooking demonstration just in time for summer! Recipes and the video replay is available on the DDF website.



# ADVOCACY

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





## **EVENTS**

With the unforeseeable effects of COVID-19, DDF worked towards minimizing the spread of this disease by participating in "social distancing" as outlined in the guidelines of the CDC and other government and healthcare organizations. As a result, we were forced to cancel some of our 2020 in-person events in order to comply with these guidelines.



#### LAUGH FOR A CURE VIRTUAL COMEDY GAME NIGHT

While we couldn't come together for the 11th Annual Dream Makers Gala or our signature Night of Laughter events, we managed to laugh for a cure with Eric Cunningham and his favorite comedians, scientists, and dreamers for DDF's Laugh For A Cure Virtual Comedy Game Night featuring What's The Big Idea? The event was held courtesy of LaughTrack and DDF supporter Lauren Mandel in honor of her late mother Sally Mandel who passed away from stomach cancer in 2017.



#### WISCONSIN GOLF TOURNAMENT

DDF supporter Scott Rank hosted the 2nd Annual West Bend, WI Golf Tournament & Charity Dinner on Saturday, June 27, 2020. 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 more than \$18,000 as guests enjoyed a day of golf, food, and fun at West Bend Lakes Golf Club.



#### NC GOLF TOURNAMENT

North Carolina Chapter Leader Christy Leonard hosted the 7th Annual Golf Tournament & Charity Dinner at Gates Four Golf & Country Club in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on Saturday, October 24, 2020. The event, held in honor of her late husband, stomach cancer warrior, and NC Chapter co-founder, Tony Leonard, raised over \$19,000 for stomach cancer.



### **SCHOLARSHIPS**



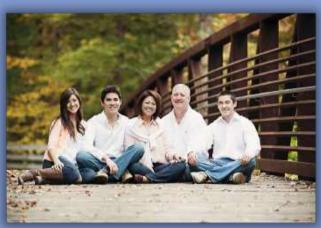


Photo: (I to r) The Reid Family: Chloe, Justin, Susan, Keith, and Robert Reid

#### SUSAN HAINES REID SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION

Susan H. Reid was a mother of three who passed away from stomach cancer at age 49 in 2015. The Susan H. Reid Scholarship is awarded to students local to Susan's hometown in Cumberland County, North Carolina, whose family has been affected by cancer. The scholarship is provided to help students focus on learning at college while lessening the financial burden. Each year, the Reid Family hosts an annual Susan H. Reid Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament in North Carolina to help raise funds for this scholarship in Susan's honor.

#### 2020 DDF SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

DDF launched its annual scholarship essay contest in September 2020 for children between the ages of 5 to 18 across the United States. The contest consisted of three categories: elementary, middle, and high school. Justyn Boumah, 5, from Las Vegas, won \$100 in the elementary school division, Mia Gal, 14, of Aventura, Florida, won \$200 in the middle school division, and Paola Campos, 17, from Ceres, California, won \$700 in the high school division.



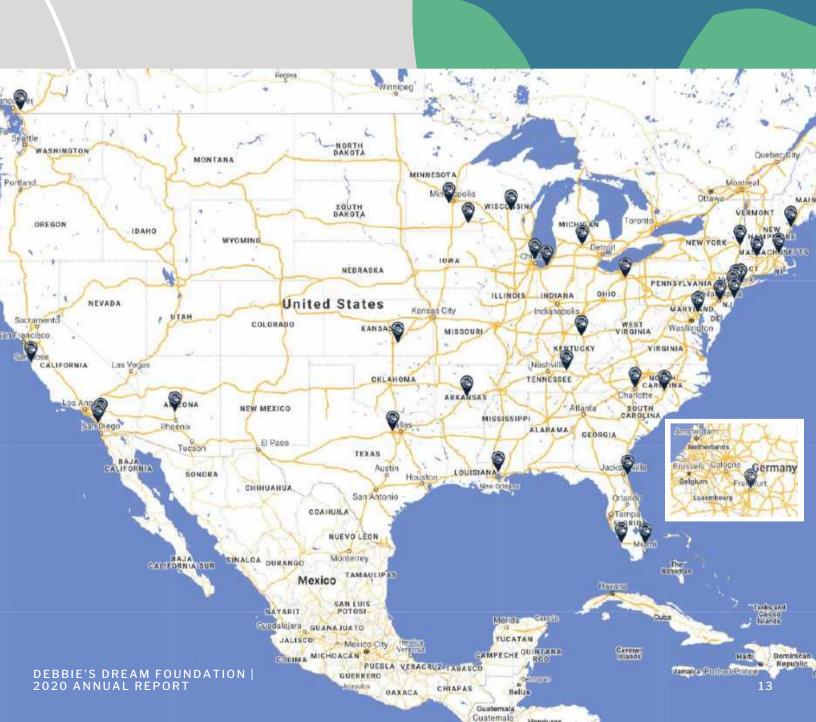




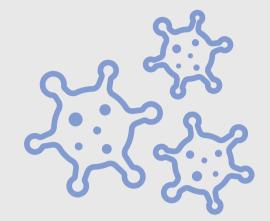
Photos: (I to r) 2020 Scholarship Essay Contest Winners Justyn Boumah, 5, Mia Gal, 14, and Paola Campos, 17.

# 2020 CHAPTERS

DDF has chapters throughout the United States, Canada, and Germany. Chapters are led by appointed DDF ambassadors who help to raise awareness about our mission, resources, and fundraise in support of our cause.



# 2020 CHAPTERS



#### **DDF Chapters**

Arizona Chapter Christina Childs

Arkansas Chapter Bill Crismon

California San Diego Chapter Kathleen Clarke-Zumpone

California Temecula Chapter Cyndi Howard

Florida Jacksonville Chapter Marie Milton

Florida Tampa/Clearwater Chapter Kristi Sabbides

Illinois Chapter Norman Dinkel

Kansas Chapter Rebecca Caliendo

Kentucky Chapter Kirk Judy

Louisiana Chapter Wesley Blake Vanderlaan, MD

Maine Chapter Anna Stoessinger

Maryland Baltimore Chapter Lisa Lorden

New Jersey North Chapter Nicole Woodward New Jersey South Chapter Melani Vincelli

New York Albany Chapter Kim Hans

New York City Chapter Robert Mandel

New York-Long Island Denise Leprine

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 Hewitt

Texas Chapter Pamela Pierce

Utah Chapter Rebecca Royer

Wisconsin Chapter Traci Parrott

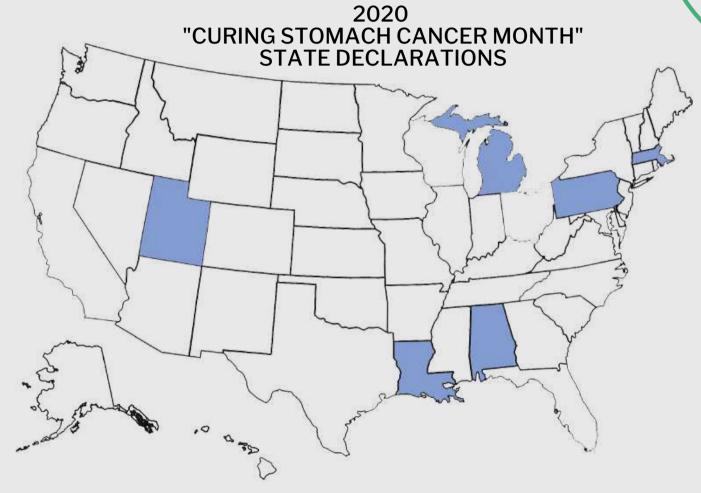
#### **International Chapters**

Canada Chapter - British Columbia Millie McConnell

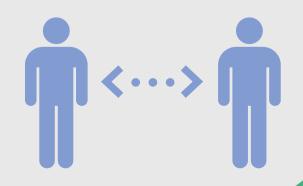
Germany Chapter - Frankfurt Trudi Jung



# CURING STOMACH CANCER MONTH

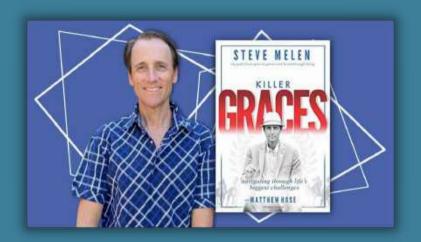


Our advocacy efforts extend beyond the nation's capital through our active participation in groups such as One Voice Against Cancer, The Deadliest Cancers Coalition, Patient Equal Access Coalition, and State Patient Access Coalition. In addition, we help raise awareness about stomach cancer through our 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 2020, Alabama, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Utah made the declaration.



# DDF IN THE NEWS

#### CALIFORNIA AUTHOR DESCRIBES LIFE WITHOUT A STOMACH FOR STOMACH CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



12-year stomach cancer survivor and DDF Board member Steve Melen sat down with News Nation for Stomach Cancer Awareness Month (November) to share his story of survival. In 2020, Steve authored his first book titled "Killer Graces: My Path from Pain to Power and Breakthrough Living." His mission is to continue to spread awareness and share positive stories to help inspire others.



#### CANCER NO LONGER SCARES ME

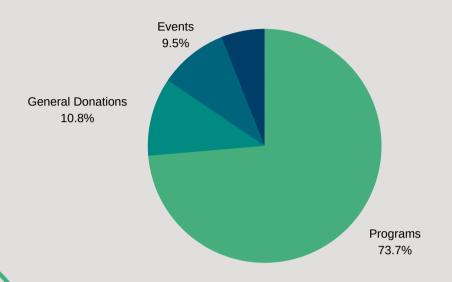
Denise Leprine, a 3-year stomach cancer survivor, sat down with The ASCO Post to share how a diagnosis of gastric cancer has given her a new appreciation of time and fearlessness. Denise also serves as a DDF PREP Mentor where she shares her personal experience with others and helps raise awareness of this disease.

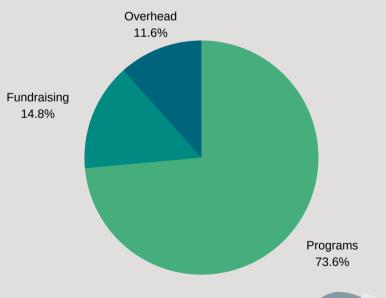


#### HOW RUNNING HELPED A STOMACH CANCER SURVIVOR THRIVE

Stomach Cancer survivor Angela Bosela shared her story of how running helped her navigate stomach cancer with CURE Magazine. Angela, her husband Paul, and daughter Sheila Gambaccini co-founded the Ohio Chapter. She also currently serves as a PREP mentor.

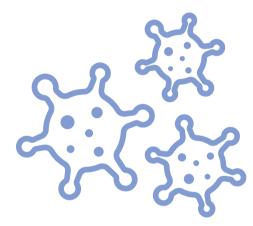
## **FINANCIALS**





#### Total Revenue 2020 \$813,819

10%	Events
<b>74</b> %	Programs
<b>6</b> %	Memorial/Honorary
11%	General Donations



#### Total Expenses 2020 \$ 696,710

<b>74</b> %	Programs
15%	Fundraising
<b>12%</b>	Overhead



#### **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 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 Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill 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.

## **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

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