



## Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer

P.O. Box 9867, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310-9867  
Phone: 954-475-1200 || [www.DebbiesDream.org](http://www.DebbiesDream.org)



# United We Stand for A Cure!



In March 2023, more than 140 stomach cancer patient and caregiver advocates stood united with Debbie's Dream Foundation as we advocated for increased federal funding for gastric cancer research. Your support can help us bring more advocates to Washington, DC, for our annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day!

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DDF's 2023 Inaugural Stomach Cancer Advocate Retreat speakers:  
Dr. Jeremy Davis, Dr. Amanda Rhodes, and Dr. Rachael Lopez of the  
National Institutes of Health; and art therapist Emily Lipson.

October 15, 2023

Dear DDF Supporter,

Stomach cancer is relentless. It does not discriminate, and it does not rest. It's an adversary that requires our utmost dedication, unwavering support, and continued advocacy. Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer's (DDF) journey against stomach cancer is one of persistence and hope, driven by advocacy and a growing focus on total well-being. These pillars have been central to our work, and I am eager to share our strides in these areas.

We convened for our 11th Annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day in March of this year, marking a monumental milestone. More than 140 passionate advocates stood united, amplifying the voices of stomach cancer patients and caregivers. We held 180 meetings with lawmakers, sharing our personal stories and advocating for increased federal stomach cancer research funding. This collective effort has resulted in over \$30.7 million allocated to stomach cancer research funding since Fiscal Year 2015 through the Department of Defense's Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program. DDF is extremely proud of our accomplishments through advocacy, but our commitment goes beyond Capitol Hill.

In recognizing the need for ongoing mental health support for patients and caregivers, DDF introduced the Inaugural Advocate Retreat during this year's Advocacy Day. The retreat provided a space where we delved into crucial topics like genetics, nutrition, and the overall effects on mental health for stomach cancer patients. Renowned speakers shared their expertise in these areas, and attendees participated in art therapy, which was a massive hit with our stomach cancer advocates.

Our support services expanded this year, including our ongoing Mind, Body, Spirit Facebook LIVE Series, and Monthly Stomach Cancer Support Groups. These provide a safe and nurturing space for patients and caregivers to connect, find solace, and receive targeted assistance.

Looking ahead, we are setting our sights even higher. Our goal for 2024 is to make it the most impactful Advocacy Day yet, with an even greater turnout and a stronger sense of community. Advocates are eager to return to Washington, DC, and are determined to make an enduring impact. To achieve this, we need your support in helping to bring more advocates to Capitol Hill. Please support our efforts today by filling out the enclosed envelope, donating on our website, or participating in our Advocacy Day Scholarship Fundraiser to bring more patients, caregivers, and families to the 12th Annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day on February 5-7, 2024.

You have the power to help us continue this vital work, to make a tangible difference in the lives of stomach cancer patients, and to build a brighter future. Join us in this mission to turn the tide against stomach cancer and bring hope to countless lives.

Sincerely,

Andrea P. Eidelman, Esq.  
Chief Executive Officer



Stomach cancer patients and caregiver advocates at the 2023 Inaugural Stomach Cancer Advocate Retreat.

