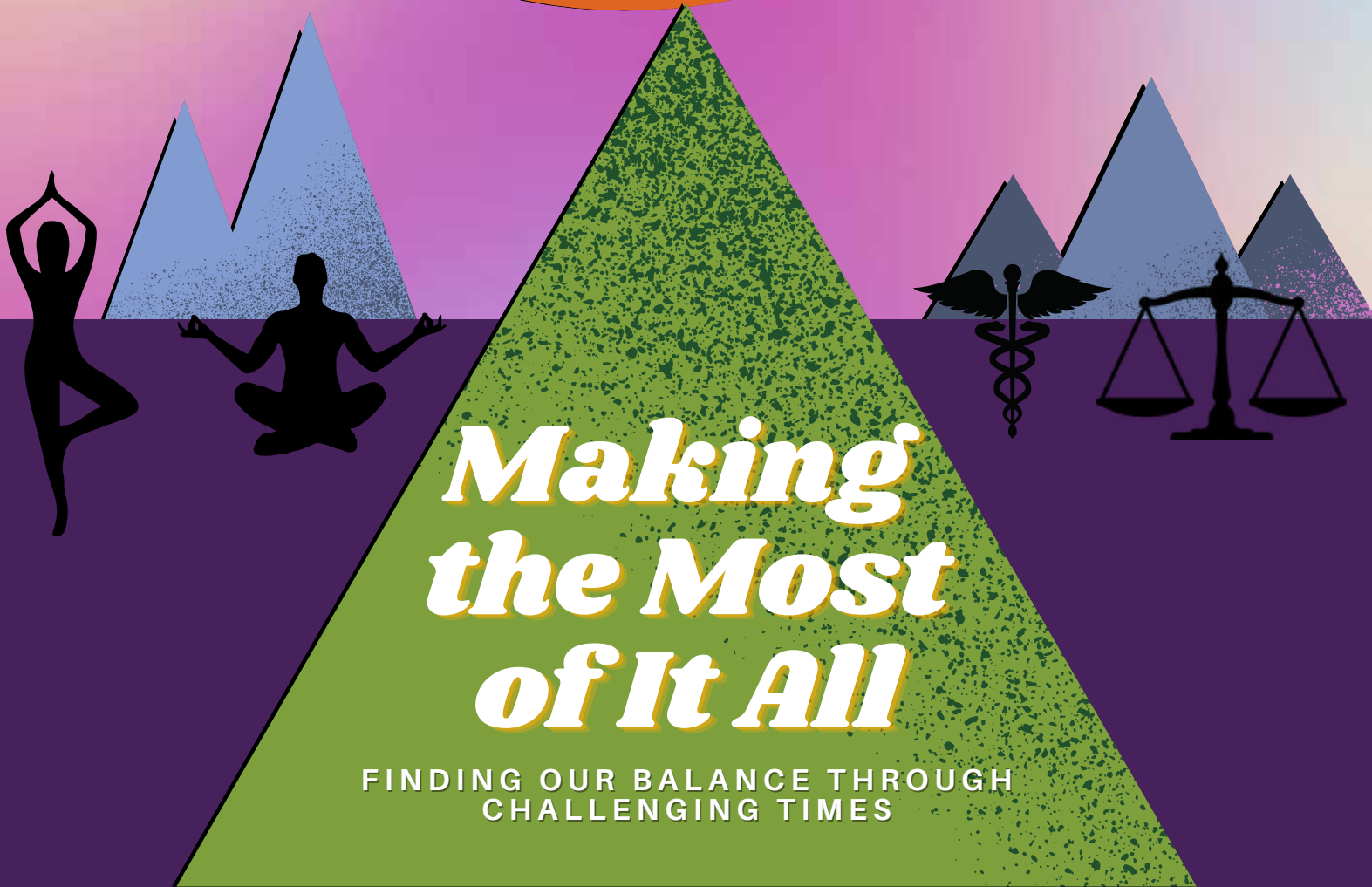
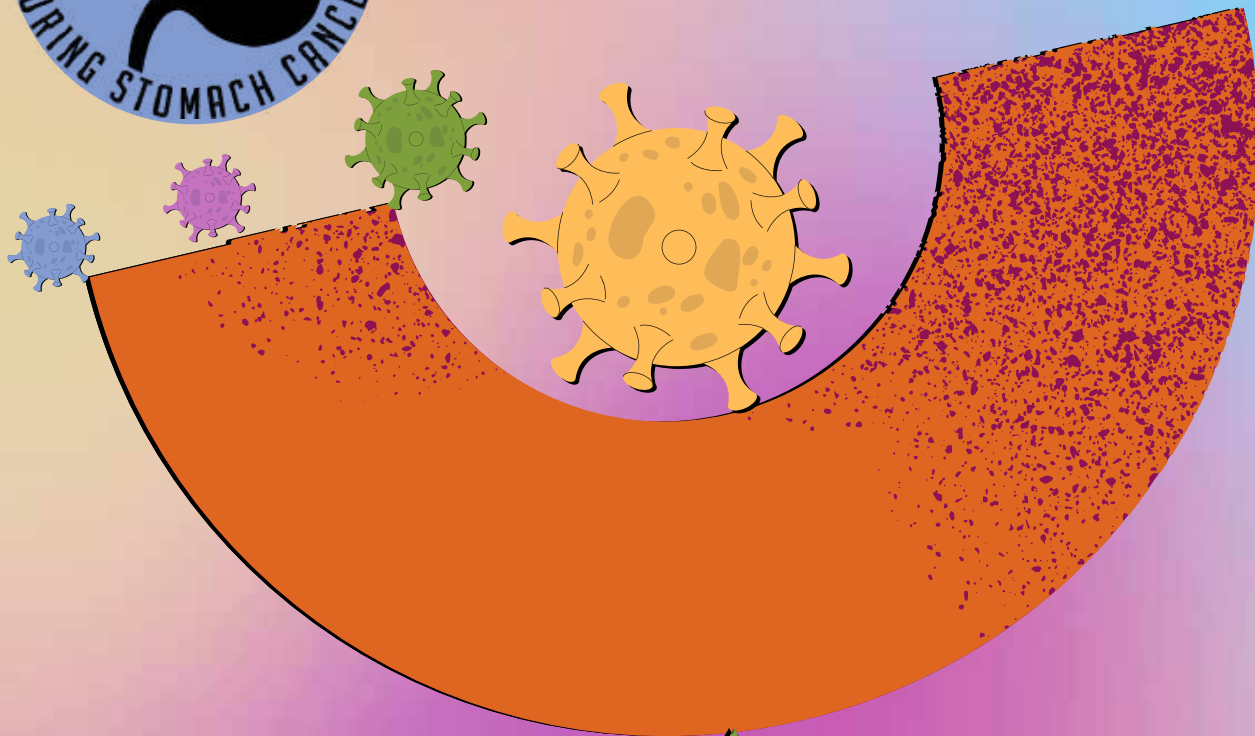




2021 ANNUAL REPORT



# ***Making the Most of It All***

FINDING OUR BALANCE THROUGH  
CHALLENGING TIMES

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# ***A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO***

Dear DDF Supporters,

None of us could have predicted the lingering effects that the COVID-19 pandemic would have on our families, our communities, and our daily lives. In 2021, Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF) found a way to balance new norms and persist in our mission to raise awareness, fund research, educate patients and caregivers, and support the stomach cancer community. From the start of the pandemic, our number one concern has been to keep our staff and the stomach cancer community safe, informed, and supported. This is why our transition to a fully remote workplace has helped lay the foundation for expanding many of our programs and creating others by providing virtual access to resources for those who need it most.

The challenges of the global pandemic created a catalyst and a turning point that brought to light issues of access to care and health inequalities throughout the world. In 2021, we refocused our programs to address some of these issues to meet those needs. Our Patient Resource Education Program offers free stomach cancer educational webinars and symposia, and stomach cancer support groups. We followed CDC guidelines to provide hybrid in-person and virtual options for our signature symposia events this year. In doing so, we saw our highest registration numbers ever in 2021, with people tuning in worldwide. Earlier in the year, we expanded our commitment to mental health and support by partnering with CancerCare to create the first-ever Stomach Cancer Helpline. The service features social workers who aim to alleviate distress and help patients obtain the best possible outcomes during their treatment journey.

Additionally, we are proud to have launched our Health Equity Program to help highlight and address many healthcare disparities that plague the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color populations within the stomach cancer community. Furthermore, our signature Advocacy Day was a great success as we continued to increase the amount of federal funding allocated to stomach cancer every year- virtually!. We also continued our commitment to fund research and allotted an additional \$200,000 for cutting-edge research in the latest advancements for gastric cancer.

These critical transitions were made possible due to the unwavering support of our dedicated Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, donors, industry partners, and the resilient individuals who make up the stomach cancer community. Because of your support, we continue to rise to the occasion as we press forward in our mission and overcome the challenges that accompany these evolving times. Thank you for continuing to dream BIG with DDF!

With sincerest appreciation,

***Andrea Eidelman, Esq.***

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

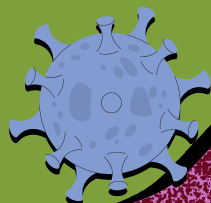
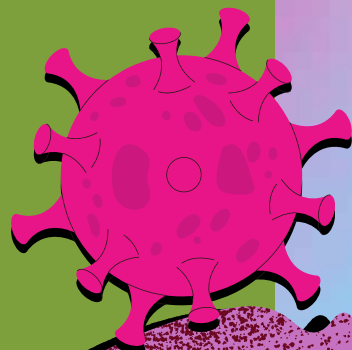
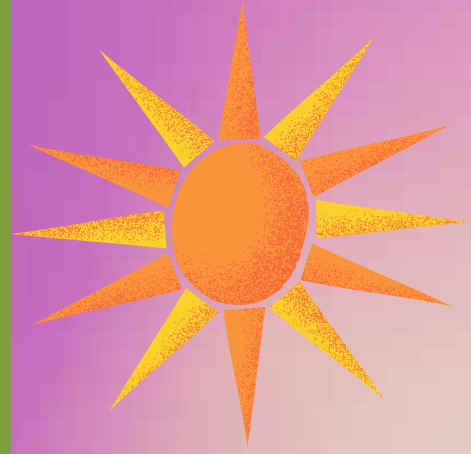
DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION |  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT



# ***PROGRAMS OVERVIEW***

Our Patient Resource Education Program offers many free stomach cancer support services to patients, families, and caregivers. When a patient is diagnosed, they, their families, and their caregiver can apply to request a peer mentor. In 2021, we launched our state-of-the-art mentor matching platform, helping patients communicate, identify learning solutions, find peer-to-peer support and effectively connect in one space. Through our mentor program, patients can better understand their diagnosis, staging, treatment options, clinical trials, side effects, and disease management. Mentors share their stories, tips, advice, and concerns with others, so they feel supported along their journey.

DDF also hosted various online education programs, including monthly stomach cancer support groups, 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.






# PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

 inspire  
Nearly  
**18K**  
Inspire  
Community  
Members

  
**8K**  
Website Hits  
Per Month

  
More than  
**36K**  
Facebook  
Likes

 **95**  
Registered for  
Mentors

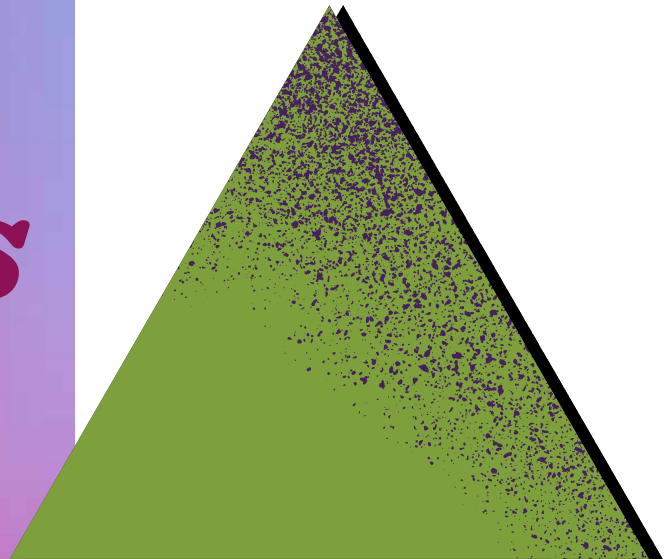
  
Nearly  
**10K**  
Participated in our Virtual  
Stomach Cancer  
Educational Webinars and  
Symposia

  
**6**  
Webinars  
**2**  
Symposia

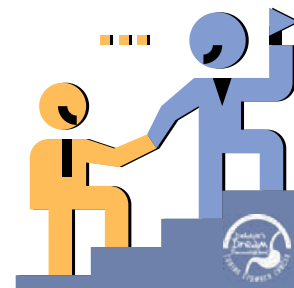
# PROGRAMS 2021 INITIATIVES

## PATIENT RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

### MONTHLY STOMACH CANCER SUPPORT GROUPS



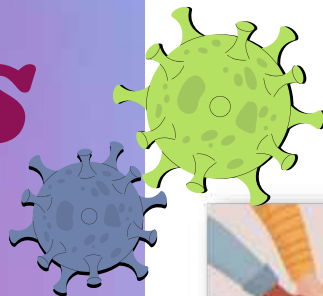
We partnered with Memorial Cancer Institute (MCI) to bring patients and caregivers virtual monthly stomach cancer support groups. The support groups are open to patients, their families, and caregivers, where topics vary by month and group. Support groups in 2021 were held on the first Thursday of every month via Zoom. MCI's Dr. Jessica Ketterer, Ph.D., led each monthly group, helping patients and caregivers find solutions and feel supported throughout their journey.



## MENTOR MATCHING PROGRAM

Through our Patient Resource Education Program, we offer peer-to-peer mentorship for patients, caregivers, and families to help them navigate their journey. In 2021, we launched a state-of-the-art digital platform that uses smart-matching algorithms to pair patients and families with moral support and help build community.

# PROGRAMS 2021 INITIATIVES



## MIND, BODY, SPIRIT FACEBOOK LIVE SERIES

During the 2020 pandemic, we launched the Mind, Body, Spirit Facebook LIVE Series as part of our COVID-19 Resources and Support Program to address cancer's mental and emotional impact on the stomach cancer community. This initiative continued through 2021 as we covered topics including meditation, yoga, overcoming anxiety and stress, and the power of positive thinking.



## HEALTH EQUITY & INCLUSION PROGRAM

The pandemic helped highlight social, economic, and health disparities plaguing Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) populations. In response, DDF launched our Health Equity and Inclusion Program in 2021 to help fill the gap in access to information and resources in the BIPOC community. While we recognize that health equity is an aspiration, we are dedicated to playing our part in providing solutions that help make healthcare as inclusive and equal as possible.



## STOMACH CANCER HELPLINE

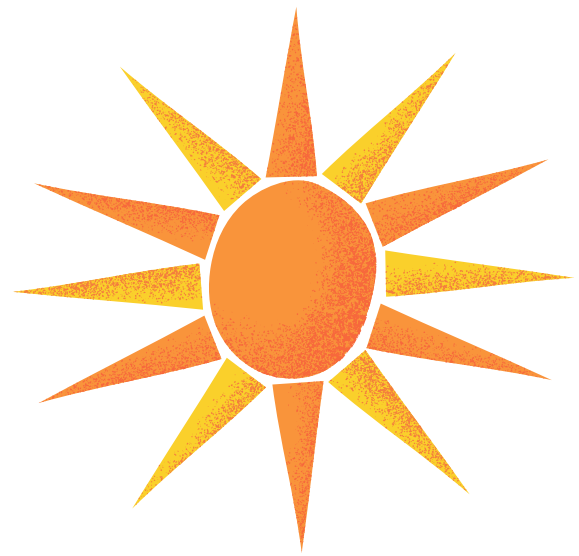
In 2021, we partnered with CancerCare to provide a helpline staff of skilled oncology social workers with specific expertise on issues affecting stomach cancer patients and their families. The helpline aims to alleviate distress and help patients obtain the best possible outcomes from their treatment. It serves as an extension of DDF's Health Equity and Awareness Program, which aims to help bridge the gap in access to care for underserved communities.





# WEBINARS AND VIRTUAL SYMPOSIA

## STOMACH CANCER EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS



In 2021, our Stomach Cancer Educational Webinar Series kicked off in late January with Dr. Albert Lockhart of the University of Miami's Sylvester Cancer Center as he shared the latest updates on Perioperative Chemotherapy. Dr. Atif Hussein of Memorial Cancer Institute then shared COVID-19 vaccine updates for cancer patients to keep them safe and in the know. In February, Dottie Shead of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network joined DDF to share the most recent guidelines for gastric cancer patients.

Dr. Omar Llaguna of Memorial Healthcare systems led us into summer with his July presentation on Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC). In the Fall, Dr. Yelena Janjigian of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Dr. Jordan Berlin of Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Dr. Madappa Kundranda of Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center and

Dr. Timmy Nguyen of Cleveland Clinic Florida presented on Clinical Trial Updates.

In December, we ended the year with a presentation on "Talking to Your Kids About Cancer" in partnership with CancerCare. Thanks to the generous sponsors of our educational webinar and symposia, we were able to keep the stomach cancer community informed and empowered as they navigate their journey.





# WEBINARS AND VIRTUAL SYMPOSIA

## VIRTUAL STOMACH CANCER EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIA

In 2021, we partnered with top organizations and experts in the U.S. and abroad to host hybrid in-person and virtual stomach cancer educational symposia. Our symposia help keep our community informed on the latest research, treatment options, and more!



## 2021 GASTROESOPHAGEAL CANCER EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

DDF collaborated with Mayo Clinic to host a Gastroesophageal Cancer Educational Symposium on Saturday, July 31, 2021, at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. The event was attended both in-person and virtually and was led by Surgical Oncologist Dr. Travis E. Grotz and Thoracic Surgeon, and Professor Dr. Shanda Blackmon. The symposium featured topics such as genetics, endoscopic treatments, pathology reports, immunotherapy, proton and radiation therapy, circulating tumors, and nutrition. In addition, attendees heard from patients during the two patient panel discussions held between sessions.



## 2021 INTERNATIONAL GASTRIC CANCER EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

We partnered with the Korean Cancer Association (KCA) to host a record-high 935 virtual attendees during the International Gastric Cancer Educational Symposium on Thursday, June 17, 2021, in Seoul, Korea. The symposium was led by Dr. Han-Kwang Yang, Director, and Professor of Surgery at the Seoul National University Hospital in Seoul, Korea, and Chairman of the Board of Directors for KCA. Participants from over 50 countries tuned in to presentations by medical experts from Korea, China, Japan, and the United States to help bridge the gap on early detection issues and highlight the differences in treatment options between the western and eastern world.



Photo: Virtual and in-person participants of the 2021 International Gastric Cancer Educational Symposium.



Photo: In-person participants of the 2021 Gastroesophageal Cancer Educational Symposium

# 2021 NUTRITION PROGRAM

## 2021 NUTRITION PROGRAM

Patients and their families often reach out to DDF with questions about nutrition and how to eat through their diagnosis, especially through the holidays. 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/](http://www.DebbiesDream.org/resources/nutrition/).



## COOKING MEALS FOR THE STOMACH CANCER PATIENT

In 2021, we continued our Facebook LIVE cooking demo series featuring seasonal Meals for the Stomach Cancer Patient prepared by Chef Zach of Gordon Ramey's Steak - Baltimore. Chef Zach was joined by Clinical Oncology Dietician Mary-Eve Brown of Johns Hopkins to answer commonly asked questions and bring stomach cancer patients a variety of deliciously modified meals that they could enjoy.



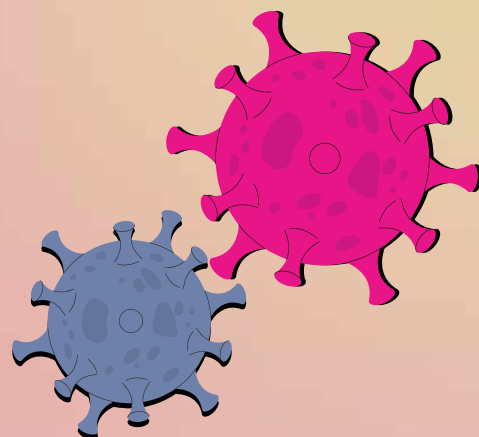
# ADVOCACY



Our annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day is attended by advocates from all over the country. For the past nine years, advocates have met with Congress to discuss and urge lawmakers to maintain and increase federal funding for stomach cancer research. In 2021, we hosted the 9th Annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day virtually on February 11 and 12. The annual meetings, typically held on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., presented an opportunity for nearly 200 stomach cancer patients, family members, and caregivers to meet virtually with Congress members and share their personal stories and the latest facts and statistics about stomach cancer. These consistent efforts help ensure that stomach cancer remains eligible for funding through the Department of Defense's Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program.



Photo: (l to r): Screenshot of participants of the 9th Annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom.



# DDF GOLF EVENTS

Since the start of the pandemic, our signature golf tournaments have been critical in helping us continue to fundraise through in-person events. In 2021, we hosted multiple golf tournaments throughout the country thanks to the wonderful advocates, partners, and sponsors who support our mission.



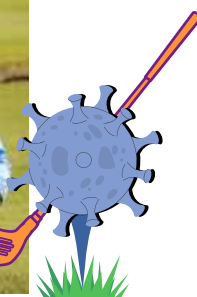
## NORTH CAROLINA GOLF TOURNAMENTS

### FAYETTEVILLE, NC GOLF TOURNAMENT

DDF Board member and North Carolina Chapter co-founder Christy Murphy Leonard hosted a successful 8th Annual Fayetteville, NC Golf Tournament & Charity Dinner on October 30, 2021. The event raised approximately \$15,000 and was held in honor of her late husband and beloved stomach cancer warrior, Tony Leonard, who passed away from stomach cancer in 2018.

### PHILIP SEGAL III GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 3rd Annual Philip Segal III Golf Tournament and Private Party was hosted on Thursday, June 10, 2021, at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro, North Carolina. The annual event is held to honor Philip Segal III, the founder of Havana Phil's Cigar Company. Segal lost his six-month battle with stomach cancer in 2018 at 60. This year's event raised nearly \$22,000.



## WISCONSIN GOLF TOURNAMENT

DDF supporter Scott Rank hosted the 3rd Annual West Bend, WI Golf Tournament & Charity Dinner on Friday, June 11, 2021. The tournament was held to celebrate 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.



## SOUTH FLORIDA GOLF TOURNAMENT

DDF co-hosted the 1st Collaborative Golf Tournament with Broward County Medical Association (BCMA) on Friday, April 23, 2021. Co-chaired by DDF Board member Jonathan Perrillo and Dr. Abram Berens, the event was held at the Jacaranda Country Club in Plantation, Florida. It was the first in-person event that DDF had held since the start of the COVID-19 global pandemic in March 2020. Nearly \$23,000 was raised during the event to support DDF's mission.



# SCHOLARSHIPS

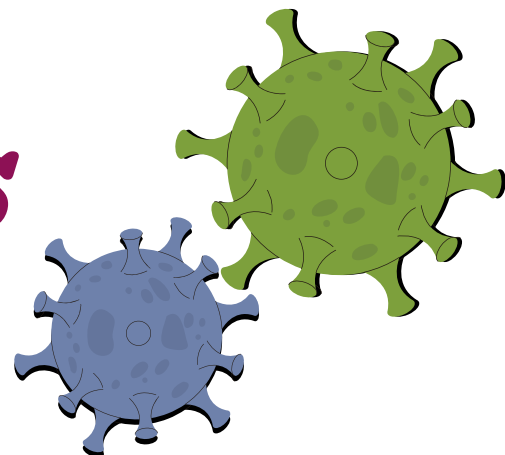


Photo: (l to r) The Reid Children Chloe and Justin Reid at the 2021 Susan Haines Reid 3rd Annual Golf Tournament benefitting the Susan Haines Reid Scholarship Fund

## SUSAN HAINES REID SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION*

Susan Haines Reid Scholarship Fund (SHRSF), in partnership with Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF), hosted its 3rd Annual Golf Tournament on October 1, 2021, at King's Grant Golf & Country Club in Fayetteville, NC. The event is held in honor of the late Susan Reid, wife, mother of three, and stomach cancer advocate, who passed away of stomach cancer in 2015. Proceeds from the event help award scholarships to high school students in the Fayetteville area and support the mission of Debbie's Dream Foundation. Nearly \$10,000 was raised at this year's event.

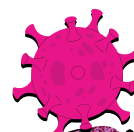


## 2021 DDF SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

DDF launched its annual scholarship essay contest in September 2021 for children between the ages of 5 to 18 across the United States. The competition consisted of three categories: elementary, middle, and high school. Evangelos Agganis, 10, of Pickerington, Ohio, won \$100 in the elementary school division, Amani Morrison, 13, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, won \$200 in the middle school division, and Kaitlan Muras, 17, of Richmond, Texas, won \$700 in the high school division.

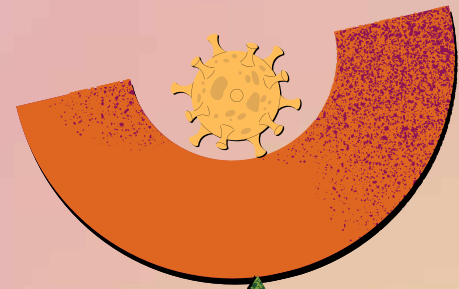


Photos: (l to r) 2021 Scholarship Essay Contest Winners Kaitlan Muras, 17, Amani Morrison, 13, and Evangelos Agganis, 10.

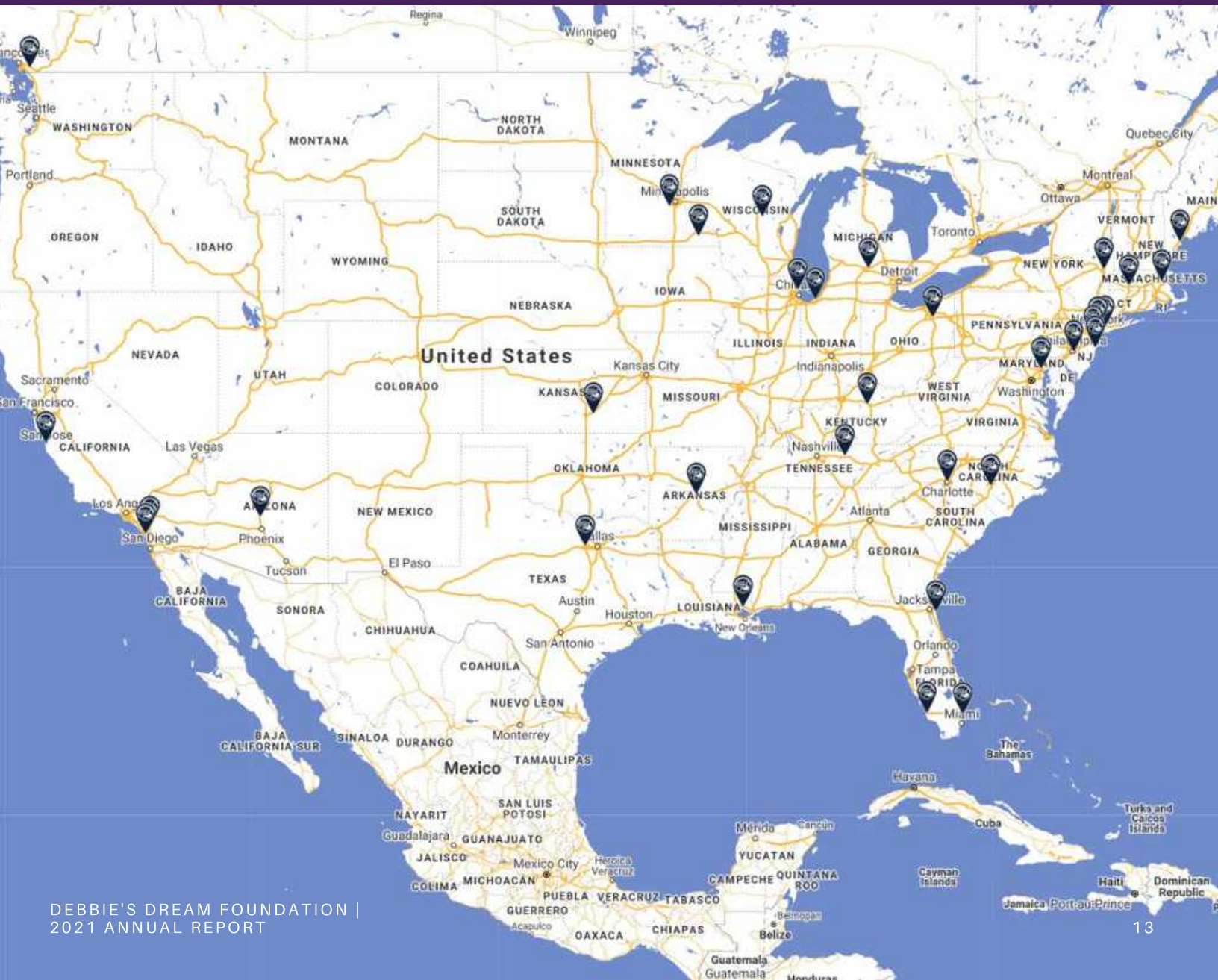


# 2021 CHAPTERS

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

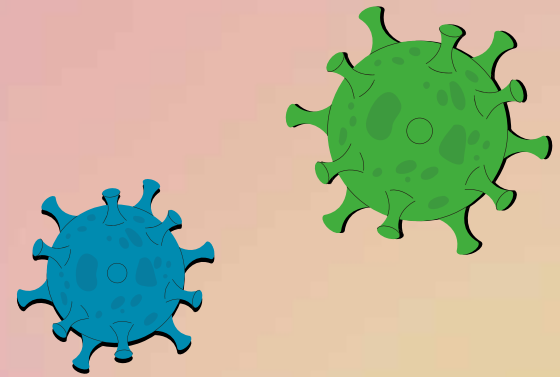


***Making  
the Most  
of It All***





# 2021 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 Chapter

Canada Chapter - British Columbia  
Millie McConnell

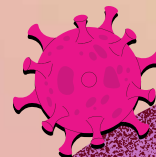
# CURING STOMACH CANCER MONTH



Photo: (l to r): Crystal Griest of Illinois, Dr. Naomi Izquierdo-Martinez of Texas, and Nikki Ashmore of Missouri each had their state declare November 2021 as 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 2021, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Montana, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, New York, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin made the declaration.





# DDF IN THE NEWS



Photo: (l to r) Colt Blunt, 37, and Matt Budgell 27 were featured in the cover story for CURE Magazine's Gastrointestinal Cancers March 2021.

## AS THE INCIDENCE OF GI CANCER CREEPS UP AMONG YOUNGER PATIENTS, SO DOES THE QUESTION OF WHY.

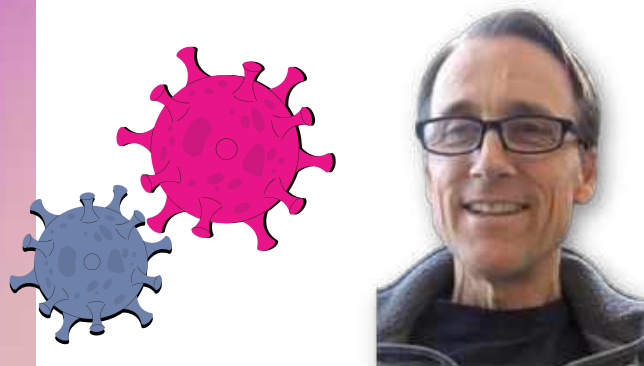
Colt Blunt and Matt Budgell sat with CURE Magazine for their Gastrointestinal Cancers March 2021 issue to discuss the difficulties they faced being young and diagnosed with stomach cancer. Colt was diagnosed with stage 3 gastric adenocarcinoma in June of 2019 at 37. Matt was just 27 years old when he was diagnosed with stage 3/4 gastric cancer in January 2020. They each shared stories of misdiagnosis and difficulties faced during the rise of gastric cancer in younger patients.



Photo: (l to r): Adriana Germano Foschini and her mother Theresa Germano.

## 'I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG BEFORE THE DOCTORS DID'

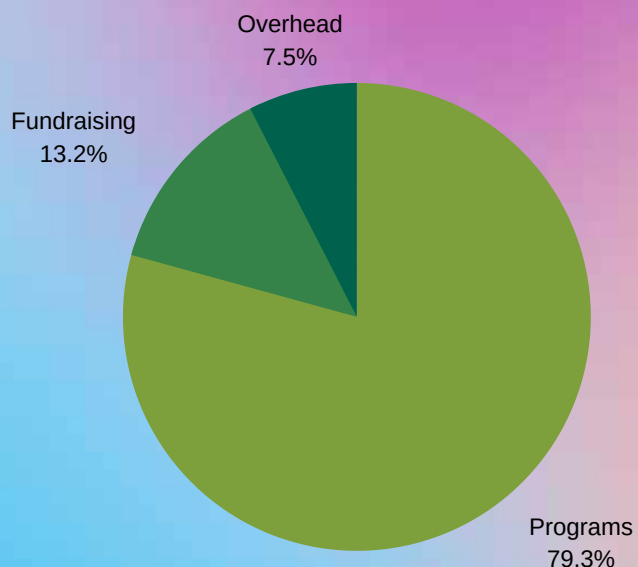
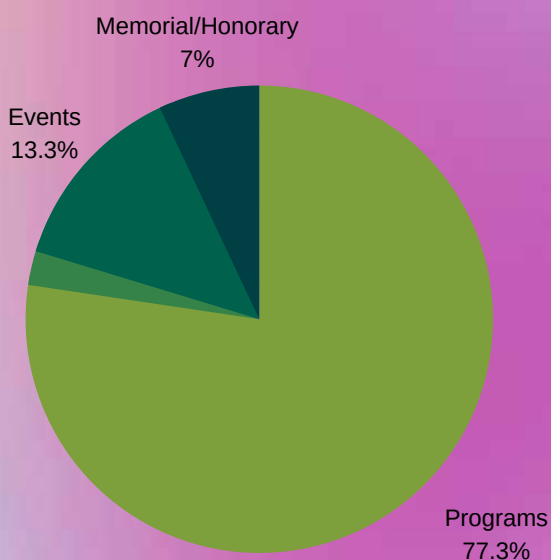
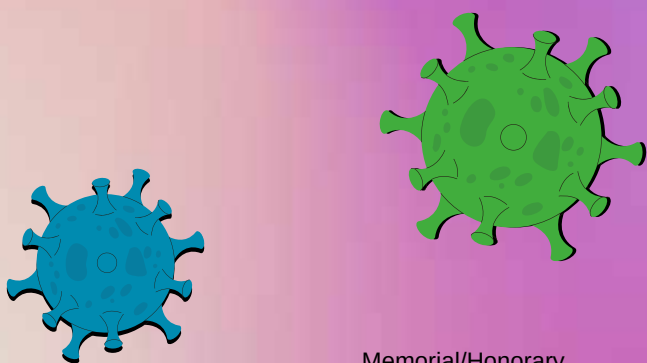
Theresa Germano sat down with Cure Magazine's HEAL® for their Winter 2021 issue to discuss her journey with cancer, how her daughter became her hero and how listening to her body benefited her.



**Healthful Heroes**  
Your Journey. Our Purpose.

Author, DDF Board member, and patient advocate Steve Melen did an interview with Healthful Heroes to share his journey as a stage IIIB gastric cancer survivor of more than 12 years.

# FINANCIALS



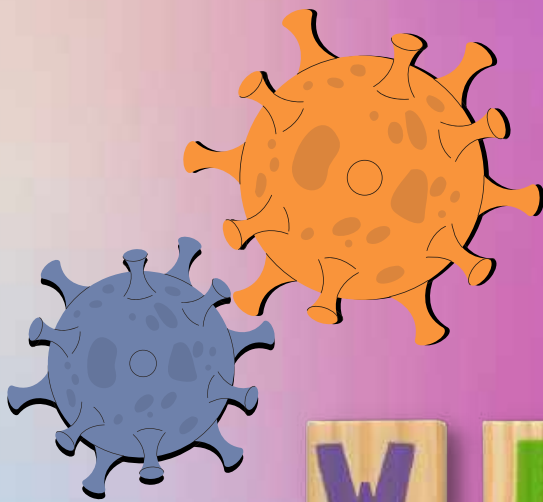
## Total Revenue 2021 \$1,221,745

13%	Events
77%	Programs
7%	Memorial/Honorary
2%	General Donations

## Total Expenses 2021 \$ 1,006,232.64

79%	Programs
13%	Fundraising
8%	Overhead

# 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 PREP Mentor and help people like you who need a little inspiration to keep fighting.
- **Share Your Story** - Share your story or the story of someone you know to inspire others, whether as a patient, family member, friend, loved one, or caregiver!
- **Spread Awareness** - Help us get the word out by passing out, emailing, and/or posting information about Debbie's Dream Foundation on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and more!

## 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 Facebook 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

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Han-Kwang Yang, MD, PhD, FACS,  
Hon ASA, Hon ESA & Hon JSES





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

**Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer**

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