



PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK
ADVANCE RESEARCH. SUPPORT PATIENTS. CREATE HOPE.

SUMMER 2009
DETROIT AFFILIATE



DON'T FORGET!
PURPLESTRIDE DETROIT 2009!

Join us on Sunday, September 27 at 8 a.m. for our first annual 5K walk! You can participate by organizing a team, walking, running, supporting a participant or cheering participants on!

There is no cost to register before September 20, and registration on the day of the event is only \$20. Raise \$100 by September 6 and win an event T-shirt. Raise more and earn other great prizes!

Thank you to two great local bands who have agreed to provide free entertainment: The Broken Arrow Blues Band and Take 2 Detroit. We'll also have fun activities for the kids. And everyone is welcome to stay after the walk and stroll through the zoo.

For more information about this event, please contact Pat Hall at phall@pancanvolunteer.org.

Register today at www.pancan.org/purplestride09.



IN MEMORY

On July 2, Ricky Sandoval lost his three-year battle against pancreatic cancer. Soon after his diagnosis, Ricky's wife, Gael, founded the Detroit Affiliate. Together, Gael and Ricky worked steadfastly to raise awareness for the disease. Ricky fought a courageous battle and was an inspiration to all who met him.

Ricky, who was the longtime director of security for the Detroit Lions, was named the Lions' first non-player nominee and winner of the NFL's Ed Block Courage Award in 2006, which is given to a member of each of the league's 32 teams. The Lions have renamed their practice field "Sandoval Field" in his honor.

We will miss Ricky's determination and optimism. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gael and her family and friends.



GET INVOLVED!

- We are looking for volunteers to hand out literature and answer questions about PanCAN at a classic car show in Pontiac on Saturday, Sept. 19. If you would like to help, please contact Meghan Combs at mcombs@pancanvolunteer.org.
- We are looking for local cheerleading teams to cheer on our PurpleStride walkers at the Detroit Zoo on Sept. 27. If you would like to help contact local schools, please contact Colleen Kmiecik at ckmiecik@pancanvolunteer.org.
- If you shop at Kroger, you can help! Kroger stores offer gift cards to non-profits and we can use them to purchase bagels, bananas and granola bars for PurpleStride. Please contact Colleen Kmiecik at ckmiecik@pancanvolunteer.org for an in-kind donation form and available Kroger locations.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 9

PurpleStride Planning Meeting, Alzheimer's Association, Southfield, 6:30 p.m.

September 27

1st Annual PurpleStride Detroit, Detroit Zoo, Royal Oak, 8 a.m.

November

National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

November 1

Detroit Lions Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Game, Ford Field, Detroit, 1 p.m.

December

Detroit Affiliate Leadership Meeting, date and location TBA

June 21-22, 2010

4th Annual Advocacy Day, Washington, D.C.

2009 DETROIT AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP

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Please feel free to contact any member of the leadership team with questions, ideas or suggestions.

Pancreatic cancer changes everything instantly. It robs us of our family and our friends. I lost my mom to this disease and the impact that this diagnosis had on our family and friends changed everything forever. I support and believe in the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network's mission to advance research, support patients and create hope. Volunteering for the Detroit Affiliate has allowed me to move forward with an amazing group of individuals who share a commitment to raise awareness and funds that will lead to a cure one day.

-Sharon Lukas

I lost my husband to this devastating disease in 2005. I founded a foundation in his name to help pancreatic cancer patients. After 3 years of struggling in a tight economy, I joined fundraising efforts with the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. I am driven to help find a cure and the fire is fueled each and every time a life is lost to pancreatic cancer. My hope for this cancer is that research will increase the survival rate and eventually formulate a cure, giving pancreatic cancer patients hope.

-Pat Hall

My mom was diagnosed with stage 1 pancreatic cancer in 2005. From the very beginning, we were told it would be a tough battle to fight, even though it was detected early. Despite having a Whipple, chemotherapy and radiation, she lost her battle in 2007. I hope that my small role in this organization can be part of a larger contribution to how this disease is understood and treated...and one day cured.

-Colleen Kmiecik

Pancreatic cancer are words I wish I never heard. However, I did two-and-a-half years ago, when it took the life of my father in just six short months. Since then, I have become a part of a wonderful group working together to help raise money and awareness for this horrible disease. I have hope that with the help of many, and the work that the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network continues to do, that there will be a cure for it some day.

-Amy Ruckle

PanCAN HITS CAPITOL HILL



Detroit Affiliate members met with U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Stabenow on Capitol Hill and urged her to support increased funding for pancreatic cancer research.

On March 31, 14 of our affiliate members joined nearly 500 advocates from across the country to participate in the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network's 3rd Annual Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.

We met with our Congressional representatives and asked for their support by co-sponsoring the Pancreatic Cancer Research and Education Act (H.R. 745). This bill would provide the National Cancer Institute (NCI) with the tools it needs to make true progress in the fight against pancreatic cancer. By July, 156 co-sponsors have now signed on to the bill, including three Michigan delegates: Rep. Candice Miller, Rep. Thaddeus McCotter and Rep. Gary Peters. (Note: The legislation has not yet been introduced in the Senate).

In addition to our request to Members of Congress to co-sponsor the Pancreatic Cancer Research and Education Act., we also asked our legislators to co-sign the Cummings-Platt letter, which urges Congress to double the budget of the National Cancer Institute over the next five years by increasing the funding to \$6 billion in FY 2010, an increase of 20% over FY 2009. Sixty members of Congress signed on to the Cummings-Platt letter, including two Michigan delegates: Rep. Dale Kildee and Rep. Fred Upton.

Visit <http://www.pancan.org/Public/take.html> to find out how you can help!



Jeff Pangrcic, Zach Dunning, Charlie Bellevia and Kevin Breaugh enjoyed 18 holes of golf on Tam-O-Shanter's beautiful course.



On June 1, we held our 3rd Annual Links For A Cure golf fundraiser at Tam-O-Shanter Country Club in West Bloomfield. We raised almost \$50,000 to help in the fight against pancreatic cancer.

More than one hundred golfers spent the day swinging for a cure, and 120 more people joined us for a dinner reception. The country

club's executive chef and Detroit Affiliate member, Daniel Vallone, and his staff created a fabulous menu and donated their time for our cause.

Dr. Marina Pasca di Magliano, a researcher at the University of Michigan, was our special guest for the evening. Marina received the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network's Career Development Award, a two-year grant provided to junior faculty at academic and medical institutions. This grant supports and encourages young scientists to establish a career path in the field of pancreatic cancer research. Marina's specialty is Notch Signaling in Pancreatic Cancer Initiation and Progression.

A big thank you to our top sponsors: The Detroit Lions, Northwood Shopping center, Audi and Pepsico.

And thank you to all our volunteers for making Links for A Cure a huge success:



Sharon Lukas, Christina Jagielski, Marina Pasca di Magliano, PhD, and Gael Sandoval at the dinner reception.

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|---------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Karen Beck | Evette Hollaway- | Tami Neumann | Marla Spaulding |
| Yvonne Borg | Glenn | Margie Ohryn | Bill Tripp |
| Nancy Carroll | Christina Jagielski | Kathy Pyden | Veronica Tripp |
| Meghan Combs | Marion Janeshek | Lee Pyden | Daniel Vallone |
| Renee Edgar | Pat Klos | Tom Pyden | Lorenzo Vallone |
| Tom Edgar | Colleen Kmiecik | Amy Ruckle | Patricia VanHook |
| Julie Elliott | Marcie Levey | Gael Sandoval | Kandi Wood |
| Lois Freeman | Sharon Lukas | Joyce Selke | |
| Pat Hall | Karen Luscomb | Betty Singer | |
| Laura Hardy | Olga Meyer | Dennis Spaulding | |

Twenty years ago I lost my grandma, Helen Jagielski, to pancreatic cancer. Her story is not unlike many others, diagnosed at a late stage, given no options, passed away 3 months later. As a member of a cancer research field I became so angry that while we have seen so much progress in other cancers, the picture looks very much the same in 2009 as it did for my grandma twenty years ago. Being involved with the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network has given me a productive outlet to funnel that anger into something more effective: Action. PanCAN connects you with a group of people who share a similar experience and similar emotions about this disease. It is my hope that by working together we will do no less than change the face of this disease so that those who have to hear those dreaded words, "pancreatic cancer," in the future will have a much better fate than those who came before.

-Christina Jagielski

Pancreatic cancer devastated our idyllic life when my mom was diagnosed in October 2007. Before she died in November 2008, she told me to continue to fight with this courageous group of volunteers to change the hopeless outcome of a pancreatic cancer diagnosis. I will not rest until improvements are made. This group has helped me with the grieving process by giving me the outlet to help make a difference in this disease.

-Meghan Combs

Following my husband's diagnosis, I took on the impossible job of trying to save his life. During my efforts, I came across PanCAN on the Internet and began to use the resources they offered. Following his death, I found being involved as a volunteer to be rewarding in several ways. I made valuable friendships with people I had an emotional connection with. While grieving the loss of my husband, I found a purpose and a passion within the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

-Kandi Wood



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

The Detroit Affiliate now has a Facebook page! Become a fan of our page by visiting www.facebook.com/pancandetroit and clicking on the "Become A Fan" button. Check the page often for upcoming events, photos and discussions.