

# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION IMPACT REPORT 2020

TWO CHAPTERS MERGED AS ONE REGION. OPERATING AS A MORE POWERFUL FORCE FOR THE LLS MISSION.

We fund

RESEARCH

to advance lifesaving

treatments.

We compassionately provide patients and families with hope, guidance, education and

SUPPORT.

We drive

## **ADVOCACY**

for policies that protect patient access to lifesaving treatments.

## THE MISSION OF THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY (LLS) IS:

Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

# LLS COVID-19 RESPONSE

During this global healthcare crisis, blood cancer patients face extreme challenges. The threat of infection poses a major risk to patients, whether they are in active treatment or in remission, since many therapies suppress the immune system and cause long-term side effects that make people vulnerable to illness. Another immediate concern is economic hardship. Cancer treatment alone can take a financial toll on patients and their families. With business closures, large scale layoffs, and unprecedented upheavals in our daily lives, the financial needs of many patients and families coping with blood cancer are even more urgent.

At LLS, we recognize that in times of crisis, our mission is more important than ever. To address the unexpected and incredibly urgent needs that many patients face right now, we established the LLS COVID-19 Patient Financial Aid Program.

From April 1, 2020 through June 23, 2020, 19,381 patients received \$4.8 million in financial assistance nationally.



# CALIFORNIA Patients Assisted 1,476

Assistance Provided \$369,000



## **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Patients Assisted 215
Assistance Provided \$53,750

At LLS, we believe that no patient should feel alone or experience the strain of not having the resources they need. Each year, LLS's Information Resource Center receives thousands of requests for financial aid from individuals in urgent need. This need is only increasing as patients and families experience difficulties as a result of the current crisis. That is why LLS established the COVID-19 Patient Financial Aid Program, and has provided the following support to so many patients:







**1,786** Pediatric patients

2,842 Young Adult patients

14,753 Adult patients

# YOUR DONATION HELPS SUPPORT



Increase RESEARCH grants and launch LLS PedAL clinical trial

> THE LLS **CHILDREN'S** INITIATIVE

Drive

**POLICY** 

to break down

barriers to

treatment and care

**SUPPORT** for children and families THE LLS CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE: **CURES AND CARE FOR CHILDREN** 

An ambitious global collaboration to bring the power of precision medicine to pediatric patients, The LLS Children's Initiative will drive a fundamental shift in how childhood cancer is understood, researched and treated.

Although 2020 truly was a year like no other, your philanthropy made it possible for LLS to stay focused on advancing better treatments and new cures for children.

## We are already changing the standard of care for children.

As of August 2020, all newly diagnosed childhood acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients in the United States participating in clinical trials through the Children's Oncology Group (COG) have access to genomic testing. Providing specific data on the genetics of a child's cancer and insights into which treatments are a best fit, this precision medicine model offers great hope in improving cure rates and reducing short and long-term side effects.

The LLS Children's Initiative requires a significant investment of \$100 million to drive the program forward through 2025.

Thank you to all of our Children's Initiative supporters for helping to bring the power of precision medicine to children with blood cancer. Together, we are confident that The LLS Children's Initiative will continue to make remarkable progress in 2021.

IN THE LAST 40 YEARS, ONLY

oncology drugs have been approved for first use in children.

of pediatric cancers are blood cancers.

**APPROXIMATELY** 

of childhood cancer survivors develop one or more chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment.

# THERAPY ACCELERATION PROGRAM (TAP)

## VENTURE PHILANTHROPY FOR HIGH-IMPACT CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT

Through TAP, the LLS venture philanthropy initiative, LLS and our donors improve care for blood cancer patients by investing in promising and innovative clinical development projects at biotechnology enterprises and leading academic institutions.

Venture philanthropy is a powerful model for advancing potentially high-impact projects for the benefit of humanity. Since its creation in 2007, TAP has been a pioneer in biomedical venture philanthropy, funding more than 60 projects thanks to the support of our donors. Focusing primarily on high risk, promising blood cancer therapeutics and platform technologies, TAP funds projects that have the potential to change the standard of care for patients with leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma. TAP invests in novel opportunities in areas of high unmet medical need, including niche indications which may not be attractive commercially, and innovative approaches that large pharmaceutical companies may still consider too high risk.

# **SINCE 2007:**







#### TAP SUCCESS IN THE BAY AREA

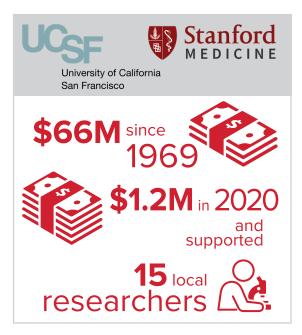


LLS funded Forty Seven's efforts in myelodysplastic syndrome and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma through TAP. The \$10.2 million commitment would be the largest LLS TAP support for a company and its asset, if all milestones are achieved. In March 2020, Forty Seven was acquired by Gilead Sciences for \$4.9 billion, generating a significant profit to LLS from its initial investment. This profit goes directly to our mission and accelerates the pathway to better treatments and cures.

# FINDING CURES IN THE BAY AREA

Since 1969, LLS has invested over \$66 million in lifesaving research at Stanford Medicine and University of California San Francisco, two world-class cancer research institutions. In 2020, LLS awarded \$1.2 million to new research projects, while continuing to support a total of 15 local researchers, working on 16 research projects to advance treatments and cures for blood cancer. New projects include focuses on pediatric Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) due to its therapeutic vulnerability and often poor prognosis, and improving CAR T-Cell therapy to decrease toxicity and increase effectiveness.

LLS has funded more than \$1 billion globally to advance treatments and find cures.



# **EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES**

Patient Support services and educational resources are offered free of charge. In 2020, LLS' Northern California Region impacted hundreds of local patients and their families:

- ♦ Reached 790 new households.
- ♦ Completed 39 Patti Robinson Kaufmann First Connection matches.
- ♦ Hosted 10 monthly Family Support Groups.
- Held the Northern California Blood Cancer Conference with 592 patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals in attendance.

To help ease the financial burden of cancer treatment, LLS provided more than:

- \$972,066 in Co-Pay Assistance to 288 patients.
- **♦ \$16,800** in **Patient Aid** to **168** patients.
- ♦ \$15,000 in Urgent Need to 30 patients.
- \$17,500 in Travel Assistance to 35 patients.
- ◆ \$53,750 in COVID-19 Assistance to 215 patients to help ease the financial burden of cancer treatment.

# **ADVOCACY** Patients in California are now one step closer to breathing a sigh of relief. In 2020, LLS advocates met with 100 members of Congress and sent thousands of letters to Senators and Representatives to protect patients from surprise medical bills - and they listened. The additional round of COVID relief legislation passed by Congress in December 2020 as a part of the Bipartisan-Bicameral Omnibus COVID Relief Deal. Instead of worrying about surprise bills, patients will now be able to focus on what matters most: getting healthy. We are grateful for the entire community of blood cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers who shared their stories with lawmakers and helped end this underhanded practice. We look forward to continuing to partner with Congress and the Biden Administration to ensure these policies are implemented in a way that continues to prioritize and protect patients.

# FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS





## Greater Bay Area and Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Light the Night

- ♦ San Francisco, East Bay and Silicon Valley walks raised over \$1,325,000.
- ◆ 24 local executives raised over \$266,000, as a part of the Executive Challenge, chaired by volunteer, Karen Burns (Managing Partner at Sensiba San Filippo.)
- ◆ Team Ella, led by Kyle and Shannon Kovac, raised \$62,277 and were awarded the Hero Award, linking their family to a research project.
- Special thanks to our top five sponsors who collectively gave \$175,000:
   Silicon Valley Bank, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Guardant Health, Morrison and Forester, and Rambus.





## **Community Shoutout**

- There was a silver lining to going virtual – our walks became accessible to all for the first time, like the UCSF Parnassus Campus whose oncology floor hosted its first inpatient Light The Night walk.
- 100 laps were made around the floor by nearly 30 patients, their family members, and UCSF Medical Center staff, all while holding their lanterns high.



#### MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR



## Greater Bay Area Man & Woman of the Year

- ♦ Raised \$400,074.
- ◆ Celebrated its 30th Anniversary.
- William Ellis, 2020 Man of the Year, raised \$103,759 and Dominique Kim, 2020 Woman of the Year, raised \$50,975.



## MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR



## Silicon Valley Man & Woman of the Year

- ♦ Raised \$327,387.
- Alisha Weed, 2020 Woman of the Year, raised \$104,807 and Mike Mordaunt, 2020 Man of the Year, raised \$82,720.



## MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR



## Monterey Bay Area Man & Woman of the Year

- ♦ Raised \$229,916.
- Stephanie Morgan, 2020 Woman of the Year, raised \$58,761 and Jose Castillo was our 2020 Man of the Year.
- ◆ Former Woman of the Year, Nancy Scheid, participated in the National ALL STAR event, raising \$72,500.



#### STUDENTS OF THE YEAR



## **Greater Bay Area Students of the Year**

- Raised \$400,802, with four teams raising over \$50,000 each.
- ◆ Tali Callan from Redwood High School, 2020 Students of the Year winner, raised \$59,187.



## STUDENTS OF THE YEAR



## Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Students of the Year

- Raised \$246,560 with 15 teams and 41 students participating.
- ◆ Team CUREiosity was the 2020 Students of the Year winner.



HERO SQUAD



## **Hero Squad**

- 260 schools across Northern California participated in Hero Squad, with Silicon Valley Bank as the presenting sponsor.
- Top fundraising schools were Francis Scott Key Elementary School of San Francisco and Easterbrook Discovery School of San Jose.







## **Big Climb**

- 2020 was the first year for Big Climb San Francisco, with an impressive 782 climbers.
- Raised over \$309,708.



## LEUKEMIA CUP REGATTA



## **Leukemia Cup Regatta**

- Raised over \$170,000, however due to the unprecedented times set forth by COVID-19, we were not able to safely gather for our 2020 Leukemia Cup Regatta.
- We are grateful to Regatta participants for their continued commitment and look forward to seeing you on the water in October 2021.



TEAM IN TRAINING



#### **Team In Training**

- Raised \$671,780 as teams kept their miles and goals moving, despite the limitations that COVID-19 presented.
- ♦ Team Kona Badger raised a grand total of \$351,597, representing Team in Training at the IRONMAN World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

# MAKING AN IMPACT

## LOCAL LEADERS GIVING THEIR TIME AND TREASURE



**Lisa Norcia Cheskin** and **Barry Cheskin** are long-standing LLS supporters. Barry serves as the Board Chair for the Northern California Board of Trustees and they have just committed to their **second gift of \$100,000** to the LLS mission, harnessing their philanthropy to advance treatments and cures for blood cancers and to ensure that survivors thrive for the long-term.

"Our family has been touched by blood cancer in so many ways. So, the work of LLS is extremely important to us. Barry lost his dad to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma when he was only 56 years old. A few years ago, when Barry, himself, turned 56, it hit him how young his dad really was when he passed away. If Barry's dad had been diagnosed today, he might have survived given all the advancements in blood cancer treatments that have since

been made. Last year, Lisa lost her dad to chronic lymphocytic leukemia. He benefited from treatments that LLS participated in developing, but unfortunately, they were not enough. Fortunately, we also have a blood cancer success story – our nephew was diagnosed at age 13 with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. After a long and sometimes harrowing treatment program at Stanford, he is doing extremely well and is now a healthy, college sophomore. LLS will always be one of our most important causes and we encourage others to put their support behind their life-saving efforts." – Lisa Norcia Cheskin and Barry Cheskin

Dan Darcy is the Co-Chair for LLS' 2021 Man & Woman of the Year Campaign. As a disadvantaged youth, there were many non-profit programs that Dan benefited from. He is extremely grateful for those people and programs because they are a large part of who he is today. Dan promised himself that when he had the chance to give back, he would do everything in his power to pay it forward. Dan's leadership with LLS is motivated by purpose and passion, building a community of action, and finding a cure.

"With all the craziness in the world, there are many ways you can choose to invest your time to make an impact. We are at war with cancer, and I volunteer my time with LLS because of the pillars of their mission - to find a cure, help patients with whatever they need on their journey, and to advocate with our government on behalf of the equity of all patients. LLS is the real deal when it comes to fighting on all fronts with cancer. That's why I choose to invest my time to help make an impact."





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