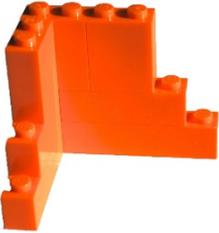




Time to *Change the Sarcoma Story!* Working together, we can save lives

Dear Sarcoma Community,

Why we have to *“Change the Story”*



One of the most touching moments we had this year occurred in the hospital room of a 9 ½ -year-old boy. He told us he didn't call his disease cancer but “black Legos” and if he and his doctors could rebuild those black Legos into orange ones, he would be fine. Unfortunately, no one had enough orange Legos to cure this bright and cheerful young man of sarcoma and sadly he passed away two weeks after our visit. Over 1000 people wore orange to his funeral and his metaphor for his sarcoma has stayed with us. This young man and people of all ages struck by sarcoma are the reason we are working so hard to *“Change the Story”*.

Research *“Changes the Story”*

In 2016, we funded \$125,000 in grants at the University of Minnesota for research to develop improved treatment options or better yet, a cure for sarcomas. Our dedicated researchers are busy trying to find new treatments to rid the body of sarcoma. There are some promising new treatments on the horizon but they need to be refined and tested to lead to a greater sarcoma cure rates. This is why **we need to raise more money for research**. We want every child to attend school instead of languishing in a hospital room with cancer; no more children, young adults, fathers and mothers, or grandparents should be taken by this disease.

Early diagnosis and proper treatment from the beginning can *“Change the story”*.



This year we launched an exciting new initiative in education for medical personnel due the generous donation from the Barbara Bradly Baekgaard Family Foundation on behalf of Todd and Kathy Brown. The Browns lost their daughter Hallie to sarcoma when she was 16 years old. Our new initiative is called the **Hallie Ann Brown Educational Initiative**. As Dr. Denis Clohisy said to the medical students at our Sarcoma lecture this spring, “You can't diagnose what you don't know.” With this \$100,000 grant, RIS will focus on improving medical personnel's knowledge of sarcoma.

A recent Swedish study suggests that early diagnosis of sarcoma could save as many as 20% of those diagnosed with sarcoma. Under the direction Dr. Randy Hurley, head oncologist for Regions Hospital, and with the support of HealthPartners, RIS will develop and conduct a comprehensive professional educational pilot directed to HealthPartners medical providers. We will then we will evaluate these efforts and the RIS medical advisory board will write a protocol that could be used to educate healthcare professionals at hospitals and medical institutions across the region and country about sarcoma cancers. Twenty percent means a lot of people will enjoy a longer life with friends and family and contributing to society. We are asking you to help us with your contributions and volunteer efforts to increase the impact of this generous donation.

Supporting patients brings hope and community



The third part of our mission is patient support. Support means so much to patients. Annette is a patient going through a relapse of her sarcoma and she is very appreciative of the support she's received from RIS. Dr. Dusenbery (RIS Board Member) invited Annette to be her guest at our recent fundraising event. Over the course of the evening, Annette played a game of chance for \$10 and after several rounds she won a \$500 prize. Certainly anyone going through a long and difficult journey with sarcoma has good uses for extra money but Annette donated half of her winnings



back to Rein in Sarcoma. The gala raised a significant amount of money for our mission but a grateful patient gave the most touching donation of the evening.

Our patient and family support committee assists patients in many ways, such as giving “totes for hope bags” to hospitalized patients, hosting patient support gatherings, and mentoring of newly diagnosed patients by sarcoma survivors. Hope, caring and encouragement are very important in the battle against sarcoma. Thanks to all of you we were able to increase that support this year.

Survivors give back

Our survivors are very involved in Changing the Story. Chelsey is helping to change the story by volunteering for two committees and agreeing to be chairperson of next year’s Party in the Park. Natalie is changing the story by becoming a medical researcher. Maggie is changing the story by attending medical school and bringing her personal knowledge of sarcomas to patients and other doctors. Miranda, an amazing 16-year-old, is changing the story by speaking publicly about sarcomas and increasing awareness all over the country.



Those who have lost someone to sarcoma bring hope to others.

Those who have lost someone to sarcoma are also changing the story by holding fundraisers. One example of many is the annual kickball tournament hosted by the Rogotzke family in Sanborn, MN in memory of their daughter and sister, Anna. This year, the Rogotzke’s raised over \$7,000 for Rein in Sarcoma.

How can you help us?

It takes a determined community to defeat sarcoma. **For RIS to increase our efforts to change the story**, we hope you will consider making a donation to our year end campaign. All individual donations will be matched up to \$10,000. Other ways in which you can help include holding your own fundraiser, joining one of our many active committees, or organizing educational opportunities for your school, church or civic club.

Building a fortress of orange Legos to keep out all of the sarcoma invaders.

Each time we fund a research project, educate a physician, or support a patient we are putting another orange brick in that fortress. Please join us as we build together to **“Change the Story”**.



Cordially,

Pete and Sue Wyckoff
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Rein in Sarcoma Foundation

Three anonymous donors have pledged to match all year-end donation up to \$10,000. Please take advantage of this opportunity to double your donation and help us reach our \$20,000 year-end goal.