



REIN IN SARCOMA

Increase awareness. Increase survivors.



Annette Bonaventura, sarcoma survivor, Jenny Gorham and Sophi Sanchez, sarcoma survivor

Dear friends:

As the year comes to an end, we reflect on the power of connection and the impact of our mission.

The story we share with you today is a reminder of the importance of your donation supporting patients and facilitating connections between sarcoma survivors.

Building community, making connections...

After two years of severe leg pain and multiple misdiagnoses, **Annette Bonaventura** was diagnosed in 2015 with Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumor (MPNST), a rare type of sarcoma. She endured five weeks of radiation, a tumor resection surgery and had part of her sciatic nerve removed. Only a year later, the cancer returned in her dominant arm. This recurrence has been extremely challenging as her median nerve had to be removed, greatly affecting her ability to use her hand. Nonetheless, Annette has been a very active volunteer with Rein in Sarcoma ever since.

Annette met Sophi Sanchez's mom, Jenny, through an online support group for cancer patients, survivors, and their loved ones. They connected immediately.

Soon after, Annette hosted a Rein in Sarcoma table at a family benefit and gave them the **RIS Patient Notebook**. Jenny did not know about Rein in Sarcoma until she met Annette.

At the age of 9, **Sophi Sanchez** was diagnosed with Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma (ARMS). After two months of misdiagnoses, she was admitted at the Masonic Children's Hospital at the University of Minnesota, where she underwent over 50 chemotherapy treatments and 20 rounds of radiation.

Her last round of chemo was in August of 2018 and on September 7, 2018 Sophi was declared cancer free. Her mom says “she’s a warrior“

Thanks to the power of connection facilitated through amazing volunteers like Annette, Sophi and her mom were encouraged to seek the dedicated medical providers at Masonic Children’s Hospital who understood how to treat her sarcoma and eventually saved her life.

Unique stories like Annette, Jenny and Sophi’s remind us of the importance of continuing our three-fold mission of patient support, research and education. None of this would be possible without our sarcoma community.

Your contribution will ensure patients like Sophi receive the support they need, support cutting-edge research to improve treatments for sarcoma, and help more families like Sophi’s learn about patient and family support.

Your donation has the power to bring more stories like Annette and Sophi’s together, support patients throughout their sarcoma journey, and build community; just as our founder Karen Wyckoff once envisioned.

As you plan your end-of-year giving, please consider how many more lives can be saved through research and education. On behalf of our Board of Directors and the Rein in Sarcoma community, thank you for your generous support.

Theresa Fetsch
Director of Development

Janelle Calhoun
Executive Director



“When you think something is getting hard, know it will get better. If it’s a bumpy path, know it will get smoother later on.”

—Sophi Sanchez, Sarcoma Survivor

P.S. Double your contribution!

The Rein in Sarcoma Board of Directors and three Anonymous Donors have pledged to **match all year-end donations up to \$15,000**. Take advantage of this opportunity to double your donation and help us reach our **year-end goal of \$45,000!**