

# 2024 Lights of Hope Story Columns



## ALABAMA



**Dimple Davis**

Dimple Davis is all too familiar with the fight against cancer. She first lost her best friend to cancer, and later, several family members. In 2015, her son was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, and in 2018, Dimple's husband was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Her son's cancer returned in 2022. She knew when introduced to ACS CAN that she wanted to become a cancer advocate. Dimple has advocated for lifesaving policy changes and has formed lasting relationships with her representatives. She knows the fight takes determination and commitment, and her voice gets louder every day!



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## ARIZONA



**Clare Cory**

Clare Cory lives with Stage 4 Metastatic Inflammatory Breast Cancer and has advocated for increased awareness of this rare and aggressive form of cancer since her initial diagnosis in 2017. As a volunteer with ACS CAN, Clare supports the funding of lifesaving research. Every October, she finds great joy in participating in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. She is grateful for access to quality medical care and the opportunity to continue living a blessed life. Clare's advocacy work is a testament to her resilience, and dedication to empowering other cancer patients and survivors.



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## ALASKA



**Kelly Marre**

Logan Marre wanted to be a research scientist and find a cure for cancer. Logan's mom, Kelly Marre, may not be a research scientist, but everything she does to help people with cancer is in his memory. Logan inspires Kelly to be a better person, a better advocate, and a better patient herself. As an oncology social worker, Kelly sees daily how cancer affects families. That is why she is quick to testify, help with training, and make sure the laws we pass like telehealth access are fully implemented and reach the people who need them most.



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## ARKANSAS



**Don & Jo Cope**

Don and Joanna (Jo) Cope serve as American Cancer Society board members, volunteers, and legislative ambassadors with ACS CAN. The couple is passionate about assisting patients with access to care, screenings, and legislative change. In addition to their work with ACS CAN, Don and Jo have combined their experience in healthcare administration, insurance, and flight coordination to ensure travel accommodations for cancer patients through Angel Flight South Central. Together, they manage transportation, coordinating appointments, and fundraising for cancer patients. They spend much of their free time, resources, and advocacy skills to ensure patients receive the care they need.



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## CALIFORNIA



**Patsy Romero**

Patsy Romero made an incredible impact on the fight against cancer, and an indelible mark on all who knew her. Beneath her kind and loving demeanor, there was a fire that burned fiercely to make a difference. A volunteer for 29 years, Patsy served as ACT Lead, California State Lead Ambassador, and received the St. George National Award and the Capital Dome Award. Just last year, Patsy led the effort to pass a law protecting youth from illegal tobacco sales. Shortly after, we lost our incredible advocate and dear friend to cancer. California continues the work in her honor.



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## COLORADO



**Kris Koehler**

In 2013, at the age of 41, Kris Koehler was diagnosed with colon cancer. Before leaving the hospital, his nurses told him: "Kris, kick cancer's butt" and he set out to do just that. Kris became a volunteer with ACS CAN and found a passion advocating for access to care. From letters to the editor, to educating lawmakers on the wonders of biomarkers, Kris is indeed kicking cancer's butt. Today, Kris celebrates 10 years of survivorship, and continues the fight as an ACT Lead, advocating for those who can no longer fight back.



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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



**Allan Knight**

Allan Knight's life took a profound turn in 2021 when he received a life-altering diagnosis of a large brain tumor at just 29 years of age. Thanks to extensive expert care, Allan persevered, dedicating himself to his job as a medical researcher and to volunteering with ACS CAN, where he advocated for increased taxes on tobacco products before the DC City Council. Allan's commitment to ACS CAN remains unwavering, and he continues to lend his voice in the relentless fight against cancer, inspiring others through his advocacy for policies that shape a healthier future for all.



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## DELAWARE



**Donna Holland**

Donna Holland has spent more than 40 years being a caregiver for those battling cancer. In 1985, Donna's young daughter was diagnosed with Wilms tumor, a rare childhood cancer that starts in the kidneys. In 2020, her sister Barbara was diagnosed with lung cancer. While her daughter survived her cancer, sadly Donna lost her sister to the disease after just one year. Fueled by grief, Donna decided to fight back, advocating for legislation expanding access to healthcare and tobacco cessation. Today Donna is ACS CAN's State Lead Ambassador for Delaware and a beacon of hope in the fight against cancer.



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## FLORIDA



**Butch Rivera**

Early detection was critical to Butch Rivera's survival from prostate cancer five years ago. Following a successful surgery, Butch realized that many of his male friends did not take screening recommendations as seriously as they should even though screening had saved his life. Butch vowed to dedicate himself to ACS CAN's efforts to fund prostate cancer research and advocate for accessible screening services. He also empowers patients to make informed healthcare decisions. Butch believes that his work with ACS CAN is an important part of his life post cancer because it is helping to save other men's lives.



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## GEORGIA



**Flectia Brown**

Flectia Brown was diagnosed with stage 3 triple negative breast cancer in December 2005 and has been cancer-free since 2006. She describes her 20+ years of ACS CAN advocacy as part of her life's legacy. She is a founding member of ACS CAN's Black Volunteer Caucus and has participated in 15 Leadership Summit & Lobby Days. Most recently at Georgia's 2024 Cancer Action Day, Flectia shared her story on the steps of the Capitol, gave media interviews, and urged lawmakers to close the state's coverage gap. Flectia's volunteer team feels blessed to have her as their ACT Lead.



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## GUAM



**Catherine Rivera Castro**

"I am a mom — I don't take no for an answer!" Catherine Rivera Castro's persistent advocacy ensured her son received treatment after his bone cancer diagnosis in 2008. It also led her to the American Cancer Society, where she was named the 2016 Hero of Hope for Guam and where she helped Guam's Relay For Life reach milestone fundraising, exceeding \$570,000. Leading ACS CAN's volunteer advocacy efforts in Guam, Cathy's resume of wins against Big Tobacco, include legislation to raise the sale age, increase the tax, and greatly limit tobacco use in public places. Si Yu'us ma'ase Cathy!



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## HAWAII



**Jennifer Hausler**

Jennifer Hausler has tirelessly championed patient and caretaker voices for Hawaii for decades. She has served Hawaii's oldest cancer support group, Make Today Count, for 43 years, and been an ACS CAN volunteer for 18. Jenny was the state's inaugural State Lead Ambassador, advocating for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Jenny's unwavering commitment to the fight against cancer is evident in her involvement in Relay For Life, Hope Lodge, and numerous outreach events. Jenny honors her loved ones—Glenn, John, sister Lucy, and her extended Ohana—along with countless friends impacted by cancer. Mahalo, Jenny!



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## ILLINOIS



**Judy Rospenda**

Judy Rospenda is a remarkable individual, a four-time cancer survivor, and has been a dedicated ACS CAN advocate for over 12 years. In her roles as an ACT Lead and now as an SLA, Judy serves as an invaluable resource for both staff and elected officials. She mentors incoming Legislative Ambassadors, ensuring they actively participate in lobby days and legislative campaigns, while also developing programs to address health disparities and improve patient quality of life. Judy's unwavering commitment and experience make her an essential asset to our team, and a beacon of hope and inspiration for all who know her.



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## INDIANA



**Keith Hollingsworth**

Husband, father, and colon cancer fighter, Keith Hollingsworth was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer in 2021. After five months, the cancer appeared to be gone, but Keith's doctor ordered biomarker testing to double check. Biomarker testing was not covered by Keith's insurance, but it saved his life. Fueled with this knowledge, Keith played a key role in the campaign to require insurance coverage for biomarker testing in Indiana this year. He met with legislators, spoke at events, and was interviewed by the media. Today all Hoosiers can access biomarker testing without worrying about financial burden. Thank you, Keith!



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## IOWA



**Maria Steele**

In early 2020, Maria Steele was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer that had metastasized to her brain, rib, and spine, and given one year to live. A nonsmoker, Maria quickly learned about radon, and found that her home had double the safe level. She bravely began sharing her story in 2022 to push for the Gail Orcutt School Radon Safety bill, which passed last year. This year, Maria played a crucial role in a second big win – legislation to require insurance coverage of the biomarker testing that has extended her life. One woman. Two years. Involved in two big wins.



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## KANSAS



**Anne Zajic**

In 2016, shortly after welcoming twin girls and celebrating her oldest daughter's 3rd birthday, Anne Zajic was diagnosed with stage 1B2 cervical cancer. Her treatment involved chemotherapy, external radiation therapy, and brachytherapy. Anne completed treatment in November 2016, and in February 2017 a follow-up scan showed no sign of disease. However, the emotional toll lingered. Becoming a patient advocate became Anne's lifeline as she channeled her fears into action. Today, Anne is the Vice State Lead Ambassador for ACS CAN in Kansas and tirelessly advocates for increasing access to healthcare in the Sunflower State.



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## KENTUCKY



**Jennifer True**

Early detection saved Jennifer True's life when she was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 55. Now ten years cancer-free, Jennifer has dedicated her life to cancer advocacy. She regularly attends Cancer Action Days and speaks to lawmakers about tobacco and access to care policies. Recently, Jennifer traveled to Washington to participate in a national Patient Quality of Life Lobby Day. She shared her story and told Members of Congress about the impact of palliative care on her own treatment. Today, Jennifer is the lead ACS CAN volunteer in her congressional district, fighting for cancer patients across Kentucky.



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## LOUISIANA



**Kathy Judge**

Kathy Judge joined the American Cancer Society in the 1990s after losing her 26-year-old brother to a rare cancer. Looking for a way to honor him, Kathy found Relay For Life and then ACS CAN in 2006. Since losing her mother and brother to cancer, her siblings have fought three breast cancers, one lymphoma, and two skin cancers. Thanks to scientific advances, all are survivors! Kathy believes that uniting voices can send a powerful message to legislators at all levels of government. Cancer affects nearly everyone, and Kathy's commitment to ACS CAN reflects her dedication to turning grief into action.



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## MARYLAND



**Dr. Katrina Shaw**

Dr. Katrina Shaw's routine mammogram led to a callback for a sonogram which ultimately uncovered what could not be seen or felt - Katrina had breast cancer. Fortunately, early detection proved to be her saving grace. Out of her faith and personal battle emerged MANE, Mammograms Are Not Enough, Inc., her own non-profit dedicated to raising awareness. As an ACT Lead with ACS CAN, Dr. Shaw tirelessly advocates for early detection at Cancer Action Days and within the Black Volunteer Caucus. She understands the profound impact of sharing her story with legislators and continues to dedicate herself to advocacy.



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## MASSACHUSETTS



**Kate Weissman**

Kate Weissman was a healthy, happy 30-year-old when her doctor gave her the news - she had stage 2B cervical cancer. Diagnosed in October 2015, Kate underwent 55 rounds of radiation and 17 rounds of chemotherapy, before being declared cancer-free in 2016. In 2018, she decided to fight back, sharing her story to advocate for healthcare equity and spreading awareness of the disproportionate impact of cervical cancer on women of color. Today Kate is proud to be the State Lead Ambassador for the award-winning ACS CAN Massachusetts team and, thanks to IVF and surrogacy, mother to beautiful 3-year-old Louella.



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## MICHIGAN



**Sandra Westover**

Sandra Westover is a stage 2B breast cancer survivor who advocates on behalf of herself, her brother Mike Martin who passed from pediatric cancer, and her sister-in-law Carla Martin who is currently fighting lymphoma. Sandra started as an advocacy volunteer when Michigan lawmakers introduced an oral chemotherapy bill and was proud to help secure its passage after 15 years of fighting. As ACS CAN ACT Lead in her congressional district, Sandra has tirelessly rallied her district, educated lawmakers, and attended state and federal lobby days. She shares her cancer story to ensure that other survivors and patients have a voice.



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## MINNESOTA



**Robianne Schultz**

Robianne Schultz was diagnosed with breast cancer at just 27 years of age and spent the next 16 years beating the odds and channeling her passion for politics to fight back on behalf of all patients. Robianne's work at the Minnesota Capitol and in Washington led to the passage of more than a dozen laws that benefit cancer patients and their families. Her story was even shared by Senator Franken on the Senate floor during debate on the Affordable Care Act. Robianne's advocacy continues to leave an indelible impact on Minnesota and the nation. She is missed but not forgotten.



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## MISSISSIPPI



**Neidre Fears**

In 2023, Neidre Fears took her first step with ACS CAN, telling her story of living in the coverage gap in Mississippi as part of the documentary film "In Due Season." A single mother from Tupelo, Neidre bravely traveled across the state and country, attending her first Cancer Action Day in Jackson and then on to Washington, meeting with lawmakers and sharing her story to lobby for change. Prior to 2023, Neidre had never been involved in advocacy. Now, she encourages others to get involved. Neidre says, "ACS CAN made policy personal, relevant, and showed me what is possible."



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## MISSOURI



**Charlie Bonney**

A staunch advocate, Charlie Bonney devoted 12 years of his life volunteering with the American Cancer Society and ACS CAN. Diagnosed with melanoma and later Acute Myeloid Leukemia, Charlie shared his story with elected officials and staff, along with those of the many other survivors he met through his volunteer journey. Charlie never focused on himself, instead choosing to uplift other voices. He understood that even a few minutes with his representatives could make a difference. We lost Charlie way too soon, in 2014. Rest in peace, Charlie, and thank you for your many contributions to the fight against cancer.



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## MONTANA



**Bill Underriner**

Bill's Underriner's fire for cancer advocacy was ignited nearly 30 years ago when his son Blake battled childhood cancer. Today, Blake is cancer-free, thriving, and continuing his father's legacy. Bill's ten years on the ACS CAN Board speaks to his profound dedication. From lobbying for research funding to championing Medicaid expansion and clean indoor air protections, Bill's influence has been extensive. Whether talking to reporters, engaging with lawmakers, or getting candidates on the record on cancer issues, Bill and his wife Mary have generously given their time and financial support to shape a brighter future for Montanans.



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## NEVADA



**Alex Garza**

Alex Garza is a two-time prostate cancer survivor. First diagnosed in 2017, he underwent a prostatectomy. His cancer appeared to be in remission, but it returned in 2018. What followed felt like endless treatments. "Without access to screening, I likely would not be alive today." Alex serves on the Nevada American Cancer Society Board and is an active volunteer for ACS CAN. He works to improve cancer care and health outcomes for high-risk men. "ACS and ACS CAN are leaders in cancer research and legislation. I intend to help continue that work." Alex celebrates six years cancer-free this year.



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## NEW HAMPSHIRE



**Eileen Sheehan-Willet**

Eileen Sheehan-Willet was a friend to many and a dedicated employee of the American Cancer Society for many years. Hers was the first face that volunteers saw when walking into the New Hampshire office. She greeted everyone with a warm smile and genuine gratitude for their time and efforts. Eileen's passion for advocacy was evident - she was the first to sign up for Cancer Action Day and quick to call her lawmakers to secure their support for cancer fighting policies. Although she has passed, Eileen's infectious smile and interminable energy will always be with us. Rest in peace, Eileen.



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## NEW JERSEY



**Jeanelle Adams**

For two years, Jeanelle Adams knew something was wrong, but doctors wouldn't take her seriously. Finally, with the help of an oncologist who ordered biomarker testing, her suspicions were confirmed: she had stage 3 triple negative breast cancer. She was 33 years old, with no family history of breast cancer. Biomarker testing helped her doctors determine the most effective treatment plan which ultimately saved her life. Today Jeanelle is a passionate ACS CAN volunteer who shares her story to advocate for biomarker testing insurance coverage, and eleven months into remission, she is a living testament to its value and promise.



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## NEW MEXICO



**Manuel Luna**

Manuel Luna is a tireless ACS CAN volunteer, fighting for health equity and care accessibility for New Mexico's Hispanic and Latino communities. As a founding member of ACS CAN's ACSi Se Puede Hispanic/Latino Advocacy Alliance, Manuel is dedicated to bridging the gap in access to healthcare, ensuring that underserved populations receive the support they need to combat this debilitating disease. In his role as Vice SLA for New Mexico, Manuel aims to amplify marginalized voices, working to dismantle barriers to treatment and promote early detection. Thank you, Manuel, for your compassion and commitment to the fight for equality in healthcare.



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## NEW YORK



**Denise Romand**

Denise Romand has faced cancer more than once. Surviving Hodgkin's lymphoma, after two bone marrow transplants in her 30's, she was diagnosed with another cancer last year. Denise is now undergoing treatment for recurrence. An ACS CAN volunteer since 2002, Denise has used her survivor voice to fight back. "Cancer patients know well the devastating impact of cancer. I ask our legislators to put aside partisan politics and fight to end cancer. We can't afford to let promising research go to waste. When we have opportunities as a nation to prevent cancer through screenings and reduce suffering, we must act."



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## NORTH CAROLINA



**Frances Garrett**

Frances Garrett has been an ACS CAN volunteer since 2002 and is a five-time cancer survivor. As a volunteer leader, she rallies people around her advocacy and fundraising efforts, ensuring everyone feels appreciated for their support. Frances diligently worked for years to get smoke-free laws and Medicaid Expansion passed in North Carolina, impacting hundreds of thousands of lives. She is a rock star fundraiser and consistently creates new opportunities to raise funds, from motorcycle poker runs to estate sales and trail rides, including \$20,000 raised for this year's Lights of Hope! Thank you, Frances.



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## OHIO



**Leah McCleary**

At the age of 9, Leah McCleary was diagnosed with basal cell skin cancer and Gorlin syndrome. Although it's been 20 years, she has since made sure every moment is cherished. In active treatment since 2004, Leah has also come to prioritize advocacy and the impact she now knows she can make. Leah attended this year's childhood cancer lobby day, urging lawmakers to improve the quality of life for pediatric cancer patients. As an ACS CAN ACT Lead in Ohio, Leah turns her pain into purpose. She reminds us that "pain and joy can always coexist within each other."



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## OKLAHOMA



**Ronnie Trentham**

Ronnie Trentham was a 10-time oral, head and neck cancer survivor, who spent over ten years inspiring people across the nation by telling his story. Ronnie became involved with his local Relay For Life in 2003, a year before his first diagnosis. His passion for helping others led him to be named the 2010 American Cancer Society Hero of Hope for Oklahoma. A vocal advocate for the Tobacco Settlement and Endowment Trust, Ronnie spoke to lawmakers in 2017 about tobacco's impact on cancer. Ronnie's advocacy lives on through his family, his fellow ACS CAN volunteers, and all who knew him.



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## OREGON



**Kathy Ottele**

Kathy Ottele, a 6-time skin cancer survivor, lost her mother, father and two younger sisters to cancer. She started working with ACS CAN over 20 years ago and has played an integral role in the fight against Big Tobacco in Oregon. Kathy serves on the American Cancer Society's regional Board of Directors and loves to mentor new volunteers. In 2020, she was recognized as ACS CAN's State Lead Ambassador of the Year and received the Society's St. George National Award in 2022. Kathy is a top Lights of Hope fundraiser and a true pillar of the ACS CAN Oregon team.



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## PENNSYLVANIA



**Marina Posvar**

Marina Posvar was a new mom raising two young sons when she was diagnosed with invasive breast cancer - twice. After the fights of her life, Marina wanted to give back. She quickly became an active ACS CAN volunteer, helping to secure critical funding for Pennsylvania's cancer screening programs and the nation's cancer research program. Marina has also dedicated her professional life to cancer patients, as a patient navigator in Pittsburgh, and was able to use this experience to help reform Pennsylvania's prior authorization and step therapy practices. Marina is dedicated to prioritizing legislation that supports patient navigation nationwide.



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## PUERTO RICO



**Angel Morales**

Angel Morales' advocacy was inspired by his father Armando, who was diagnosed with prostate cancer in February 2021. After surgery to remove the prostate was unsuccessful, radiotherapy was required and today Armando is in excellent health. "My father is the strongest warrior I know," says Ángel. This experience motivated Ángel to join ACS CAN, where he was recently named Puerto Rico's first Vice State Lead Ambassador, a testament to his leadership and dedication. "We always hear, 'We want a cure for cancer,' and we are making it possible with ACS CAN," says Ángel.



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## RHODE ISLAND



**Ethel and Joe Ricci**

Ethel and Joe Ricci have been core members of ACS CAN for over a decade. After losing her sister to cancer in 2015, Ethel was compelled to give what she could. Together, the husband-and-wife team have devoted time and energy to the fight, a voice for those they have lost. They've traveled to Washington, and been an effective presence in Providence, working to expand access to biomarker testing and colorectal cancer screenings. Whether collecting petition signatures, meeting with lawmakers, or submitting one of their many letters to the editor, Ethel and Joe are a dynamic duo in the cancer fight!



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## SOUTH CAROLINA



**Caryn Antos O'Hara**

Caryn Antos O'Hara was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer on her wedding day in January 2013. Upon her diagnosis, Caryn decided to get busy living. Over the course of ten years, amid the intermittent hopes and deep sorrows of cancer and treatment, she became a powerful advocate for increasing access to cancer screening. Caryn successfully lobbied to close a loophole in Medicare - now colon cancer screenings are co-pay free for most patients - and advocated for increased funding for colon cancer screenings. Caryn approached life with unconditional love and effervescent joy, creating a vibrant community wherever she went.



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## SOUTH DAKOTA



**David Patzlaff**

David Patzlaff, a dedicated father, grandfather, and lifelong South Dakotan, became a prostate cancer survivor in 2017. In 2023, he faced another challenge and triumphed over colon cancer, making him a two-time survivor. Driven by his journey and commitment to helping others, David participated in ACS CAN - South Dakota's Suits & Sneakers Day at the Capitol this year. He shared his experience to advocate for the inclusion of palliative care definitions in state law. David's unwavering love for his family fuels his advocacy, inspiring others in the fight against cancer.



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## TENNESSEE



**Brittney Block**

Brittney Block was diagnosed with cancer in 2016 at just 26. Although Brittney was the first member of her family to receive a cancer diagnosis, she was not the last. In the years since, she has watched her mother and grandfather successfully battle the disease and lost another grandfather and uncle. Two weeks after her thyroidectomy, Brittney began volunteering with the American Cancer Society and soon discovered advocacy. She became an ACS CAN ACT Lead and has served as State Lead Ambassador since 2021. Brittney focuses her advocacy work on health equity and the campaign for equal access to healthcare.



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## TEXAS



**Lillian Villareal**

Lillian Villareal was a beloved ACS CAN volunteer for years, often described as strong, courageous, and resilient. Lillian fought cancer three times beginning in 2006 and before losing her battle in 2015. All the while, she remained positive, advocating on behalf of others. Lillian testified in support of a statewide smoke-free bill and was instrumental in winning over many members of the Texas legislature. A grateful recipient of palliative care services, she advocated tirelessly for the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act. Before her death, Lillian received the 2015 ACT Lead of the Year award, a well-deserved recognition.



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## UTAH



**Annalee Foster**

Annalee Foster was eight years old when she learned about cancer. A close family member was diagnosed around Thanksgiving and passed before Christmas. In 2009, cancer hit even closer to home when her youngest sister was diagnosed with brain cancer. This led her to the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life, where she began her volunteer journey. Next, Annalee found her voice and passion for advocacy, using her sister's survivorship and her brother's passing from brain cancer in 2022 as motivation and inspiration. In her words: "I hate cancer, and I like telling people in power what to do."



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## VERMONT



**Tracy DeVarney**

Tracy DeVarney is a supportive mother, wife, daughter, and Registered Nurse. When family responsibilities loomed large last year, she planned to take a break from advocacy. Then in August 2023, Tracy was diagnosed with cancer for the third time. Most cancer patients prioritize rest, but not Tracy. She decided to double-down on her fight against cancer, at her doctor's office and at the State House. Tracy continued her advocacy efforts with renewed resoluteness - collecting petitions, fundraising, and lobbying on Capitol Hill. Today, Tracy is cancer-free. She is a beloved State Lead Ambassador, fantastic nurse, and a new grandma.



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## VIRGINIA



**Bonita**

On October 21, 2022, Bonita was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her radiologist had erred on the side of caution and performed a needle biopsy leading to her diagnosis. After her breast surgeon requested an MRI which identified another mass that went unseen by the mammogram. To celebrate her first year of survivorship, Bonita signed up for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer where she stopped at the ACS CAN table, launching her advocacy journey. Today Bonita is a lead volunteer in Virginia and is passionate about improving access to early screening and prevention because those resources saved her life.



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## WASHINGTON



**Allanda Christenson**

After her breast cancer diagnosis in 2021, Allanda Christenson sought support and guidance from other survivors. But she did not expect to meet so many young people, particularly young women. She also did not expect to learn about the healthcare disparities impacting the Black community. She was shocked and determined to fight back. As an ACS CAN volunteer, Allanda works with lawmakers to ensure cancer research is a priority because research saved her life. "Investing in research is the only way to make progress in the fight against cancer," says Allanda, who fully plans to be part of that progress.



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## WEST VIRGINIA



**Patty Davis**

Patty Davis is a 25-year breast cancer survivor, caregiver, Appalachian native, and advocate who is passionate about bringing hope to cancer patients. Patty credits a mammogram with saving her life, and thanks to her advocacy, every West Virginian now has access to free mammograms through the mobile screening unit, Bonnie's Bus. Volunteering for ACS CAN, Patty played an essential role in passing the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022 and has advocated alongside former Presidents, lawmakers, and many cancer survivors. Whether passing a life-saving law or celebrating survivorship with her mother and fellow cancer survivor, Patty's joy and passion are unshakable.



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## WISCONSIN



**Paul Westrick**

Paul Westrick has served as the lead ACS CAN volunteer in Wisconsin's 2nd congressional district for years. As a 26-year survivor of two blood related cancers, Paul is highly motivated to improve the lives of fellow cancer patients, advocating for increased cancer research funding and equitable access to care. Paul led the volunteer effort to ensure passage of Oral Chemo Parity in Wisconsin, has testified at numerous committee hearings on clinical trials, and engages with his lawmakers at all levels of government. He is truly committed to the mission to end cancer as we know it, for everyone.



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## WYOMING



**Brandon Rosty**

Wyoming native Brandon Rosty was just a teenager when he noticed a strange lump on his foot that was eventually diagnosed as Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma. After extensive surgery and treatment, Brandon has been cancer-free since 2010, and credits both cancer research and access to care with saving his life. Inspired by this experience and a drive for advocacy and public service, Brandon has been an active ACS CAN volunteer in both Colorado and Wyoming, lobbying for expanded access to care and increased funding for cancer research. He currently serves as an ACS CAN ACT Lead and Assistant District Attorney in Casper.



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