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Sarcoma Alliance Celebrates 20th Anniversary With Gala

Hundreds Of Survivors, Family Members, And Supporters Attended

Newport Beach, CA: On Saturday January 27th, 2018, Sarcoma Alliance celebrated two decades of providing support to sarcoma patients and their families by holding a beautiful gala at The American Legion Newport Harbor Post in Newport Beach, California. Nearly 200 people from all over the country came to honor the important work that Sarcoma Alliance has done over the last 20 years, and as a result of the oceanfront celebration, over \$38,000 was raised to help the work continue for years to come. Lilly Oncology, Novartis, and Maria A. Cadigan were the leading sponsors for the evening.

The gala included a number of speakers, including Kasey Harvey, a 16-year-old sarcoma survivor and award-winning athlete, Aimee Spector, captain for Sarcoma Alliance's biggest fundraising effort Ocean Of Hope, and Dr. William Tseng, a sarcoma specialist and Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Keck School of Medicine at USC. From Harvey's inspirational story of strength and survival after her diagnosis of rhabdomyosarcoma at the age of 13 to Dr. Tseng's presentation on the future of sarcoma treatment through immunotherapy, guests were reminded of the important work that Sarcoma Alliance has been a part for so long and just how much hope there is for patients facing a diagnosis.

Before the night closed with live music from Newport Beach's own Swingin' Tikis, guests heard a heartfelt message from Philip Leider, brother of the late Sarcoma Alliance founder Suzanne Leider. In his message, Leider not only thanked everyone in attendance for their support in the 20 years since the organization started, but he shared a beautiful reminder of the reason why the work Sarcoma Alliance does is so vital.

"My sister, if she were standing here today, would be weeping," Phillip told the crowd. "She'd be smiling from ear to ear, but she'd be weeping, because this is what she hoped for. You guys, and so many others, have helped achieve her dream."

About Sarcoma Alliance: Sarcoma Alliance was founded by Suzanne Leider in 1999 in the living room of her home. After 4 years of feeling completely alone in her diagnosis of synovial sarcoma, Suzanne finally met another survivor, and in that moment, she knew she couldn't let another person with sarcoma go through their journey without the support of another in the same boat. With the help of her family and friends, Sarcoma Alliance, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, was born. Although Leider passed away in August 2002 at the age of 35, Sarcoma Alliance has continued to grow and provide sarcoma patients with peer-to-peer support as well as give resources to patients and their families looking for more information on sarcoma subtypes, a network of sarcoma specialists, information on treatment options, and financial support.

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