

Allied Services • Geisinger-Community Medical Center • Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center • Moses Taylor Hospital
Regional Hospital of Scranton • Tyler Memorial Hospital • Wayne Memorial Hospital System • Wilkes-Barre General Hospital

Meet the Spirit of Hope Celebration Ambassadors



What would you do if your loved one was diagnosed with cancer? Anything is always the response, Leo Vergnetti will reply. Cancer has touched Leo's life personally as it has too many in our community. Leo's wife passed away from cancer over 15 years ago and most recently Leo lost his daughter, Lynn. In situations where you feel helpless, it's easy to give up and lost hope and faith, but Leo has done quite the opposite. Leo has carried on his wife and daughter's legacy by helping those in need in our community. Over 12 years ago, Leo formed a Board of Ambassadors which consists of local business leaders to host a gala event to raise funds to support those battling cancer. In 2012, Leo's event, The Spirit of Hope Celebration, began working to support the Cancer Institute. Leo is the board chairman for the Board of Ambassadors that puts together the event. Each year, the event has a theme and features a Tribute to Courage honoree and offers food stations, live and silent auctions and music. Proceeds support the Community-Based Cancer Screening Navigation Program that helps low income and un/underinsured individuals in northeast Pennsylvania get their recommended colorectal, breast, cervical and lung cancer screenings.

Although some of the ambassadors have changed over the years, the goal has remained the same from the beginning-to help local people in our community. Leo begins every meeting with the Ambassadors with a message of hope and the mission of their group. They want to help others in our community who have suffered from cancer and to ensure no family goes through what Leo's has in the future. Leo focuses on the spirit first, knowing that the event and the ambassadors are already a success prior to the event.

The Cancer Institute would like to recognize the 2019 Board of Ambassadors for their hard work on the eighth Spirit of Hope Celebration that took place on November 8, 2019.

The 2019 Board of Ambassadors include the following, Chairman, Leo P. Vergnetti, Clarence Baltrusaitis, Matt Beynon, Thomas Blaskiewicz, Jim and Susan Brady, Nicholas Colangelo, Ph.D., Richard P. Conaboy, Jr., Mark Conway, Esq., Thomas P. Cummings, Jr., Esq., Thomas P. Cummings, III, Esq., William Davis, Tom DePietro, Mary Erwine, Joseph G. Ferguson, Esq., Greg and Meghan Gaborik, Nevin Gerber, James T. Gorman, John and Jennifer Heil, Kristie Hynoski, Suzanne Jaffe, Charles C. Jefferson, Joe Mattioli, Paul McGloin, Brian McQuestion, Evie Rafalko McNulty, Philip Medico, Dan Meuser, Chuck Morgan, David Nape, Christopher A. Peters, M.D., Billy Rinaldi, John P. Rodgers, Esq., Vince Scarpetta, P. Richard Scheller, Patrick Sicilio, Eugene Sperazza, Esq., Melissa Stites, Steven Szydlowski, Ph.D., Joseph S. Tomko and Joe Van Wie.

The 2019 Associate Board of Ambassadors include the following, Associate Board Chairwoman, Angela Rempe Jones, Associate Board Co-Chair, Jessica Kalinoski, Traci Fosnot, Jo Ann Romano Hallesky, Robin Long, Chris Lynch and Amanda Marchegiani.

Meet Travis: Cancer Survivors Day Chair



Faculty member, marathoner, father and community leader are a few words that can be used to describe Travis Davis, NHA, MHA. Travis resides in Waverly Township with his wife Lauren and son Hayden. He received his undergraduate degree in Finance from Saint Joseph's University and graduate degree in Healthcare Administration from The University of Scranton. He began his career a financial analyst for Morgan Stanley in Baltimore, Md., where he worked in operations and trade support for listed derivative transactions for North American & UK futures and options exchanges. In 2014, he joined the team at Allied Services. In 2017, he received a certificate in Nonprofit Leadership from the University of Scranton. Travis is a licensed nursing home administrator and part-time faculty member of the University of Scranton's Health Administration and Human Resources Department.

Travis is invested in our community aside from his work. He sits on the Community Council at the Children's Advocacy Center of NEPA and is a member of the Center to Advance Palliative Care, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and UNICO National Scranton Chapter. In 2017, Travis signed up to be a part of WNEP's Ryan's Run where local runners raise money for Allied Services and compete in the TCS New York City Marathon.

Travis was first drawn to the work of Cancer Institute during graduate school. His professor, Samuel Lesko, MD, MPH is the medical director for the organization. For many years, Dr. Lesko and the team at the Cancer Institute have been uncovering risk factors in our community that were leading to poor health through research and data collection. The data and results are used to target education programs designed to prevent or reduce death and disability from cancer in our community. Now, Travis is proud to work closely with the dedicated staff and fellow board members of the Cancer Institute to improve the future health of our community. Most recently, Travis was the chair for our Annual Cancer Survivors Day events in September. He strongly believes the people of Northeastern PA must have access to this event and more like it.

Meet Mick: Woman Behind Buzz Off for Cancer Fundraiser

Michele (Mick) Frigoletto, is a mother of four- Alex, Evan, Braden and Nate, a grandmother to grandson, Waylon and a fourth generation barber. Mick is the owner of Mick's Barber Shop located on Main Street in Honesdale. If you've met Mick, her personality and kindness are contagious. Individuals travel from New York to get their new hairstyle or beard trimmed because of the atmosphere of her shop. Mick loves her community and has a philanthropic heart. Mick chooses to get involved in almost everything that comes her way. Mick is part of a group called Merchants on Main (M.O.M.), designed to be a collective of creatives to encourage each other and engage the community through events. Through this group, she came up with an idea to host a biennial fundraiser called Buzz Off for Cancer. At the event, attendees get their hair buzzed, beards, mustaches, and an undercut for a donation. She's been hosting the event since 2011 and her whole family and her fellow local businesses pitch in to provide raffle prizes.



In late 2017, Mick found out she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She credits her involvement with Buzz Off for Cancer prepared her for her own cancer battle. It put her in touch with positive people and their hope is what helped her to get

through it. Her experience has been humbling and she wasn't aware of the impact she has on the community until her cancer diagnosis. Patrons of her shop stopped in to deliver cards, pictures, and offer their support and well wishes and show their own stories. Mick's dream for the future of Buzz Off is to have an event in towns across the country going on simultaneously.

Mick's life is her message. She loves helping people and knows everyone has a story and you never know when it may be you that needs help. Her best advice is to be strong as you never know who you might be inspiring. She also encourages everyone to be present and aware of their bodies.

About the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute is a nonprofit community-based agency serving seven counties in northeast Pennsylvania with offices located in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. Focusing on surveillance, community and patient services, and hospital and practice support services, the Cancer Institute invests 100% of its resources locally.

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