

NRCI Insights Newsletter

Northeast Regional Cancer Institute

Get a deeper look at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute- its board, staff, volunteers, and activities.

Partner Spotlight: Duryea at Dusk- A Heartfelt Thank You



Sisters, Katie and Allision Brudzinski created a nonprofit called Duryea at Dusk in 2018. They wanted to bring attention to their hometown of Duryea, mostly known for the restaurants. They created an annual 5K run/walk and a community festival featuring local vendors and businesses. Katie and Allision formed an exceptional committee of their friends- Aimee Balchune, David Tighe, Krista Gromelski, Allison Brudzinski, Eddie Klein, and Gabrielle Poplarchick. Duryea at Dusk was a kick-off to summer event for adults, kids, and

families to come back to year after year. Everything about the committee and event remained local, including donating the proceeds from the fundraiser to a local nonprofit. Due to Katie and Allision's mother's diagnosis with cancer, it was important for them to give back and spread awareness about the programs and services available at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute.

After their first event in 2018 raised over \$11,000, it continued to evolve with coordinating t-shirts and a slogan- Setting the Sun on Cancer, more vendors and a large basket raffle. The next two years brought the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. The committee pivoted to a virtual challenge with online 5K and walk registration and participants shared their running and walking photos on social media.

Despite the many challenges each year since 2018, the dedication and time the Duryea at Dusk committee spent on the logistics for their 5K Run/Walk and festival was incredible. Every year, they managed to provide a high-quality family fun-filled event in Duryea and also brought in many families and runners from the surrounding communities. Over \$31, 700 has been raised from Duryea at Dusk to support NRCI's programs and services.

Earlier this year, we received notice that the committee has decided to end their organization and fundraiser. Although they decided to move on, they continued to think of the Cancer Institute and donated the final remaining funds from Duryea at Dusk. NRCI staff will miss working with them and look forward to seeing what they do next. Thank you!

**Northeast Regional Cancer Institute 35th Anniversary:
Scranton Chamber Milestone Award Recognition**

NRCI was recognized for our 35th Anniversary (October 14, 1991) at the recent Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner in late March held at the Scranton Cultural Center. Our president, Karen M. Saunders accepted the milestone award from the Scranton Chamber President and former NRCI president, Robert Durkin. Many NRCI staff members were able to attend to celebrate this milestone.



Save the Date: NEPA Gives 2026



NRCI is looking forward to participating in the 6th NEPA Gives on June 4-5.

NEPA Gives is a 24 hour-online giving campaign hosted by the Scranton Area Community Foundation, and other regional foundations. Donors can support their favorite nonprofit by donating during this campaign. Nonprofits are eligible for additional cash prizes.

Save the Date for June 4-5. Donors can visit nepagives.org for more information.

Spirit of Hope Celebration- It was the Baum



The Spirit of Hope Board of Ambassadors hosted their 13th Spirit of Hope Celebration on Friday, November 14 at Mohegan Pennsylvania. The evening featured cocktails, food stations, a silent auction, gift card guarantee and a lottery tree. In addition to that, this year's Tribute to Courage Honoree was John "Slick" Baum.

John "Slick" Baum is a retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and leading business strategist. John enlisted in the USAF at 17 serving as an avionics maintenance technician. He then attended Embry- Riddle Aeronautical University graduating with a BS in Aeronautical Science in 1999 and a Masters of Aeronautical Science in 2008.

Col. Baum attended Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training and graduated F-16 training as the Distinguished Graduate. He then attended USAF Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun) and returned as an instructor. The Commander of Air Combat Command requested that John fly as a Demonstration Pilot for the 2009-2010 Thunderbird team. Following the Thunderbirds, he was selected as a Secretary of the Air Force Strategic Communications Fellow earning a Masters in Strategic Communication from George Mason University.

By every measure, the event soared — raising \$39,000 for the NRCI Cancer Screening Navigation Program. The Ambassadors pour their passion and hope into helping NRCI facilitate thousands of life-saving cancer screenings.

With Spring in full swing, these dedicated individuals are already hard at work planning for the year ahead.

Stay tuned, and be sure to save the date: Friday, November 6th, 2026, at Mohegan Sun Pennsylvania.

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.

SERVING NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

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