

Event Spotlight – Robert J. Paroli Memorial Tennis Tournament

Bar Mitzvah Project in memory of Ethan's grandfather, Robert

"My grandfather was a larger than life figure in his community in the Bay Area. He was constantly involved with charitable organizations and fundraising missions, often setting up golf tournaments to raise money for different causes. It would be a true meaningful mitzvah for me to raise money and awareness for a terribly underfunded disease that at this time does not offer the same hope of survival as other cancers." – Ethan Blank

You Can H.E.L.P. Fund Spotlight – David Bradley's Triathlon Fund

In early 2008, my mother, Eleanor, was diagnosed with this awful disease. This past summer I competed in a Half Ironman in her honor to raise awareness and money for the fight against pancreatic cancer. Fortunately, my mother's cancer was caught early and was operable with the Whipple Procedure. With my fund, I wanted my friends and family to take part in my journey to compete in the Ironman 70.3 Rhode Island. The hundreds of hours I trained and the race itself, which was a 1.2 mile swim, a 56

mile bike, and 13.1 mile run, was NOTHING compared to the journey my mother, Eleanor, and others are undergoing. Last October, I completed a full Ironman in Florida and came in 9th in my age group. To date, my fund has raised more than \$15,000 for the Hirshberg Foundation, in honor of my mom.

To view David's story, visit:
<https://pancreatic.org/memorial/bradley>

Event Spotlight – Glenda Jane Koffler Memorial Golf Tournament

Editors Note: Last year we were approached by Jinny Koffler, a young woman who wanted to honor her mother-in-law and raise money for the Hirshberg Foundation. She, along with family and friends, organized the Glenda Jane Koffler Memorial Golf Tournament, held at Sierra Lakes Golf Course in Fontana. They had 43 participants play golf and afterwards 105 people attended a banquet held at Villa Tepeyac Restaurant in West Covina. After the event, we asked her some questions about her experience.

What motivated you to host this event? Our motivation was Glenda Jane Koffler. She was a wonderful wife, mom, grandma, and friend. She passed away on November 30, 2005. She was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and lost her battle within one month. She was a larger than life woman who loved her kids and grandkids more than anything. I was lucky to have the most amazing woman as my mother-in-law. We chose a golf tournament

because we wanted to get together once a year to have fun and remember a great woman. We also wanted to raise money for pancreatic cancer research.

Why did you choose to have the proceeds go to the Hirshberg Foundation?

We chose the Hirshberg Foundation because of the amazing work they support in finding a cure for pancreatic cancer. Also, the personal story of Agi Hirshberg hit close to home. She lost her husband too early in life, just as my father-in-law had lost my mother-in-law. Agi's husband, Ron Hirshberg, seemed like someone who enjoyed life to the fullest. That was my mother-in-law.

What were your results? We raised \$5000 through the golf tournament, banquet, and raffle tickets. We also received money from people who were not able to come to the tournament or banquet but wanted to donate in Glenda's memory. We were really surprised at the amount of money we raised. We had set our goal for \$2000, so you can only imagine how excited we were when we realized we more than doubled that amount.

How was the overall experience for you as the event host? My friend Chris Zessau and I worked together to make this tournament and banquet happen. Without Chris and many others, it would not have been possible.

What do you think Glenda would have thought about your event? Oh boy, Glenda would have absolutely loved it! Her greatest joy was watching people she loved around her having a great time. She was happy when people were enjoying themselves, drinking some beer and eating lots of good food. She would have been so happy.

Will there be a 2nd Annual Event? We are planning to make this

tournament and banquet an annual event. We are already in the works to plan the 2008 Glenda Jane Koffler Memorial Golf Tournament. We hope to double what we made last year!

Is there anything else you want to add? There is one more thing I would like to tell everyone. Just one month after my mother-in-law passed away, I became pregnant. I struggled with secondary infertility for years so we were very surprised. We had a beautiful little girl and her name is Madison Glenda Jane Koffler, named after her nana. And wouldn't you know it...she looks just like her!

Event Spotlight – Jose's Angels: Swinging and Running for Pancreatic Cancer

You thought you had a busy Fall? While most people were getting ready for the holidays, Jose's Angels were working tirelessly on not one, but two fundraising events to support the Hirshberg Foundation.

Jose's Angels are the friends and family of Jose Huerta, who passed away from pancreatic cancer last June. Championed by Jose's sister-in-law, Christine Huerta, and Jose's best friend, George Piantka, the group raised more than \$12,000 for the Hirshberg Foundation in 2007 by organizing both a Golf Tournament and creating a team at the LA Cancer Challenge.

Held on November 1, 2007 at Western Hills Country Club in Chino

Hills, CA, the 2nd Annual Jose's Angels Golf Tournament was a huge success. The 72 golfers and 125 banquet attendees raised \$5,200 for the Foundation and an additional \$2,500 for the college savings plans for Jose's two young children, Emily and Joseph. According to Piantka, the greatest reward from the tournament was not the money raised. "More importantly, we honored Jose and embraced Gina (Jose's widow), Emily, and Joseph. The kindness those who supported us and the high regard of Jose was felt, especially by the family and friends of Jose."

The inaugural tournament was held November 2, 2006 as a fund raiser for Jose and his family to help with medical costs, loss of income, and college savings accounts. Reflecting back, Piantka said, "Jose loved the tournament in 2006. His energy was apparent, especially since his health (diagnosed June 2006) had improved by November 2006. His gratitude to each and everyone in attendance was expressed in his address at the tournament banquet...where he vowed to attend in 2007. I am sure he is proud that we have pressed forward with the tournament since his passing in June 2007; and that the tournament will continue to benefit pancreatic research and his children."

The golf tournament was just the start of Jose's Angels busy fall. Christine Huerta organized the Jose's Angels Team for the Hirshberg Foundation's 10th Annual L.A. Cancer Challenge 5k/10k Run/Walk. Donning shirts, ribbons and keepsakes made by Chris in memory of Jose, the team members held a banner as they walked along the course at the VA grounds. Through her organization and collective support, \$6,915 was donated to the Hirshberg Foundation through the LA Cancer Challenge website in honor of Jose.

Piantka added, "I am proud of our association with the Hirshberg Foundation and especially proud, in Jose's honor, of our

collective efforts in supporting research and improvements in quality of life in the battle against this seemingly insurmountable disease. As the Hirshberg Foundation's motto goes, 'You Can Hope or You Can Help™;' and we are both hoping and helping. What it comes down to, is, as I have realized, you are never more alive than when you are helping."

Jose's Angels does not plan on slowing down their fundraising efforts anytime soon. They again will have a team at the LA Cancer Challenge, on Sunday, October 26, 2008. And this year, the Jose's Angels Golf Tournament will be held the day after the LACC, on Monday, October 27, 2008. For more information about Jose's Angels or their Golf Tournament, please email George Piantka at george.piantka@nrgenergy.com or call 760-707-6833.

Ronnie Never Gives Up!

Since 2007 the Cottonfest Bluegrass music festival, held in honor of both Cotton and Doyle, has raised thousands of dollars for pancreatic cancer research. Ronnie's long time passion for music and his love of family has guided him to bring together his community and continue fighting on behalf of his loved ones. Ronnie and Denise will never give up the fight against pancreatic cancer!

Jeremy Never Gives Up!

Since 2003, when Jeremy was in the 10th grade, he's held countless online coin auctions raising more than \$85,000 dollars to date! Jeremy joined the fight against pancreatic cancer in honor of his grandfather and today those funds continue to advance research. His dedication and generosity has been unwavering, demonstrating that he will never give up until we find a cure!