

Emily Never Gives Up!

Through the sale of tickets and art, Art Can Cure raised more than \$5,000 for the Hirshberg Foundation. Emily's love of her grandmother and her passion for art inspired her to join the fight against pancreatic cancer and make a difference. The funds she raised in 2007 helped support ground breaking research. Emily continues to inspire all of us to never give up!

Event Spotlight – Owner of Pappo Pays Tribute to his Papa

Chef John Thiel dreamed of opening a restaurant. His father's passion for food and wine inspired Thiel to become a chef, and together they spoke of running a business. In the Fall of 2005, John realized his dream by opening Pappo, a Mediterranean Restaurant located in his hometown of Alameda, California. The only missing ingredient which would have made the opening perfect was his father, William J. Thiel, who died of pancreatic cancer in 2000 at the age of 59.

The one-year celebration is a significant milestone in the restaurant industry, so as Pappo's first anniversary approached, John knew the celebration had to be unique. "We have been very fortunate since the day we opened and I wanted to use this anniversary as an opportunity to give back." He added, "I was motivated to pay tribute and respect to my father who was unable to be a part of this dream of mine."

John did just that. Last October, he organized a dinner party

for 44 people that raised almost \$6,000 for the Foundation. Held at Pappo (which means “to eat” in Latin), they charged a set price for a five-course dinner paired with world class wines from Robert Chadderdon. A silent auction was held, featuring donated pieces of art and private collections of wine. The staff at Pappo’s volunteered their time and more than 90% of the food and wine was donated from the restaurants purveyors. This allowed Thiel to keep the cost of the event down and thus maximize the proceeds he could donate to the Foundation.

“I wanted the proceeds to go directly to The Hirshberg Foundation to further the research of pancreatic cancer because that is what my father had. I thought maybe one day it could help my sister, my brothers, myself or any other family member, as I understand this cancer to be hereditary.”

After the event, Thiel described the overall experience as “great” and found comfort in the fact that so many of his friends and family would come out to support what he felt was a very worthwhile cause. “I am very happy to be in a position where I could host something like this, and I look forward to making it an annual event.”

When asked what his father would have thought of the event had he had been alive to attend, John said “I think my father would have been very proud of me and he would have **loved** the meal.”

Event Spotlight – Chicago

Marathoner Honors Dad She Never Met

Editors Note: Last year we were contacted by Hillary Cavan, a young woman from Chicago, who was training to run in the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon, and wanted to raise money for the Hirshberg Foundation in conjunction with her training. After the marathon, we asked her to answer some questions about her experience.

What motivated you to train for the Chicago Marathon?

I ran the marathon for my Father who passed away from Pancreatic Cancer. Although, I never had the opportunity to meet my father I have always felt as though he is with me every step I take. He was diagnosed with this cancer when mother was eight months pregnant with me. I was born on the day of his funeral, three days after he had passed away.

Why did you choose to raise funds for the Hirshberg Foundation?

When I committed myself to this marathon there was not a charity that was closer to my heart. Having the opportunity to raise money throughout my training & running the marathon with extra support and pride is something I will never forget. It had been 24 years but I never want my family to forget what an amazing man he was and how important it is to keep cancer research in the minds of everyone.

What were your results?

I raised just over \$5,000 with the help of my loving friends, family & co-workers and I completed the marathon in 4 hours, 15 minutes!

How was the overall experience for you?

It was an incredible experience that I will never forget. My father was an amazing man and being able to raise this money in his honor was something I will hold so close to my heart. I think it helped remind everyone of how unforgettable he is and brought back amazing memories for all.

What do you think your dad would have thought about you running a marathon?

I know my Dad was with me every step of the way. My long training runs, my solo runs during the week and most importantly all 26.2 miles! It was a very cold & grey day in Chicago and at mile 23 the sun just peaked out a bit; I know that his spirit was shining down on me.

Will you ever run 26.2 miles again?

I would love to run another marathon in the near future & will definitely look forward to raising money for the Hirshberg Foundation!

We Will Never Give Up for Heather!

Heather touched the lives of so many and her story has remained in our hearts and minds for over a decade. Her beautiful smile and hopeful spirit is etched in our hearts. Her endurance and positive attitude is an inspiration to all of us to never give up.

Hirshberg Training Team Spotlight – Mayor’s Midnight Sun Alaska Marathon

Nine members of the Hirshberg Foundation Marathon Team journeyed from Los Angeles to Alaska this past June to participate in the Mayor’s Midnight Sun Marathon and raised over \$26,000 for the Foundation.

Team members Kari Richardson, Amy Reiss, Heather Cohen, Michelle Eskenazi, Ernae Mothershed, Veronica Herrera, Agi Hirshberg, Lisa Manheim, and David Manheim joined an estimated 3,000 runners, representing 50 states.

Each team member committed to raise at least \$3,000 for the Foundation and in return received round trip airfare, four nights at a hotel, and entry into the Marathon. They were also treated to a pre-race pasta party at the Anchorage Museum of Art and a celebration dinner after the race.

Hirshberg Foundation Director Lisa Manheim noted that the marathoners raised money in a variety of different ways. Michelle Eskenazi, who participated in last year’s Kona Marathon, participated with her friend Ernae Mothershed, to organize Art for Life, an art auction and boutique. Ernae, who was the top pledge earner with over \$5,000 in donations, also hosted a Cajun Dinner Party, while Michelle held a yard sale, gathering contributions from friends and co-workers. Kari Richardson, an architect from Venice, hosted a birthday dinner party at her home and asked her friends for donations in lieu of

gifts. She also donated her car through the Foundation's Car Donation Program. Other team members conducted successful letter-writing campaigns.

Everyone was invited to participate in a 21-week training program held on Saturday mornings in Marina del Rey by Robert Mills, one of the area's premiere marathon training coaches and Director of Club 26.2. Prior to Alaska, only one team member had ever participated in a long-distance running event. In fact, most of the team had never run at all. Yet, the eight half-marathoners and one marathoner on the team all successfully completed the race.

During a marathon, many runners get so tired they feel they can't even put one foot in front of another anymore. This urge to stop running is known as "hitting the wall." Team member Amy Reiss, whose mother lost her battle with pancreatic cancer on June 28, 2002, exactly 51 weeks prior to the start of the race, explains why this wasn't a problem in Alaska.

"On the bus on our way to the starting line, I felt my mom's presence. She didn't just show up casually, her energy was everywhere. It happened suddenly and dramatically, and I found myself moved to tears. Even though I had done the training with Robert, I worried that I wouldn't have the strength to complete the half marathon. But once we started running I realized that feeling her all around me actually gave me the energy I needed."

Other runners received their inspiration from a more natural, but no less extraordinary source. Hirshberg Foundation Director Lisa Manheim recalls what happened.

"We were running on a picturesque coastal trail, thick with lush green trees, when my mom, Agi, who was running a few paces behind us, yelled out, "Lisa, a moose!" Sure enough, there was a huge moose staring at us from about 20 feet away. We all

stopped and stared, hardly believing that we were actually in the presence of such an incredible creature.”

“My mom said laughing at that moose was the highlight of the day. ‘Maybe they (all of the people for whom we were running in memory of) sent the moose, to let us know they were up there, cheering us on,’ she told me. I think she’s right. That’s just the sort of thing my stepdad would do.”

Michelle & Ernae Never Gives Up!

Art for Life raised over \$3,000 for the Hirshberg Foundation and guaranteed Michelle and Ernae a trip to Alaska with our Marathon Team. The fun and creative event raised awareness and helped motivate Michelle and Ernae to reach the finish line together and never give up!