

Jon Hirshberg Never Gives Up!

Twenty years after the loss of his father Ron Hirshberg, Jon is more passionate than ever about winning the fight against pancreatic cancer. His creative insight and drive have played a pivotal role in raising millions of dollars through Hirshberg Foundation signature events including the LA Cancer Challenge and Tour de Pier. Jon continues to share his dad's story and bring this disease to the forefront in his community. He remains committed to winning the fight against pancreatic cancer and never giving up!

Marlborough Police Department Never Gives Up!

The 2nd Annual Marlborough Police Department 5k Police Chase & Family Day raised over \$3,500 for the Hirshberg Foundation and in support of pancreatic cancer research. Their act of support by recognizing and honoring one of their brothers in blue is a clear example of what communities of all types can achieve when they never give up.

Event Spotlight – Daughter Honors Her Artist Mom

Editor's note: We wanted to share with you the story of NelsonArt, and what one young woman is doing to raise awareness and funds for pancreatic cancer while honoring her mother's memory.

Ann Taylor Nelson was a gifted artist who lived in Colorado, where she created vivid watercolor landscapes and still lifes. During her lifetime she was able to exhibit and sell her paintings, share ideas, and travel to Europe to develop her unique style and color sense. When she died of pancreatic cancer in 2000, she left behind over a hundred stunning watercolor paintings.

Her daughter, Amy, also an artist, was sitting at her desk shortly after her mother's death when the idea for NelsonArt struck— by creating a line of fine art cards, she could share her Mom's work with the world as well as raise money for a worthy cause. We are pleased to say that she chose the Hirshberg Foundation.

The cards are available to purchase by visiting www.nelsonart.net or calling 323-655-4551. Prices begin at \$15.00, and a portion of all proceeds go directly to the Hirshberg Foundation. The high quality, vividly colored stationary make a beautiful gift while allowing you to help Amy in her venture to honor her mother and find a cure for pancreatic cancer.

Hirshberg Training Team Spotlight – Kona Marathon

Four women from the Hirshberg Foundation Marathon Team in Los Angeles made the trip to the Big Island of Hawaii this past June to participate in the Kona Marathon and Family Fun Run to raise money for the Hirshberg Pancreatic Cancer Center at UCLA.

The women joined an estimated 2,000 runners of all ages and abilities as they competed for prize money and raised funds for a number of charities. Team members committed to raise at least \$3,300 for the Foundation and in return they received free airfare, four nights at a hotel, and entry into the Marathon. They were also invited to participate in a weekly training program held in Marina del Rey by Robert Mills, Director of Club 26.2, one of the area's premiere marathon training coaches.

Lisa Hirshberg, who lost her father Ronnie in 1997, and her friend Mandy De Souza finished the $\frac{1}{2}$ marathon in 2:57:43. Mandy raised the most money, collecting over \$3,800. Allison Kaplan, an employee of the John Wayne Cancer Institute, lost her father to pancreatic cancer a few years ago. She ran the 10k in 1:57:54, a miraculous time in her eyes given that, prior to the training program, she never exercised. "When I crossed the finish line, Lisa and I just burst into tears thinking about our dads up there watching us and rooting us on. My dad kept me going for all 6 miles," stated Allison.

Michelle Eskenazi, who ran the $\frac{1}{2}$ marathon in 3:17:34, was also touched by the experience and is looking forward to the next event. "Being part of something that has unified nearly 2,000 people, all with different reasons and motivations for being involved, was truly amazing. On a personal level, I was able to accomplish something I never thought I would be able to do. I

can't wait to do it again next June in Anchorage, Alaska!"

Hirshberg Foundation Director Lisa Manheim noted that the women raised money in a variety of different ways. "Allison hosted a fundraising night at the Pizza Cookery, inviting friends, family, and co-workers, while Michelle held a garage sale and hosted a fundraising dinner at Fresh Choice restaurant. They all really went the distance."

Citing the success of the event and the team's efforts, Manheim went on to explain, "The Hirshberg Foundation encourages people to join our Marathon Training Program for a number of reasons. First and foremost, it helps raise money for pancreatic cancer research. But it's also great exercise, an amazing experience and a fun vacation as well."

Wylie Never Gives Up!

Wylie went on to finish the Boston Marathon and raise over \$1,300 for pancreatic cancer research. Her journey to the finish line inspired friends, family and everyone on the sidelines. She rallied the support she received and refused to give in to the challenge and made a commitment to never give up!

Event Spotlight – Family Ties

Carney Duntsch of Memphis, Tennessee contacted the Hirshberg

Foundation a few months ago via email. She energetically wrote us about her father, who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in May of 1999, and is living with the disease. Robert Skinner is a 53-year-old avid climber and whitewater canoe buff. One week he was climbing mountains, and the next he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Finding out how deadly this cancer is was a devastating blow to Carney and her family. Yet, she knew she couldn't just sit around—she had to do something.

Carney explains, “I have watched my father undergo radical surgery, high dose chemotherapy, and radiation. Less than one year after his diagnosis, he has beaten the odds and is still alive, but his fight is not over. Watching him suffer through this has pushed me to organize a fundraising effort.”

This effort is called “Family Ties.” Carney is inviting celebrities, via a mail campaign, to donate a tie: necktie, bow tie, scarf, string bikini, anything that ties. These items will then be auctioned on Ebay, with all proceeds going to the Ronald S Hirshberg Pancreatic Cancer Research Center. Carney is excited about the prospects. “My hope is that other family members of pancreatic cancer victims will become aware of this effort, and take part in “Family Ties” in a nationwide fundraising campaign.” Donald Trump was the first to donate an item, a necktie, to the effort. Ted Turner has also contributed.

Carney is hoping to receive all items by July 16, 2000, her father's 54th birthday, but she needs all the assistance she can get.