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Golf Ball Summary



Our eighth annual Golf Ball gala was a spectacular success, with 240 guests on hand to help honor the lives of those who have succumbed to brain tumors, and offer hope to those still fighting. The [Harvard Club of Boston](#) once again served as a spectacular host, creating an elegant evening. Among the guests were many of our corporate partners, including the Golf Ball's presenting sponsor [EMD Serono](#) and several of our in-kind donors, who helped defray our costs. [Dana Markos Events](#)

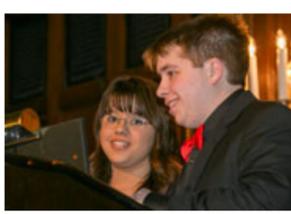
transformed Harvard Hall into a Spring Golf Extravaganza. Click on this [PHOTO LINK](#) to see all the photos of the March 23 event. We thank [David Fox](#) for his incredible work again shooting our event.

SAVE THE DATE: Our 2014 Golf Ball is scheduled for Saturday, March 22 at the Harvard Club.

We also debuted a video of a group of brain tumor survivors at Dana-Farber. Watch their powerful and inspirational video [HERE](#).



The speaker presentation opened up with [Voices of Hope](#) singing powerful renditions of "Seasons of Love" and "Live Like You Were Dying." Voices of Hope uses music to raise awareness and to support doctors and researchers in the fight against cancer.



Peabody twins and brain tumor survivors Larry and Judith Theriault thanked everyone for being part of their journey over the past 13 years and 21 events that they have been a part of our organization. This past year, Judith made the Dean's List at

Merrimack College while Larry has been writing children's books with the hope of being a published author.

"Without all your support we would have missed out on many adventures," Judith said. "Memories, milestones, and miracles describes everyone's journey. You treasure your time, you mark your steps, and you are thankful for everyone and the miracles you receive."

Larry followed that up, saying, "These memories, milestones, and miracles don't happen without all the support," concluding that thought with his signature sentiment, "Because of you I have hope, I have life, and I have lots of fun."



Par Fore the Cure founder Michael Strong spoke about these events being a collaborative effort between the committee, vendors, in-kind donors, doctors, Dana-Farber staff, and brain tumor survivors. "We want to end this," he said. "We really want to end

this. We're doing this together, all of us, are combining to help people try to live a normal life. I can't imagine sitting in front of a doctor to hear, 'You have a brain tumor.' What we want is the doctor to say in the next breath, 'But we have something that will work. We will take care of you.'"

Strong ended by dedicating this year's donation to Michelle Lipton, a 50-year-old mother of two who was still fighting her long battle against her brain tumor on March 23. She sadly succumbed to her tumor on April 7, 2013, after a heroic 8 1/2 year fight. This year's donation to Dr. Wen and his team at Dana-Farber will be given in Michelle's name through the Melinda M. Wanatick Brain Tumor Research Fund.



Andrea Ashford from EMD Serono talked about the number of robust drugs they have in the pipeline, including one for glioblastoma, the most common and most aggressive malignant primary brain tumor, that they are working with Dr. Reardon from Dana-

Farber on currently.



Dana Markos shared his personal connection to our organization. Markos brought his talents to the floral design and décor of the Golf Ball after a brain tumor struck his own family. His story started four years ago when his wife Elizabeth was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

She was asymptomatic up to that point, then hit with it one day. "She battled valiantly over the years." Markos said. "She enjoyed life. It was the neuro-oncology unit at Dana-Farber who embraced us. Without them this journey would have been much more difficult." Elizabeth passed in February 2012. "Her courage, faith, and what she did to support the efforts, trials, protocols, we can have happy endings because of people like her. I salute the survivors. She is with us in spirit. We will eradicate this," he said.



For the seventh consecutive year Darcie Fisher served as emcee. It's become more and more personal to her as the years progressed. She said she now knows 10 or 12 people who have been touch by a brain tumor. She read a story of a little girl who was

diagnosed with a brain tumor. Being an Equestrian competitor, she was granted a wish to go to the Olympics in London to see the Equestrian competition. She wanted to ride again. This past year, she started at Cardinal Spellman, where Darcie's oldest daughter now attends, and the two become best friends. "Last week she was in my living room, heading to her junior prom," she said.



BethAnn Telford gave the keynote address. Telford is a 43-year-old woman from Washington, DC, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2004. Told she may never walk again, BethAnn not only had to learn to walk again, but several months later she was running a 5K. She has since completed multiple marathons, half IRONMANs, the IRONMAN at Lake Placid, NY, and her ultimate athletic accomplishment, the IRONMAN World Championship in Kona, Hawaii in October 2012.

"I tried for 8 years since being diagnosed to earn a slot through a lottery program," Telford said. "Last year IRONMAN started a program called Kona Inspired." The Kona Inspired program provides slots for the IRONMAN World Championship driven by inspirational stories and voted on by the public. Her short story, which went viral and received the highest number of votes, got her into last year's lottery. (See video [HERE](#).) "I ran the race for not for BethAnn Telford, but everyone she fights for, for everyone who was on my shoulders," she said. "It was the last thing on my bucket list to check off. I know my health is getting bad, so it was perfect timing."

She never planned on accomplishing any of the things she has since her diagnoses. She went to DC to start a career to help out her family back home in Harrisburg, PA. Over the years she's touched so many lives, with the [Team BT](#) foundation that she started, and her tireless efforts to inspire as many brain tumor survivors she can.



One such survivor is 7-year-old Anya, who made the trek from Pennsylvania to "go to Harvard." Affectionately known to one another as "bestest", she is the reason why BethAnn continues to fight. "I look at her and I know I'm going to be OK." Anya helped

show of BethAnn's "HOPE" banner. The "HOPE" banner was what she took over the finish line at Kona. They got signatures from children from the hospitals who had brain tumors, parents of kids who succumbed to their own tumors.



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