



# curesToday

Gateway for Cancer Research has been devoted to funding Phase I and Phase II human clinical trials for more than 28 years. See how you advance medical science by making those trials possible!

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Thanks for Grooving and Giving!

## Gateway's Continued Commitment

We are dedicated to the well-being of cancer patients

by Michael Burton, President and CEO, Gateway for Cancer Research



Health is at the core of the mission of Gateway for Cancer Research, and at this difficult time our thoughts are with all those affected by the COVID-19

outbreak. We know that too many are facing unprecedented challenges during this global pandemic, especially cancer patients who are highly vulnerable to the virus, and their doctors and caregivers who continue to support and care for them in these uncertain days.

You may be living with cancer, caring for a loved one or supporting a friend with cancer. We encourage you to visit [CancerCenter.com](http://CancerCenter.com), the website of our valued partner Cancer Treatment Centers of America®, for helpful information that can assist you with navigating the uncertainties of this health crisis, including how COVID-19 impacts cancer patients specifically.

We are exceedingly grateful for the commitment of the medical community on the front lines in the battle to defeat COVID-19. Their courage and dedication is awe-

inspiring. Gateway stands ready to support our research partners with whatever assistance they may need. Gateway is steadfast in our optimism that, together, we will persevere in the face of this crisis and overcome it through the application of transformational scientific research and the power of the human spirit.

This edition of *curesTODAY* includes articles that inspire us all during these challenging times. Read about Maddy's incredible story of survivorship, Dr. Freedman's trial focused on an underserved group, tips to reduce your risk of cancer and how we were able to raise significant funds for innovative cancer research at our Cures Gala.

The entire Gateway team is extremely grateful for your support as we continue our vital work to end cancer as we know it. We hope that you, your family and loved ones remain well and safe. ■



**99** OF EVERY DOLLAR RECEIVED DIRECTLY FUNDS CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS  
**CENTS**

# Maddy's "Amazing Outcome"

Cancer free for five years, she's thriving... thanks to you!

For Maddy Oliver, a Gateway-funded cancer treatment trial offered hope after she was diagnosed with a form of pediatric bone cancer that has one of the lowest survival rates.

It was February of 2013 when Maddy—just 17 at the time—began experiencing pain in one hip. Five months and many doctor's appointments later, her family finally had an answer. Maddy had osteosarcoma, cancer that begins in the cells that form bones. By then, her pain was so severe that she could hardly walk. That's when her cancer team approached the family about a Gateway-funded clinical trial being conducted at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

"Like most childhood cancers, the goal of our treatment is not necessarily to prolong survival but to cure them of the cancer," says Dr. Frank Balis, who led the trial. "Our goal is to allow patients who develop this cancer to live a full and normal life after they complete their treatment."

A full and normal life seemed like a dream as Maddy began treatment. Heading into what was supposed to be her senior year of high school, she was instead in traction—lying on her back in the hospital for four months. But Maddy pushed through those difficult days and received her final chemotherapy treatment in March 2014.

Since then, Maddy has come so far. Now 23, she graduated from nursing school last year, soon after celebrating five years of being cancer free. She now works as a nurse and never takes for granted how "normal" her life is now.

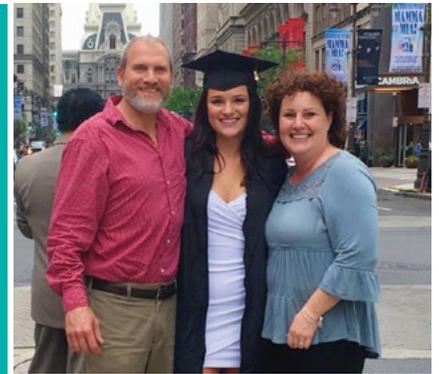
She credits her "amazing outcome" to Gateway donors who made the lifesaving clinical trial possible. At an event where she had a chance to say thank you to Gateway supporters, she said: "You guys are the light at the end of my tunnel. I'm the happiest girl alive." ■



While her peers started senior year of high school, Maddy was in the hospital participating in a Gateway-funded trial.

**"Our goal is to allow patients who develop this cancer to live a full and normal life after they complete their treatment."**

*—Dr. Frank Balis*



Maddy and her parents celebrate her graduation from nursing school.

## / Word CUREiosity / Integrative Medicine

**Definition:** Integrative medicine treats cancer with both standard interventions and evidence-informed supportive therapies.

**Application:** Integrative medicine is delivered simultaneously by a collaborative team of clinicians. It can include surgery, radiation and chemotherapy to target the cancer directly, while supportive therapies like acupuncture and behavioral health improve a patient's strength, stamina and quality of life.

# Hope for Breast Cancer Patients over 60

## Researcher focuses study on treatment of older women

Thanks to generous supporters like you, Gateway is funding pioneering research to identify a treatment alternative for women over 60 who are diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer.

Patients with HER2-positive breast cancer test positive for a protein that promotes the rapid growth of cancer cells. As a result, they face higher and earlier risk of cancer recurrence than those with other breast cancer subtypes.

One in five newly diagnosed HER2-positive breast cancer patients is age 60 or over. However, older women have been underrepresented in clinical trials for new, more effective therapies.

Dr. Rachel Freedman is looking to change that. Medical director of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Cancer Care Collaborative, a senior physician and assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Freedman is leading the first clinical trial for older patients with HER2-positive breast cancer.

“We want to address the knowledge gap that exists,” she says. “Women over 60 are consistently under-

treated for this disease, and they experience more treatment-related toxicity than younger patients.”

In the Phase II study, Dr. Freedman and her team are examining the use of an investigational drug called T-DM1, which targets HER2-positive breast cancer cells directly and limits exposure of chemotherapy toxins to the rest of the body.

“Our hope is that this trial expands our knowledge so we can more effectively treat our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and friends,” says Dr. Freedman.

Your support ensures that Gateway can continue funding transformational research like Dr. Freedman’s study. Thank you for standing with us as we work to fund clinical trials for all types of cancers and prioritize only the most cutting-edge research that can help patients TODAY! ■



Dr. Rachel Freedman

## 4 Ways to Lower Your Risk

### Make these small changes today to lower your risk of cancer



#### 1. MOVE MORE

Whether indoor or outdoor, participating in any amount of physical activity will reap health benefits, and you’ll maximize those benefits when you get at least 150 minutes a week of moderate aerobic activity or 75 minutes a week of vigorous aerobic activity. As a general goal, include at least 30 minutes of physical activity in your daily routine.



#### 2. LIMIT PROCESSED MEATS

Eating large amounts of processed meat can slightly increase the risk of certain types of cancer, according to a report from the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the cancer agency of the World Health Organization.



#### 3. WATCH YOUR DAILY D

Many health experts now recommend getting 800 to 1,000 IU of vitamin D daily, which may require you to take a supplement such as a vitamin. Evidence suggests that vitamin D may help reduce the risk of prostate cancer, colon cancer and other malignancies.



#### 4. LIMIT ALCOHOL

Excess alcohol may increase the risk of certain cancers including larynx (voice box), esophagus (food pipe), liver and colon cancers. If you don’t want to cut out alcohol entirely, limit yourself to an average of one drink per day.

# Thanks for Grooving and Giving!

## Proceeds from the Cures Gala are saving lives

Our Cures Gala was a spectacular success—an example of how one evening of generosity can truly impact lives!

Held November 2 near our headquarters in Schaumburg, Illinois, this annual event brought more than 700 Gateway donors, sponsors, attendees and volunteers together, raising \$4.2 million for transformational clinical cancer research. That's enough to fund more than 250,000 days in a cancer clinical trial!

The gala theme was “Studio 54,” with guests enjoying an evening of good vibes, giving, and great memories. Awe-inspiring entertainment was provided by CeeLo Green, The Sugarhill Gang and Tony Vincent. Actress and comedian Melissa Peterman served as emcee.

Gateway was honored to present the inaugural Global Humanitarian Award to Mr. Muneer Satter and Ms. Kristen Hertel, on behalf of the Satter Foundation, for their commitment to Gateway and their efforts to effect positive change and be catalysts for improving the circumstances of the world's most disenfranchised individuals.

The true stars of the Cures Gala were the patients who shared their inspiring stories of healing, hope and survivorship through Gateway-funded trials:

- **Kent Thomas** – Featured in our Fall 2019 newsletter, Kent was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. After one month participating in a Gateway-funded clinical trial at the University of California, San Francisco, there were no traces of cancer in Kent's blood. He's now enjoying more time with his grandchildren.
- **Luke Carusillo** – Diagnosed with a rare, inoperable brain tumor when he was just 4 years old, Luke entered a Gateway-funded trial at New York University, and his tumor shrunk by 50% after 12 weeks! Now Luke is back to being like any other 8-year-old, playing sports and attending school.
- **Maddy Oliver** – Just 17 years old when she was diagnosed with osteosarcoma—a type of bone cancer—Maddy participated in a Gateway-funded trial at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and just



Gateway Ambassador Samantha Harris with Mr. Richard J and Dr. Stacie J. Stephenson, Gateway Chairman and Vice Chairman

celebrated five years of being cancer free! Read more about Maddy in the story on page two of this issue.

Thanks to our generous event sponsors and hosts Dr. Stacie J. and Mr. Richard J Stephenson, 100% of the proceeds raised during the gala will go straight to research, funding clinical cancer trials around the world and helping more people like Kent, Luke and Maddy.

Thank you to all our Cures Gala guests and supporters, including our major sponsors: Dr. Stacie J. and Richard J Stephenson, Cancer Treatment Centers of America®, International Capital & Management, International Private Bank, Andi and Jim Gordon - The Edgewater Funds, The Richard Templar Family, Rising Tide Foundation, Satter Foundation, and Stellar Insurance Company Ltd. ■

### Save the Date!

4th Annual Vino con Stelle Event

October 16, 2020

Scottsdale Hangar One  
Scottsdale, Arizona



Vino con Stelle was postponed to ensure the health and well-being of our community. We hope you can join us in October. This elegant night will raise funds to support cancer research on behalf of the courageous patients we serve both today and tomorrow.

For more information, visit [VinoConStelle.com](http://VinoConStelle.com)



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