‘Spectacular’ care spurs bequest to defy cancer

For Andrea Abraham, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is like family. And just as her four grandchildren will carry on her memory for years to come, Andrea knows the importance of leaving a legacy for her Dana-Farber family, too. A trustee since 1989, Andrea recently became a member of the Dana-Farber Society with a bequest made in support of The Dana-Farber Campaign, the Institute’s ambitious $2 billion fundraising effort to defy cancer at every turn.

The Abrahams became a part of the extended Dana-Farber family in 1977, when Andrea’s infant son, David, was diagnosed with neuroblastoma and treated at the Jimmy Fund Clinic. Although treatment initially worked, David sadly passed away when he was just 17 months old.

“Even though the outcome was not successful, the care we received as a family and that David received was just spectacular,” Andrea recalls.

Immediately following David’s passing, Andrea’s father-in-law, Alexander Abraham, was inspired to start the David Abraham Fellowship Fund in his grandson’s memory, one of the first fellowship funds at Dana-Farber, which provides flexible funding to early career researchers in childhood cancer. Alexander soon joined the board of trustees, and Andrea assumed the mantle in 1989.

Over the years, Andrea has been impressed by the Institute’s advancements. As a trustee, she decided to enhance her support in 2021 through continued fellowship funding, naming a spot on the Institute’s new Imagine Display, and by joining the Dana-Farber Society, all to bolster The Dana-Farber Campaign to help the Institute defy even the hardest to treat cancers, like the one that took her son.

“Today, there is a lot more understanding of neuroblastoma,” Andrea says. “My hope is that we can continue research to one day find a cure.”

“Planned gifts give Dana-Farber money that the Institute can count on in the future, which helps sustain research and keeps the momentum going for the hardest-to-treat diseases,” Andrea continues.

Unrestricted giving through bequests like Andrea’s, and through gifts to The Dana-Farber Campaign, help the Institute pursue innovative early-stage research, speed new drugs into clinical trials, reduce disparities, and, importantly, help support special programs that address the physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs of patients and their families.

Although David’s treatment wasn’t successful, Andrea and her family have been relentless in their efforts for over 40 years. Andrea and her children meet regularly with their fellows to better understand their research, and her daughter, Karen, is a member of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge, running 26.2 miles in her brother’s memory.

“Dana-Farber helped me get through a terrible time in my life,” Andrea reflects. “Making a bequest to continue supporting other families after I’m gone is the greatest gift I can give.”

Andrea Abraham (top row, second from left) is creating a lasting and meaningful legacy with her bequest gift to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.
A Message from Erin

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share the latest issue of our Planned Giving Newsletter with you. Throughout this challenging year, we have been so inspired by the ways everyone in our community stepped up to support each other. As COVID-19 vaccine distribution continues to ramp up and summer brings warmer, longer days, we are ready to take a breath and look ahead, focused on the future.

This is an exciting time for the Institute. We have officially launched The Dana-Farber Campaign, the theme of which is “defy cancer.” If the past year has shown us anything, it’s that you, our incredible supporters, are as resilient as you are compassionate. I can’t think of a better, bolder mantra to lead us into this new era of cancer research and care.

We have set a goal to grow to 2000 Dana-Farber Society members during the course of the Campaign and have also enhanced our recognition opportunities for bequest intentions. Whether leaving a legacy gift through your estate, establishing a life income arrangement, or gifting another tax-efficient asset, you can help us achieve our goals and ensure that Dana-Farber will have the funding needed for patients in the future, for discoveries down the road that we cannot even fathom today. In this way, your support not only sustains our mission—it accelerates our progress.

Your continued generosity is what makes our ambitious $2 billion Campaign goal attainable. Investing in the Campaign means investing in our cutting-edge research, compassionate patient care, and exceptional people. Planned gifts are inherently forward-thinking and provide many benefits to both the donor and our mission. Given likely tax changes to come, we encourage you to contact us to learn about how planned gift vehicles can help you achieve your financial AND philanthropic goals.

Thank you again for your continued support and enthusiasm for Dana-Farber’s lifesaving mission. We are honored to partner with each and every one of you. If you have any questions about planned giving, please contact us at 800-535-5577 or gift_planning@dfci.harvard.edu.

Kindly,

Erin M. McKenna
Assistant Vice President, Planned Giving
What to Know: IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

- If you’re 70½ or older, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA is a tax-beneficial way you can support Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and other charitable organizations.
- You can transfer up to $100,000 per year directly from your IRA to one or more qualified charities like Dana-Farber.
- QCD can be applied towards or satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD). The 2020 SECURE Act raised the RMD start date to age 72.
- No income tax is owed on the QCD. It may reduce your taxable income leading to tax savings.
- Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the impact of your philanthropy now.

Learn more at Dana-Farber.org/IRA

Make a Charitable Gift that Provides Income

Are you interested in receiving income for life or a term of years with a charitable gift? Life income gifts are a great way to provide lifetime income to you and the people you care about, as well as offering tax benefits for you and your estate. They are a wonderful solution for those who want to give in a substantial way and supplement retirement income. Which life income gift might be right for you? Find out more below.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES (CGA)
- Receive fixed income for life for you or up to two annuitants
- Receive an immediate charitable tax deduction
- Reduce capital gains taxes by using appreciated securities
- Defer payments to a future date for an increased annuity rate

CHARITABLE REMAINDEER TRUSTS (CRT)
- Receive income for life or a term of years; CRTs typically pay 5% of trust assets revalued annually
- Receive an immediate charitable tax deduction and reduce estate and gift taxes in some instances
- Avoid up-front capital gains tax if funded with appreciated securities, real estate, or personal property
- Manage assets through your own investment manager or choose to work with Dana-Farber and State Street Global Advisors

Want to know more? Contact us at 800-535-5577 or gift_planning@dfci.harvard.edu.
Making Connections

In a digital world, face-to-face interactions happen less frequently, but we’re committed to connecting with you! To build these connections, we’ll be featuring a Planned Giving staff member in each newsletter. This way, you can become more familiar with the team, and when it’s safe to meet in person, you’ll know our faces and some fun facts!

Sarah Wegner  Assistant Director, Planned Giving

Three fun facts:

1. I grew up in Grand Forks, ND
2. My husband and I restored a 1969 travel trailer and love to camp all over New England
3. My favorite pastime during the pandemic has been cooking vegan food with my kids

Yes, I will help Defy Cancer by including Dana-Farber in my legacy plans!

- I have included Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund in my estate plans
- Please list name(s) in the Dana-Farber Society as
- I prefer to remain anonymous
- I am interested in learning more about planned giving options benefiting Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund
- Tell me more about __________________________
- I am interested in learning more about Dana-Farber’s President’s Circle, honoring donors who make gifts of $1,500 or more

Other __________________________

Name

Street Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

Financial Advisor contact information:

Email

Phone

Name of Firm

- I have a donor-advised fund at

For more information, visit Dana-Farber.org/PGNews

If you wish to opt out of receiving fundraising mailings, please call 800-525-4669 or visit JimmyFund.org/Opt-Out.
You don’t have to be a doctor to cure cancer®

Planned Giving Newsletter

Word Search

Below is a classic word search featuring key words that embody Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. Words are hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and even backwards. Enjoy!

You don’t have to be a doctor to cure cancer®

defy (de-fy, di-‘fi) v. transitive verb [defied; defying] to challenge; to do something considered impossible

3. Hope  7. Leader
4. Precision  8. Prevention

Please visit Dana-Farber.org/PGNews for answers!

To learn more about The Dana-Farber Campaign, please visit defyCancer.org
“I would like to thank each and every donor for their commitment to improving the lives of people like myself who had cancer.”

- John Cain, a Dana-Farber patient

To learn more about John's story, please visit defycancer.org