

How it started

Around April of 2003 my father started to notice that he was short of breath while performing regular every day chores. He went to see a doctor about this issue. The doctors did some tests and found out that my father had lung cancer. As it turned out, it was as bad as it could be. Both lungs were completely covered. The doctors said that operating was out of the question as the cancer was covering too much of his lungs. On August 14th at 4:30 PM my father passed away. He did so while continuing to do what he loved, traveling with his wife. Somewhere my father had found this phrase "Cancer may kill me, but I won't let it ruin my life". He lived by those words, true to them until the end.

Four months - My father was NOT a smoker. He was physically fit, an avid traveler and a healthy eater. What had happened? There were no signs, until a few months before diagnosis. It was too quick; we were still gathering information on lung cancer when he passed away. The doctors had not provided my family with very much information. I found more on the web than they had given us.

I decided that there was room for improvement. We need to get more information about what signs to look for, find a way to detect the cancer earlier, and what to do once you've found out you've got it. The drive to have those questions answered moved me to start the CJM Cancer Foundation and organize the Tee Off on Cancer Event.

Together with donations from those who care, and the brilliant doctors working at The Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota, we hope to improve research, screening, and education for cancer.

Steve Makousky