

special thanks . . .

You, the volunteers and donors, are the backbone of our foundation. The time, dedication, services and funds you donate help VABC work towards achieving its mission. We would not be able to create change in the brain cancer community without you.



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If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or Volunteer Committee, please fill out the attached form or contact Darren Port at 646.278.6735 or info@voicesagainstbraincancer.org.

message from the founders



From left: Adam, Mario, Dora, Deborah and Eric Lichtenstein. The Lichtenstein Family founded Voices Against Brain Cancer in memory of their son and brother Gary, who passed away from brain cancer at the age of 24.

Dear Friends and Family:

So much has happened in these past few months at **Voices Against Brain Cancer** (VABC). Because of your continued support, we have been able to expand our reach and fund many programs that have helped the brain cancer community. You have brought us closer to achieving our mission to find a cure for brain cancer by advancing scientific research, increasing awareness within the medical community and supporting patients and families afflicted with this devastating disease. We are proud that so many of you have come together and *Raised Your Voices Against Brain Cancer*.

We have expanded our initiatives in the past year and formalized the granting process. We are very excited to announce that we are now accepting grant proposals on our website at <http://voicesagainstbraincancer.org/grants.html>

We would like to extend our gratitude to everybody who attended and supported our third annual fundraising event, **Sounding Off For A Cure**. You helped us raise over \$750,000 for brain cancer research that has improved patient quality of life. We also want to send a special thanks to the Board of Directors and Volunteer Committee, who put in a lot of time and hard work to make the evening memorable and meaningful. We hope you will save the date for our fourth annual fundraising event, to be held on Thursday, June 4, 2009 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at **Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City!**

Brain tumors can affect people of every age, gender, ethnicity and health history. Each year, more and more people in the United States are diagnosed with a primary or metastatic brain tumor. There are hundreds of different types of brain tumors, resulting in highly variable effects and survival rates. There are currently no known causes of brain cancer.

While we are making progress, there remains much to be done. We are funding research that improves quality of life and helping raise awareness, but there are still so many unknowns in brain tumor patient diagnosis and care. We hope you will join us in achieving our mission.

Sincerely,
The Lichtenstein Family

V O I C E S
AGAINST BRAIN CANCER

a face behind the foundation

Board Member Michael Burkhardt Discusses His Involvement with Voices Against Brain Cancer

The best part of working with Voices Against Brain Cancer has been seeing how everybody supports each other when times are tough. To me, VABC feels like a safety net. God forbid one of my MRI's brings bad news; I know I can count on VABC to embrace me and help me take care of things.

I was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2007. As early as my first sleepless night in the hospital after surgery, I planned to start a fundraising cancer charity. My friends and family had already started a foundation called "Team Burks" to raise money for my medical bills and at that point, my wife, Eden, and I were introduced to VABC founder Mario Lichtenstein. We had lunch, hit it off, and I found what I was looking for. No need to



start my own charity when everything I wanted to do already existed. I wanted to become a part of what VABC was accomplishing very quickly.

I'm happy to say a lot of people came to support me at *Sounding Off For A Cure* in June 2008. I got a chance to speak and it felt good to be an active part of that night. I feel really confident about how VABC is using the funds we raised. As a Board Member, I am also actively involved in organizing and fundraising.

VABC has some great things happening now, working with high schools and communities, and doing things that I don't think have really been done before. My family has been a huge part of everything I do and my Aunt Eileen is really driving big plans at **Massapequa High School**. I'm happy to be a part of it. Eden is very active with the Caregiver Support Group too, and I know that she really looks forward to those meetings.

In this economic environment, raising money will be challenging, but brain tumors don't get laid off in a recession.

My interests include snowboarding, skydiving, scuba diving and snorkeling, but I love a good laugh with my wife, friends and family most. I work in sales and have a BA in Journalism from **SUNY Geneseo**.



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SAVE THE DATE!
Save the date for VABC's fourth annual fundraising event, **Sounding Off For A Cure**, to be held Thursday, June 4, 2009 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at Hammerstein Ballroom in Manhattan. Formal invitation to follow.



V O I C E S
AGAINST BRAIN CANCER

Annual Newsletter
Spring 2009

Voices Against Brain Cancer
c/o Darren Port
1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018



www.voicesagainstbraincancer.org

initiatives

The Programs Made Possible With Your Donations

Your support has helped fund many much-needed initiatives in the world of brain cancer. **Voices Against Brain Cancer (VABC)** is so pleased to convert your donations into programs that make a difference in people's lives.

The VABC support group has been a great resource for me – it is a place where everyone, sadly, speaks the same language and where you know your feelings of sadness and hope are truly understood. I value my time at the support group and every time I leave, I leave with greater insight about how much this disease affects not only the patient but those loving and caring for them.

-Marla Wasserman, caregiver to her husband with brain cancer
Support group participant

Support Group for Caregivers and Family Members of Brain Tumor Patients
VABC, in conjunction with the **American Cancer Society**, has created a support group that provides practical and medical education from professional guest speakers. Members also discuss side effects of treatment, how to properly handle emergency situations, nutrition, methods for effective communication, and the range of emotions that caregivers and family members experience. This support group improves the well-being of those attending the group and the loved ones being cared for. **Register at:** <http://voicesagainstbraincancer.org/supportgroups.html>

Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM) Awareness Day

VABC and **Bradmer Pharmaceuticals** co-hosted a symposium on trends in GBM treatment and therapeutic advancements to the brightest minds in brain cancer research and treatment in November 2008 in New York City. The expert panel included **Chair Steven Rosenfeld, M.D. (Columbia University Medical Center); Henry Friedman, M.D. (Duke University Medical Center); Keith Black, M.D. (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center); Pamela New, M.D. (Methodist Neurological Institute); David A. Reardon, M.D. (Duke University Medical Center); Michael R. Zalutsky, Ph.D. (Duke University Medical Center); and Alan M. Ezrin, Ph.D. (President & CEO, Bradmer Pharmaceuticals).** This discussion stimulated innovative thinking and collaborative efforts in brain cancer treatment.

Create Footprints™

This international program allows volunteers around the world to plan a walk, run, bike ride or other event to raise funds for research and initiatives through Voices Against Brain Cancer. You can become an organizer of an event and raise money in your own neighborhood. **For step-by-step instructions or to get started on a successful fundraiser no matter where you live, email bill@createfootprints.org**

Raise Your Voice Manual for Newly-Diagnosed Patients

A binder filled with helpful information for patients newly-diagnosed with brain cancer and caregivers is currently being distributed by New York-Presbyterian Hospital/ Columbia University's Brain Tumor Center. This manual was written by Dr. Steven S. Rosenfeld, Co-Founder of the Brain Tumor Center and member of VABC's Medical Advisory Board. Patients and caregivers find the manuals helpful and thorough. Caregivers use the manuals to navigate the healthcare system and to improve their loved one's comfort and quality of life during treatment. VABC hopes to expand this program, first to hospitals in New York City, then to hospitals all over the country. **For the most recent manual, please visit <http://voicesagainstbraincancer.org/raiseyourvoice.html>**

These programs never would have been possible without your help. Together, we are making progress toward a cure. Please make a donation today and help us defeat this terrible disease.

grants

Cutting-Edge Research Programs Only Possible with Your Support

The investment that VABC has made in our program has been leveraged into a much larger return, and we fully expect that with further support from VABC, we will continue to grow rapidly and provide our patients with more state of the art therapies.

- Steven S. Rosenfeld, MD, PhD
VABC grant recipient

These innovative research projects will have a monumental impact in regard to the treatment and diagnosis of brain cancer. Your donation helps scientists and doctors study various approaches that can one day eradicate brain cancer.

Chemotherapy Coils Led by Susan C. Pannullo, MD at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

This groundbreaking research program investigates a novel way of delivering chemotherapy into brain tissue of patients who have malignant gliomas. This research is important for patients whose tumors re-grow after being surgically removed. These chemotherapy coils will deliver focused drugs straight to the target and help prevent tumor re-growth.

Clinical Trials

Led by Steven S. Rosenfeld, MD, PhD at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University's Brain Tumor Center

In the second year of a grant from VABC, the Brain Tumor Center has grown to be one of the largest in the Northeast with the addition of 10 phase I, II, and III clinical trials that are or will soon be available for patients. Columbia has also been invited to join a new national, multi-institutional brain cancer clinical investigative consortium, as a direct result of their success in attracting pharmaceutical and biotech companies to be included in their trials. Finally, the Center's research has led to the discovery of GBM's sensitivity to Sutent, an FDA-approved anti-cancer drug. Dr. Rosenfeld will start treating GBM patients with Sutent in order to determine the effectiveness of this medication.

Young Investigators

Led by Dr. Jeffrey Raizer and Dr. Marcus Bredel at Northwestern University

VABC sponsors medical students who conduct brain tumor research at Northwestern University. Projects include developing a tissue analysis technique to study factors that play a key role in GBM proliferation and resistance to treatment. Students are under the guidance of **Dr. Jeffrey Raizer**, head of Neuro-Oncology at Northwestern Medical Center, and **Dr. Markus Bredel**, Director of the Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute Research Program. VABC is in talks to expand this program to other medical schools across the country.

Please consider becoming a sponsor of a research program. For more information, please fill out the attached form or contact Darren Port at 646.278.6735 or info@voicesagainstbraincancer.org.



Honorees Omar Minaya, left, and Susan C. Pannullo, MD, right, pose with Board Member Alyssa Coleman Gendal, center, at the third annual *Sounding Off For A Cure*. Dr. Pannullo is receiving a 2008 VABC grant for the study of chemotherapy coils.

event spotlight

Sounding Off For A Cure

VABC would like to thank everyone who attended and supported our third annual fundraising event, *Sounding Off For A Cure*, held on Thursday June 12, 2008 at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City. Over 1,200 people attended the event, helping to raise over \$750,000.

The event honored **Omar Minaya**, the general manager of the **New York Mets**; **Susan C. Pannullo, MD** of **New York-Presbyterian Hospital/ Weill Cornell Medical Center**; and **Evan Silverman** of **STG Capital Management** for their dedication and charitable giving to brain cancer research and support.



VABC Board Member, 12-year brain cancer survivor and professional musician David M. Bailey performs at the third annual *Sounding Off For A Cure*.

VABC is also proud to have presented 2008 *Courage Awards* to several individuals who have bravely fought against this devastating disease. They were presented by **Jessica Henderson-Chen, MD**, Board Member and brain cancer survivor. *Courage Awards* were presented to: **David M. Bailey, Michael Burkhardt, Fran Coleman, Richard Dieterle, Tracey Gamer Fanning, Lynn Kohlman, Darren M. Latimer, Jen McDevitt, and Jennifer Norton Pace.**

Anne Roselli-Bernstein, Andrew Klein, Hillary Leibowitz and Norman Milner graciously co-chaired the evening and **Kirstin Cole** of **CBS 2 News** served as the Master of Ceremonies. Live music was provided by **The Subscribers** and Board Member and brain cancer survivor **David M. Bailey**. Photography was donated by **Benjamin Green**.

Sponsors of the event included **Alyssa & Steven Gendal, Alyssa & Robert Alfano, Andrew & Patti Farnsworth, Ashu Singh, Bradmer Pharmaceuticals, BTIG, Calvin Klein, Cantor Fitzgerald, Chardan, Celtic Pharmaceutical Management, Darren Latimer, Darren Taube, Dr. Kildeen Moore Research Fund, Evan Siedenstein & Camille Giani, Eye5 Marketing, LLC, George Weiss, Goldman Sachs, Hapoalim Securities, Harry M. & Gertrude Y. Schwartz Foundation, Hillary &**



Participants in the Support Group for Caregivers and Family Members of Brain Tumor Patients discuss healthcare issues in their bi-monthly meeting.

Daniel Leibowitz, Jane Street Capital, LLC, Knight Equities, La Branche & Co., Lehman Brothers, Mario & Jean DiNatale, New York Mets, Newedge, Oliver Wiener, Pali Capital, Paul Bernstein, Perry Ellis, RBC Capital Markets, Reynders Gray & Co., Robert Trump & Blaine Trump, Scott Arenstein, Scott Khourie & Dakota Delirod, Stephanie & David Simon, Steven Glass, STG Capital, Susan & Norman Louie, The Lichtenstein Family, Triam Partners, Triarc and Wells Fargo Foothill.

Cuisine was provided by **Bamboo52, Barna, Big Daddy's Diner, Campo, Chocolate Dreams, City Crab, Django, Duke's, Firehouse, Gabriela's, Grandaisy Bakery, Islero, Macelleria, Moda, Nonna, Pera Mediterranean Brasserie, Philip Marie, Planet Thailand 212, Supr-mac, and Woolworth Tower Kitchen.** Beverage sponsors included **AOC Fine Wines, Brooklyn Brewery, Canton, Dewey's, Glaceau, Ketel One and Tommy Bahama Rum.** Other supporters included **Andrew Marc, Astra Zenica, Corum, HBO, Jeffries, Judith Leiber, Judith Ripka, Moness Crespi Hardt & Co, MTV, NBC, NY Health and Racket Club, Raymond Weil, and Wolverine Trading.**

Thank you again to everyone who attended and supported *Sounding Off For A Cure!* Special thanks go to our wonderful sponsors and volunteers who made this evening possible.

Brain Cancer Awareness Day

Voices Against Brain Cancer and the **New York Mets** were proud to present *Brain Cancer Awareness Day*. This event was held on Monday, September 22, 2008 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at **Shea Stadium** in Queens, New York.

Guests enjoyed socializing in the picnic area with the brain cancer community and cheered for one of the last home games at Shea Stadium against the **Chicago Cubs**. Special thanks go out to **Massapequa High School** and **Making Headway Foundation** for their support on this great day.



From left: Co-Founder Dora Lichtenstein, Board Member Mario DiNatale, Justin Lusk, Board Member Michael Burkhardt, Mets General Manager and VABC Board Member Omar Minaya, Co-Founders Mario and Adam Lichtenstein, and Darren Port pose on the field at Shea Stadium on *Brain Cancer Awareness Day*. DiNatale, Lusk and Burkhardt received *Spirit Awards* in recognition of their fight with brain cancer.

Save the Date

Save the date for our fourth annual fundraising event, ***Sounding Off For A Cure***, to be held on **Thursday, June 4, 2009** from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at **Hammerstein Ballroom** in New York City!

If you are interested in sponsoring this event or would like to serve on the Volunteer Committee, please fill out the attached form or contact Darren Port at 646.278.6735 or info@voicesagainstbraincancer.org.

Make a Difference Today

I felt a need to volunteer for a group committed to funding research to cure brain cancer and help those afflicted with it. My oncologist, Dr. Rosenfeld, recommended VABC. I reviewed the binder of information that VABC prepared, and was quite impressed. So I volunteered and met some wonderful folks on the Board. I was honored when I was asked to join the Board, and look forward to the continued progress of this great program.

-Mario DiNatale, VABC Board Member

You, the volunteers and donors, are instrumental to our success. You have the power to change the lives of brain tumor patients and their families by getting involved or making a donation. We would be happy to have you as a member of our growing team!

I have brain cancer or I am a caregiver for somebody with brain cancer.

- Yes No
- I would like to make a donation of \$_____.
- I have enclosed a check made payable to Voices Against Brain Cancer.
- I have listed my credit card information below.
- My company has a matching gifts program.
- I want to get involved with VABC. Please send me more information about:
- Opportunities to Sponsor a Program or Fund a Grant.
- Serving on the Board of Directors.
- Serving on the Volunteer Committee.
- Participating in Create Footprints™.

Please send this newsletter to a friend of mine, whose contact information is:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Your Contact and Payment Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Credit Card Name: AmEx Visa MasterCard Exp.Date: ___/___/___

Credit Card Number: _____

Security Code (3- or 4-digit number on back of card): _____

Signature: _____



Please enclose this form in an envelope and send to:

Voices Against Brain Cancer
c/o Darren Port
1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018

You can also make a donation online at:
www.voicesagainstbraincancer.org

Voices Against Brain Cancer is a not-for-profit public charity recognized by the IRS under 501 (c) (3). VABC's EIN/Tax ID is 20-2872778.