



Hillary Silver, the  
inspiration behind our  
Foundation!

*She would have  
been 50 this year.*

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## Welcome to our 2019 Newsletter

### The Silver Platter Foundation Continues to Help Those in Need

For over four years, The Silver Platter Foundation has donated goods and services to families affected by adult blood cancers with children living at home.

We help to lessen the financial stress these families may be experiencing by providing:

- Grocery store gift cards;
- School clothing, computers, and supplies;
- Camp scholarships;
- Gas cards;
- Transportation to appointments; and
- Payment for rent, utility and tax bills.

Powered exclusively by volunteers and donors like you, we are proud to say that, to date, we have provided **\$70,000** in goods and services to **45 families** across the United States.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter!

## Walk for Families



## First Annual Walk for Families

On October 14, 2018, The Silver Platter Foundation hosted the **First Annual Walk for Families**—a fun walk to benefit families affected by adult blood cancers.

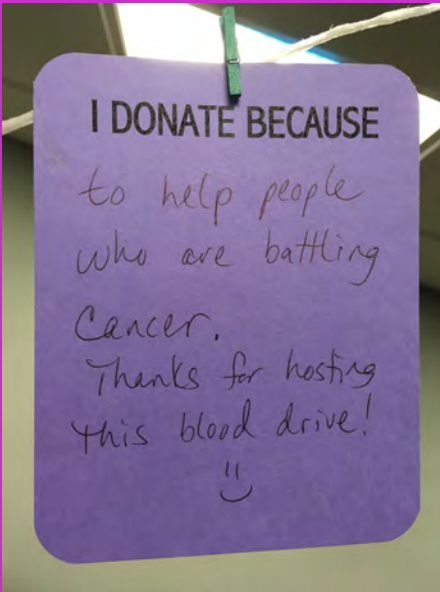
Over 80 people strolled the Ridgefield Parks and Recreation loop trail to support our families. Some even brought their pets to enjoy the beautiful day!

**We raised over \$12,000 at this event.** Because of our wonderful sponsors, all of the money will go toward assisting families in need.

### A huge thank-you to those sponsors:

- ♥ Alex Lugones for loyally managing and updating our website;
- ♥ Angel Family Foundation for their continued support;
- ♥ Celgene Pharmaceuticals for supporting our mission;
- ♥ Dunkin Donuts, Nature's Temptations, Tazza, and Trader Joe's for providing us with warm drinks and delicious breakfast goodies;
- ♥ Girl Scout Troop 50664 for their fabulous signs and enthusiasm directing the crowd;
- ♥ Lindsey Designs for her amazing graphic design work;
- ♥ Premium Productions for creating our wonderful banners;
- ♥ Print Indie for contributing our hats;
- ♥ Promo Link for the goody bags;
- ♥ Ridgefield High School Jazz Band for their incredible and lively talent; and
- ♥ Ridgefield Parks & Recreation for allowing us to use their beautiful location for walking and gathering.

## Lounsbury House Blood Drive



## Our Blood Drives are Saving Lives!

In the past year, The Silver Platter Foundation has collected **137 units of blood**, which is enough to help as many as **411 patients!**



*The Lounsbury House, Ridgefield, CT  
Site of all Hillary Silver Memorial  
Blood Drives*

We are so grateful to those who gave blood at our three events in Ridgefield and Danbury, CT:

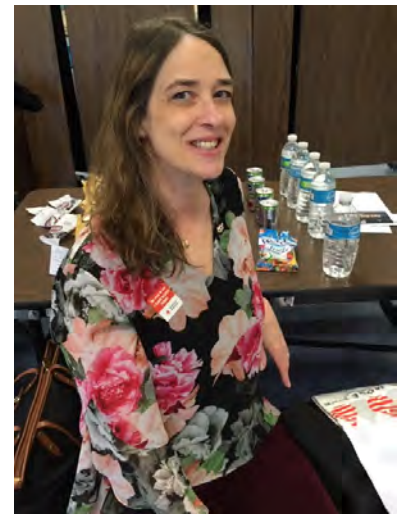
- ♥ Third Annual Hillary Silver Memorial Blood Drive in July 2018
- ♥ Third Annual Collaboration with Ann's Place in January 2019
- ♥ Second Annual East Ridge Middle School Blood Drive in April 2019 (a new drive organized by the Founder's daughter)

### Would you like to organize a blood drive?

We can help you start a blood drive near you. This is a great way for students to obtain community service hours. Please contact [Rachel@SilverPlatterFoundation.org](mailto:Rachel@SilverPlatterFoundation.org).

### "One Gallon Pin" Awarded

Congrats to donor Amy Marks for receiving her first "one gallon" pin from the American Red Cross! If anyone has pins or pictures from blood drives to share please contact us!

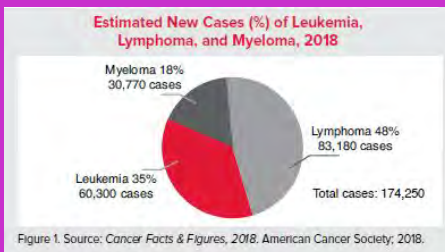




## 4 Facts About Blood Cancers

- ♥ Every 3 minutes one person in the U.S. is diagnosed with a blood cancer.
- ♥ New cases of leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma are expected to account for 10% of the estimated 1,735,350 new cancer cases diagnosed in the US in 2018.
- ♥ Leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma are expected to cause the deaths of an estimated 58,100 people in the US in 2018...one every 9 minutes.
- ♥ There are no effective screening tests for the early detection of blood cancers.

Source: [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org)



## Up Close with Our Founder

Rachel Langberg founded The Silver Platter Foundation in 2015, shortly before her beloved sister Hillary died of multiple myeloma.



After witnessing Hillary and her young family struggle to maintain a household during her illness, Rachel felt compelled to make life a bit easier for other families in this situation.

We sat down with Rachel to learn more about how the Foundation works.

### **Q: *Where does donor money go?***

A. We are proud to say that last year our overhead was only 3%. This means that 97% of each donation goes directly to helping families in need.

### **Q. *Does The Silver Platter Foundation give money directly to families?***

A. No. While we often give gift cards for food and other household expenses, we do not give money directly to families. We also pay bills on behalf of our recipients.

### **Q. *Who is The Silver Platter Foundation's average recipient?***

A. There is a huge variety in who receives help from us. Everyone has children living at home. Some people have young children still in preschool. Others have high school and college-age children. Some families have one child, while others have more. We have helped many single mothers and fathers as well as two-parent families. Most often, the parent with cancer is unemployed as a result of their debilitating disease.

## Chrissy, Nick, and Zach Degennaro



**Q. Does anyone get paid to work for The Silver Platter Foundation?**

A. No. Everyone involved in our organization proudly volunteers all of their time! We have volunteers who serve on our Board of Directors, manage applications for assistance, coordinate fundraisers, organize blood drives, and write newsletters.

We are extremely grateful to the many dedicated friends who take time to help us fulfill our mission of providing goods and services to families affected by adult blood cancers with children living at home.

### **A Grateful Recipient Reflects...**

*A special thanks to Chrissy Degennaro for sharing her story with us.*

Back in 2006, we didn't have social media or updated medical information on the internet. When I was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, I was pretty much all alone. I had never heard of it or knew anyone with it. Well, that was until I found an online email group where I met the amazing Hillary Silver.

Our situations, age, and kids' ages were about the same. We never met in person, but I felt like we were long-lost BFFs. She always ended her emails with something funny. We had a great support system between the two of us. Her big thing was to do your hair and put on some make-up. (I can remember sending each other selfies to prove that we actually did it.) She was such a strong woman who caused my heart to break when she left us. I find myself talking to her in my head and thinking: "WWHD?" (What Would Hillary Do?)

Here I am, starting my 14th year with this disease. I have a 14-year-old son who has only known life with a mom who has myeloma. He has seen me go through 24 types of chemo, two stem cell transplants, two car t-cell transplants, and many hospital visits. At this point, I have exhausted all viable treatment options and I'm just trying to make the best of the time I have.

Having multiple myeloma is a lifelong fight. It isn't like other cancers where you are told you are cured, or you die. This is an ongoing battle. It affects the whole family financially, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Cancer is

## AmazonSmile Makes Donating Easy

The next time you shop on Amazon, log on to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) first and choose The Silver Platter Foundation as your charity.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to our Foundation.

*What could be easier?*

## Do You Want to Host a Walk?

If you would like to host a walk in your town to benefit The Silver Platter Foundation, we'd be happy to help you organize it. Please contact

[Rachel@SilverPlatterFoundation.org](mailto:Rachel@SilverPlatterFoundation.org).

expensive, and when you have a child, it makes things even more difficult. I have been unable to work for several years and am on a fixed income. The majority of my disability check goes toward my Medicare and insurance premiums.

Hillary would be really proud to see all the good The Silver Platter Foundation has done to help fellow myeloma parents. The Silver Platter Foundation assists in ways like no other because it caters to families in need.

Our family was blessed several times in honor of my BFF myeloma friend. The first time, we received a Target gift card to purchase back-to-school items. I was in the hospital then and it really came in handy. The next time, my son received a Chromebook. Can you imagine how excited he was?

Another time, The Silver Platter Foundation sent a Target gift card to do holiday shopping. Again, I was in the hospital for an extended stay. My husband was on an unpaid leave from work. We didn't know how we were going to afford Christmas gifts that year, but The Silver Platter Foundation reached out to us and just offered. As much as we hated to accept, we were blessed. I have heard of others receiving help with summer camps, music lessons, bills and other needs. It's not our kids' fault that they have to live this life, but it sure is nice that Rachel and The Foundation have found a way to put the kids first.

When I come across a family with kids struggling, I always suggest The Silver Platter Foundation. Thank goodness for somebody thinking about the families with children. Fighting cancer is more than getting the medical bills paid. Our kids deserve to have the extras in life. And, thanks to The Silver Platter Foundation, kids are getting to do and have things that they normally wouldn't be afforded.

## Spread the Word!

Please “Like” us on Facebook and donate at [www.silverplatterfoundation.org](http://www.silverplatterfoundation.org) so that we can continue our mission to help families in need.

Also, consider holding an online fundraiser to honor your or a loved one’s birthday or anniversary.

Contact Rachel at [www.silverplatterfoundation.org](http://www.silverplatterfoundation.org) for information on how!



**We hope you have enjoyed this year’s newsletter. If you would like further information about The Silver Platter Foundation or how you can get involved, please fill out our contact form at [www.silverplatterfoundation.org](http://www.silverplatterfoundation.org).**

