

A Message from you 2016 Brain Tumor Walk Co-Chairs

A Message From: Kevin A. Selner, Co-Chairman

My wife, Joann "Joey" Outten Selner was diagnosed with brain cancer in the spring of 2004. The cancer was in remission for seven years, but became active again in 2011. Although Joey was a brave and determined warrior, the cancer took her life in the fall of 2013 – the day after our third year wedding anniversary.

Last month marked the two-year anniversary that my beloved wife, and best friend Joann "Joey" passed away after a courageous battle with brain cancer. Joey's passing will always be an incredible source of sadness to everyone who knew her. I am so appreciative of the support of the Super Friends over the past few years.

My promise to Joey: I would continue to dedicate my life to helping others who are enduring or destined to endure the same battle that she suffered through. I knew at that time when I made that promise to her that I needed to make something good come out of everything that had happened.

I am honored to serve in the capacity of Co-Chairman for the National Brain Tumor Society, Delaware Brain Tumor Walk on April 23, 2016. In this role, and also on a personal level, my commitment toward making this a community event distinguishes the walk from any other. Our vision is to draw children, parents, grandparents, and family friends from all over the State! The event is to raise awareness and much-needed resources to fund critical brain tumor-specific programs to improve the lives of all those affected by brain tumors.



A Message From: Stephan B. Francisco, Co-Chairman

I am a **twenty eight** year brain tumor survivor. At only 2 years old, my parents took me to the doctors on Easter Monday 1987 and that is when they found the brain tumor. The doctors diagnosed me with a hypothalamic glioma astrocytoma and gave me twenty-four hours to live. They told my parents that they could walk me into O.R. but that would probably be that last time they would see me. This surgery was to put shunts into my head to relieve pressure and reduce swelling. On the day of the brain surgery to remove the tumor, the doctors told my parents that the surgery could be anywhere from 3-18 hours long depending on the exact location and if they could remove it at all. The operation lasted only 4.5 hours, so my parents knew that it was inoperable! It was resting on the optic nerve of both eyes and putting pressure on the third and fourth ventricle. The surgeons did take out enough for a biopsy.

My neurologist researched what protocol was for this type and size of tumor. It was recommended they administer 16 months of chemotherapy then switch to radiation. The radiologist at Christiana Hospital did not want to radiate a 2 year old! The doctors decided to do chemotherapy. The nurses were trying to push to have the Hickman catheter put into my chest for chemotherapy, but my parents fought and tried to find another way. After a couple of months of chemotherapy my veins did collapse. I became the first pediatric patient with a Port-a-Cath to receive chemotherapy. I had 27 months of chemotherapy, and NO radiation. I have had no recurrence of the tumor and have been cancer free for 26 years! I have had to have my shunts replaced several times and the tumor has left me visually impaired. I have no vision in my left eye and partial nasal vision in my right eye. This has not stopped me from graduating college and doing track and graphic design in high school. I am the middle child; I have an older brother Doug, a younger sister Ashley and a younger brother Matt.

There is always hope! Never give up the fight! My parents did not treat as if I was sick and I know it must have been extremely hard on them and my extended family, but I am a SURVIVOR! Maybe it is my tough background but I fought and continue to fight for everyone else! This is why I am honored to be one of the Co-Chairmen of the National Brain Tumor Walk in Delaware.

**Every Story Is Unique and Every Life Precious.
Thank you for joining us in the fight against brain tumors!**

