On March 24, generous benefactors and corporate sponsors gathered at The St. Regis Atlanta to attend the fifth Winship Gala. The event raised more than $1 million for cancer research at Winship and was hosted by Gala chairs, Gayle Alston and Betsy Glenn. Honorary chairs, Anne and Berny Gray, were recognized for their unwavering commitment to the mission of Winship Cancer Institute.

The Grays, already champions of Winship through their service on the Winship Advisory Board, came to know Winship at a deeper level when Anne’s late sister, Karen, was diagnosed with recurrent breast cancer. The Grays hope they inspire others to be involved with Winship, whether it is improving the experience of current patients or supporting cancer research.

The theme of this year’s Gala was *Imagination*, honoring the creative talent that Winship’s physicians and researchers employ to discover new treatments for cancer.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

Thanks to the generous support of friends, families, and donors to Winship Cancer Institute’s Partner in Research fund, Winship investigator Haian Fu, PhD was named to the Winship Partner in Research Endowed Chair. Established in 2016, this endowed chair was created within Winship to recognize the achievements and contributions of outstanding faculty. Dr. Fu is Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and also serves as Director of the Emory Chemical Biology Discovery Center and Leader of the Discovery and Developmental Therapeutics Research Program at Winship. His work focuses on translating bench research into clinical applications and drug discovery. Collective gifts to the Partner in Research fund are evidence of donors’ unwavering trust and commitment to the fight against cancer.

Paying it forward twofold

Mike Thomas glows when sharing stories of his late wife Lin, who succumbed to colon cancer ten years ago at the age of 57. Lin, a successful business owner, mother and runner, had skipped a routine colonoscopy only to be diagnosed a few years later with stage IV colon cancer. They sought second opinions from notable physicians and cancer centers in the southeast, including Winship Cancer Institute, and ultimately, Lin chose to receive treatment at Winship because of the positive and warm interactions she had with the physicians, nurses, volunteers, and staff.

It was that same friendly and caring atmosphere provided by the Winship team that inspired Mike to begin volunteering. Mike’s daughter, Maggie, and his current wife, Tammy, encouraged him to pursue the volunteer work. What began as a one day a week occurrence soon became three days a week. Mike is now a familiar face checking patients in at Winship’s first floor lab. His favorite thing is to hear a patient say, “I won’t see you again for six months, because I’m in remission.” Mike warmly responds, “I’ll miss seeing you, but I’ll be happy not seeing you for the reason you aren’t coming.” Then, everyone smiles. Mike shares these heartfelt interactions with Tammy who has also developed a deep admiration for the hard work of those dedicated to sharing and overcoming the cancer journey at Winship.

Inspired by what they have witnessed at Winship, both Mike and Tammy want to do more to help battle cancer. Through combined estate gifts and stock transfers, Mike and Tammy have made gifts of nearly $500,000 to Winship to support colon cancer research. Anyone who has met Mike and Tammy would without a doubt attest to their warm, caring hearts.

The entire Winship crew—from the scientists developing new breakthroughs in the lab to the team running clinical trials, and the skilled nurses caring for patients—feel good about knowing the guy with the big smile checking patients into the lab three times a week.

Left to right: Eric and Lisa Autenrieth, Pam McDermott, Henry and Patty Stanley

Lin Fearing State Thomas

PA YING IT FORWARD TWOFOLD

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The entire Winship crew—from the scientists developing new breakthroughs in the lab to the team running clinical trials, and the skilled nurses caring for patients—feel good about knowing the guy with the big smile checking patients into the lab three times a week.
“I would like to imagine truly having an impact in treating cancer, in controlling it, and, eventually, conquering it,” said Anne Gray.

Gala attendees enjoyed an elegant evening with cocktails, dinner, dancing, and a special celebration of Winship’s designation as a comprehensive cancer center by the National Cancer Institute. Generous Winship Gala sponsors included the Ma-Ran Foundation, the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation, Brenda and Mac Nease, and Cox Enterprises, Inc.

“Our generous donors and corporate sponsors have made the Winship Gala a wonderful success,” says Walter J. Curran, Jr., MD, executive director of Winship. “The support we have from the extraordinary community here in Georgia has really fueled the imaginations of our scientists, our physicians, and our whole team.”

Proceeds from the event support the new Winship Center for Cancer Immunology and research projects focused on cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.


Personalized Care Inspires Extraordinary Commitment

MANY MEMBERS of the Winship Advisory Board have been touched in some way by cancer. Board members Anne and Berny Gray had been dedicated supporters of Winship Cancer Institute long before Anne’s sister, Karen, was diagnosed with breast cancer. At that point, their connection to Winship became much more personal. “It was a different side of the fence to be on,” said Anne.

When the Grays brought Karen to Winship for care under the expert guidance of medical oncologist Bill Eley, an immediate bond was formed. “Karen’s courage was really unbelievable,” Dr. Eley recalls. “To be around people like her really should, and does, inspire all of us.”

As Dr. Eley cared for Karen throughout her illness, Anne and Berny said the compassion at Winship made all the difference, noting that Dr. Eley didn’t just treat Karen’s disease, he also appreciated what a special person she was.

“We look back and remember her athleticism, her beauty, her grace, and her peacemaking,” said Anne. “That’s what Karen’s physician at Winship understood. He understood her.”

Today Anne and Berny are doing all they can to support Winship’s mission of controlling and eventually conquering cancer. They were recognized at the 2018 Winship Gala for their service and philanthropy, and Dr. Eley believes they are already making a significant impact.

“The Grays, not only through their financial contributions, but perhaps more importantly, through their personal commitment, are part of a team that are producing miracles for people who are suffering with cancer,” said Dr. Ely.

By contributing their time, talents, and resources to Winship, visionary supporters like Anne and Berny Gray are making a lasting difference in the lives of patients.
New Business: Winship Advisory Board Tours Proton Center at Spring Meeting

ON APRIL 17, 2018, WINSHIP’S BOARD OF ADVISORS hosted their spring meeting at the Emory Proton Therapy Center and welcomed incoming board members Wendy Aronson, Ann Crouse, Carlton Forrester, Rick Reynolds, Kim Stamper, and Richard Stamper. The Winship Advisory Board was launched in 2006 to unite a group of individuals who were contributing individually to Winship through their donations and volunteer work.

Leslie Wierman, board chair, shared updates on the board’s recent accomplishments and discussed other opportunities to support Winship, including Cars Under the Stars, Aladdin, the 2018 Winship 5K events, and 2019 Fashion A Cure. At the meeting, Wierman was also recognized by Executive Director Wally Curran for her leadership.

“Leslie cares deeply about making sure every cancer patient has the very best care,” said Curran. “We are a better institute because of her involvement.”

The spring meeting provided members with an exclusive, behind-the-scenes tour of the Emory Proton Therapy Center. Located just a few blocks from Emory University Hospital Midtown, the 108,000 square foot facility is set to open in late 2018. It will be the first and only center of its kind in Georgia.
The Business of Doing Good

“DON’T DREAM ABOUT THE FUTURE. DRIVE IT.” It’s an inspiring advertisement for Peach State Truck Centers... and the company’s commitment to cancer research.

Peach State Truck Center has been a leading corporate sponsor of Winship Cancer Institute’s signature fundraiser, Winship ‘Win the Fight’ 5K, since the event’s inception eight years ago. Peach State Truck Center is dedicated to improving outcomes for cancer patients and supporting the health of their employees.

Peach State’s founder, Tom Reynolds, and his children established the Patricia R. Reynolds Endowment for Sarcoma Research at Winship Cancer Institute to honor the memory of his wife who was treated at Winship for sarcoma. Tom served on the Winship Advisory Board, was a strong supporter of Peach State’s Winship 5K team, and was a devoted advocate for Winship in the community until his passing in 2016. Mr. Reynolds made a tangible difference in his dedication to volunteerism and philanthropy for cancer research, a legacy continued by his children—Ann Crouse, Rick Reynolds, and the late Tim Reynolds. As active supporters of sarcoma and breast cancer research, Ann and Rick carry forward their father’s legacy of service on the Winship Advisory Board, as did their brother Tim prior to his passing in 2017.

“My dad, as well as my brother Tim, had a big heart when it came to the Winship race every year,” said Rick Reynolds, Peach State Truck Centers President. “We all considered being a Winship sponsor as one of the most important community contributions we’ve ever been involved in.”

The Reynolds family continues to represent a driving force for good. Rick was recently named 2018 Truck Dealer of the Year, a national award recognizing commercial truck dealers for business performance, industry and civic leadership, and community service. Peach State Truck Centers was also recognized this year as one of the healthiest employers in Atlanta by the Healthiest Employers of America and the Atlanta Business Chronicle. The award acknowledges companies committed to a healthy workplace, and it is a fitting tribute to the Reynolds’ lasting dedication to the wellness of their Peach State family and the greater community.

“All you have to do is talk to patients who have been at Emory,” says Rick. “Talk to the physicians, the researchers, the clinicians, and the caregivers. When you see that passion, that drive to find a cure, you want to be a part of it.”

The Peach State Truck Centers team is bringing special attention to the cause of sarcoma research at the 2018 Winship 5K. Visit winship5k.emory.edu or http://bit.ly/PSFreight to participate in this year’s Winship 5k and join the Peach State Truck Centers team.
No One Fights Alone

LINDSEY THAMES MAY NOT LOOK LIKE YOUR TYPICAL SOLDIER. The petite mother of three is armed with a dazzling smile, but she also has a fighting spirit. Her husband, Michael, better known as Mike to friends and family, was diagnosed with leukemia on May 6, 2016. On that day, Lindsey began to lead an army.

“We decided to choose hope,” she remembers, “when doubting would have been a heck of a lot easier.”

Friends and family rallied around Mike as soon as they heard the news. Inspired by her husband’s tenacity and courage, Lindsey organized a mission to “fight like Mike.” These dedicated supporters grew into an army of love fueled by hope and courage.

Lindsey says, “Our army of prayer warriors kept on fighting for us when we were too tired. They surrounded us with light and hope and sat with us in the dark.”

Mike’s attending physician, Martha Arellano, MD, quickly saw that he was a fighter. She recruited him for her Winship 5K team, the Leukidators, and he took on the task of fundraising, recruiting, and designing team t-shirts like it was a full-time job. It was one he did well.

Their team motto is “No One Fights Alone,” a message to help remind patients that they have an army of friends, family, supporters, and Winship staff working together to fight cancer. With an army of love, Lindsey and Mike carry on, fighting for all of us.

For more information about participating in the 2018 Winship 5K or to join the Leukidators, visit winship5k.emory.edu or http://bit.ly/Leukidators.

FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE LEUKIDATORS HAVE BEEN THE WINSHIP 5K’S TOP FUNDRAISING TEAM. IN 2017, THEY HAD 236 PARTICIPANTS AND RAISED OVER $204,000 FOR CANCER RESEARCH.
A Runway to Research

HOW CAN A GORGEOUS GOWN lead to the next innovation in cancer care? When it hits the runway at Fashion a Cure! Organized by Friends of Winship, Fashion a Cure is an event that raises funds for Winship Cancer Institute to benefit the treatment and research of cancers affecting women.

The sixth annual Fashion a Cure fashion show and luncheon took place on January 29 at The St. Regis Atlanta and was attended by more than 550 guests. Local designers donated a variety of fashions that were modeled by cancer survivors, caregivers, Winship doctors, and volunteers.

The day’s activities also included a silent auction and raffle of items provided by boutiques and generous donors. Joined by CNN anchor and emcee Fredricka Whitfield, co-chairs Julie Levine and Dell Rearden hosted the successful event, which raised more than $300,000.

The funds will be used to purchase new equipment that will enable Winship’s researchers to tag and visualize immune components in cells to better understand how cancer develops and how to improve treatments.
This is my legacy.

“I MADE WINSHIP A BENEFICIARY OF MY LIFE INSURANCE SO THAT THEIR LIFE-SAVING WORK OF COMBATING CANCER CAN CONTINUE. As one of 60 participants in a national clinical trial to refine new treatment methods for other patients fighting non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, I want to create a legacy of hope and generosity in honor of the compassionate doctors and innovators searching for a cure.”

Have you planned your legacy?
giftplanning.emory.edu  404.727.8875

Ann Viehman, Atlanta, GA
Ann Viehman, pictured with her husband Bill Viehman, are leaders on Winship’s Advisory Board and founding members of Friends of Winship where they bring awareness to the community of the innovative research and care Winship Cancer Institute provides to Georgians.

Contact Us
If you are interested in supporting the work of Winship Cancer Institute or participating in an upcoming event, contact the Winship staff for more information at winship.dev@emory.edu or call 404.778.5175.