A publication of the IMF recognizing our supporters

What do the IMF and Jimi Hendrix HAVE IN COMMON?

A Celebration called RED HOUSE CARNIVAL!

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Dear IMF Supporter,

It is with great pleasure that I send you this year’s issue of Making Miracles. As we said in our very first edition, the IMF’s Development Department proudly created this magazine to highlight and pay tribute to the many special people who help us meet our goals of empowering and supporting the myeloma community, as well as cutting-edge myeloma research. All of our accomplishments are your accomplishments and all of our goals are your goals!

Speaking of goals: Last year, your wonderful events raised a grand total of... drum roll please... $500,000!! This is a record high for IMF member fundraising, and we were able to fund five Brian D. Novis Research Grants in December. It’s all because you – the patient, caregiver, family member, or friend – wanted to do something proactive for myeloma research, patient programs, and public awareness.

If you’ve ever thought of hosting a potluck or a BBQ, running in a 5K, celebrating a milestone – anything you can imagine – and would like to turn it into a public awareness and fundraising event with minimal effort, Ilana Kenville and I are dedicated to being there for you every step of the way. All it takes is that first email or phone call. We’ll help you take it from there.

Please continue supporting – and creating – our IMF community as only you can.

With warmest regards and deep appreciation,

Suzanne Battaglia
Director, Member Events
On June 6, 2014, Julianne Stafford hosted Red House Carnival, a fundraiser in support of the IMF. Making Miracles caught up with her to talk about the event, her fundraising experiences, and her sources of inspiration.

Making Miracles: Julianne Stafford, you are one of the “legendary” Staffords! Starting in 2001, when you were a teenager, you and your siblings organized eight Wamp Swims for Multiple Myeloma. Back in those days, what were your primary responsibilities?

Julianne Stafford: When the Wamp Swim was beginning, I had just started my first job at Lox Stock and Bagels in West Hartford, Connecticut. My first foray in asking for donations was asking them for bagels to give the swimmers. When I approached my boss, who owns the chain, I was so nervous that my palms were sweating!

I hope she said yes!

Yes! After that, I became accustomed to the notion of, “It doesn’t hurt to ask.” My experiences with the Wamp Swims gave me confidence in areas of my life I wasn’t expecting. How so?

From my first experience driving on the Mass Pike to overcoming my “stranger danger,” working in fundraising almost provides a shield to fear. If it’s going to work, you have to be brave.

Tell us about how you decided to create an event of your own.

I had wanted to host something with my friends in Boston for a few years, and I had gone to a beer pong tournament fundraiser that I thought was brilliant. It would be fun, and it was an activity that would honor my dad.

That’s intriguing!

He introduced me to craft beer and we often compared notes on new IPAs. So beer for my fundraiser was a must. There’s a history with him for the pong too. In my senior year of college, one of my best friends and I built a beer pong tabletop. It was quite haphazardly thrown together. My dad was embarrassed for me, so he helped me refurbish it. The idea was further solidified about a year before he passed away. My sister Courtney and I were playing ping-pong in our basement and my dad woke up from the side effects of one of his meds. He joined us downstairs and started teaching us the “real” beer
pong, which is played with a paddle. We had a wager: if he won, I had to chug a Bud Light, if I won, he had to go back to bed.

**Who won?**

I ended up beating him, but he went back to bed with the grin of a proud dad on his face.

**The name of your event – Red House Carnival – comes from the Jimi Hendrix song “Red House.” How was that an inspirational element?**

I first heard the song when I was in college while my dad was chauffeuring me around. He told me that he and his best friend would listen to it after losing a sailing race when they were younger. A bit later, the song became part of a meaningful memory for me, too. In March 2010, my dad had his second stem cell transplant. His recovery was absolutely remarkable, and by my birthday on April 6th, he and Liz were staying in an apartment next to the hospital. With all of the dietary restrictions and his compromised immune system, we obviously were not going out for dinner. So, I requested breakfast for dinner. As he pulled the bacon out of the oven, “Red House” happened to play on my iPod, and he started air guitaring. It is my favorite memory with him. I thought, “Here’s this man who has just looked death in the eye and scoffed at it so he can continue making bacon for his daughter’s birthday.” It demonstrated his fight. Come hell or high water, he wanted to be with his family – making bacon, playing the air guitar, swinging his hips, and tapping his toes. That’s a wonderful memory. You’ve even gotten a tattoo to commemorate it.

I got it three weeks after he passed in 2013. It’s a reminder of his unwavering joie de vivre.

**Honoring the memory of that was the spirit of your Red House Carnival too. Tell us more about what took place that night.**

Well, the tournament was actually played with water due to blue laws, but it was just as well. More people were interested in trying the game as a result! Folks also enjoyed a raffle and games of tabletop cornhole, bottle toss, and ring toss. We had a band, too – Red Vinyl. It’s my friend Jared’s band, and they donated their time and were really awesome to have there! In terms of food and drinks, I put in a donation request at my local Whole Foods, and they were gracious enough to give me a gift card to get snacks for the attendees.

**How did you “monetize” the party so it could serve as a fundraiser?**

Registration was done through the IMF donation website, which worked well. A team registering paid $50 and an individual paid $30. At the event, tabletop games cost $1. We had a raffle too. Those tickets were two for $5.

**And how did you get the word out?**

Facebook and email! My friends and family are truly fantastic people and reached out to their own contacts to make sure we had a packed house. The band also used its own marketing to bring in their fan base. Many of the folks who came were friends of friends who knew very little about myeloma, so it was an amazing opportunity to spread awareness.

That leads very elegantly into the final question! 

**Which is: What were your thoughts as Red House Carnival was taking place?**

I missed my dad so much that night, but knew how proud he would have been. My cheeks hurt from smiling so much. Watching my friends have so much fun at something that I’ve sat on for so long brought me to tears. Even now, I’m overwhelmed and humbled. I had friends come in from Dublin, Washington DC, and Connecticut. I just feel so lucky that I have supportive and excited friends and family, a local community oriented towards donating to novel causes, and a cause that compels me to look outside myself. Most importantly, I continue to feel lucky that I can call my dad my hero. He loved the IMF and its purpose so ardently, and I am so happy to continue advocating for it in his memory.

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**Editor’s note 1:** The water pong tournament is structured so that there are six cups at each end of the table; teams of two players take turns throwing ping pong balls into the water-filled cups. Each time a ball lands in the opposing team’s cups, the cup gets removed from the table until there are none left. The team who loses their cups first loses the game and is eliminated from the tournament.

**Editor’s note 2:** The 2nd Annual Red House Carnival will take place on July 19th at Aeronaut Brewing Company in Somerville, MA.
Can it really be well over a decade that I’ve been part of the multiple myeloma community? Reflecting on that, my immediate reaction is how much things have changed for me. Yet following that thought is how much things have remained the same. Yes, I am now retired from my medical practice, our children have completed their educations, two are married, and grandchildren have blessed our lives. But I am still Doug Farrell madly in love with my wife, Kate, always looking for an opportunity to sing, for warm water in which to swim, and to make time to count and share my blessings.

Many have heard that familiar advice: Write what you know. Invest in what you know. Now I’ll add: Fundraise with what you know. For years we have worked with the IMF to fundraise for our Song For Ireland benefit. It was really a continuation of a family party we had every spring. Irish food, Irish music and good craic. (Craic is an Irish word for fun and conversation – what better for a party, and an IMF fundraiser?). As a benefit we added a raffle, baskets of chance, and a short live auction mastered by our son. An easy opportunity for me to sing, count blessings, and raise funds for the IMF.

As much as I love to sing, I love to swim just as much. So when in 2014 I realized the timing of our Song For Ireland celebration wouldn’t work with our family’s schedule, I thought about what I might do instead, something else that I already love doing with my life. Every summer at the Jersey Shore I swim daily in Mother Ocean under the watchful eye of a great beach patrol in Longport. These same guards run the community’s annual Captain Turner Ocean Swim each
August. So I approached them and asked if a fundraiser could be attached to the swim, and they readily agreed.

Funds for blood cancer research became the universal cause of last year’s Captain Turner Ocean Swim. And the community joined in, with over 200 swimmers of various levels of skill and experience turning out to take part in the half-mile event.

So on a bright Sunday August morning, with some generous sponsors, the swimmers and their friends enjoyed camaraderie, refreshments, and raising funds. Of course the event ended with a rousing rendition of a favorite song, “Home From The Sea.” Swimming, which I find so restorative, joined singing in becoming a vehicle to increase awareness of myeloma, and to help fund a cure.

When Kate and I first considered fundraising, we did so with modest expectations. We wanted to live our lives as authentically as we always had, yet we also wanted to give back and pay forward. As it’s turned out, we have been able to fund a Brian D. Novis Research Grant. I am not a scientist who can research a cure, but I am a myeloma patient who is part of a loving circle of family and friends, an Irish tenor singer, and an ocean swimmer. That can be my contribution.

And you know what my wife gave me for Christmas? Pottery lessons. I already see the possibilities there. What are your passions? What are the essential parts of you that myeloma cannot change? Embrace them, and let them be part of your contribution to the myeloma community.

Editor’s note: Special thanks to photographer Linda Camardo for permission to use her images in this article.
CONFESSIONS of an Anonymous IMF Shopper

I have a confession to make. I love online shopping. It endorses insomnia, boredom at work, multi-tasking while watching reality shows on Bravo.

If you do it right, online shopping also endorses philanthropy. Buying the things you were already going to buy, the retailer gives a percentage of the total sales price to your cause. For me, that’s the IMF of course!

I start by going to the IMF’s dedicated shopping page: shop.myeloma.org. There, I find a list of 20+ online retailers – department stores, electronics, travel, food, gifts, plus all those little items that are always on our shopping lists. This page gets updated with new retailers, so I check it every few weeks just to see what new shopping I can indulge in as an excuse to support the IMF!

Do you like shopping at Macy’s like I do? It’s one of the retailers that gives back to the IMF. Click their logo on the IMF’s shopping site, grab your Macy’s goodies through that link, and money automatically goes to the IMF. For online stores like Macy’s that I return to time and again, I keep a bookmark of that direct shopping link in a folder I call “Shopping for the IMF.” What more incentive do you need to shop from the comfort of your couch?

Here’s an example of one of my recent IMF shopping sprees: I was planning a week-long trip to Tennessee. From shop.myeloma.org I first clicked on Hotwire, where I purchased my flights and hotel accommodations. Then I clicked on Dollar Rent A Car and secured my wheels.

Once those travel logistics were arranged, it was time to get down to the details. I’m a big fan of travel guides, so I clicked on Amazon to purchase a few. One of them was specifically for my day in Great Smoky Mountains – I was excited to hike! So I also clicked on Champion to purchase a new pair of quick-dry shorts with good pockets. I wanted those pockets for my camera, because I’d been aiming to take my photography a bit more seriously, and what better excuse to get started than a visit to a National Park? So I splurged on a new digital camera with a click on TigerDirect (I also priced them out on Rakuten; even a splurge warrants market research).

“If you do it right, online shopping also endorses philanthropy”

Traveling requires lots of incidentals, like those pesky 3-oz. shampoos and such. I gave back to the IMF by purchasing them through clicks on Drugstore.com, Beauty.com, and Walmart. I also wanted to educate myself in old school Country music – and what’s better for that than vintage vinyl? A click on Wolfgang’s Vault to the rescue!

And then I was off! After a great week, it was time to send thank you gifts to several business associates and friends who went above and beyond during my trip. Back to shop.myeloma.org for more guilt-free shopping! Clicks on 1-800-Flowers, 1-800-Baskets, Omaha Steaks, and David’s Cookies (I also considered Mrs. Fields) and my gifts of gratitude were complete – and the money those retailers then sent to the IMF was the cherry on top.

I readily confess that I’m an enthusiastic shopper, but I know that many people don’t consider themselves of the same ilk. The thing is, unless you’re living way off the grid, you’re shopping whether you like it or not. It’s far easier to like shopping – or like it even more – when you get to help the IMF with the click of a button. So what on earth are you waiting for? Make shop.myeloma.org your new and best shopping buddy today.
“I am on the move,” Andy Sninsky says. He’s referring to the here and now, as we check in with him to write this report, but he could just as easily be referring to the way he loves to live his life.

Andy’s Bicycle Mojave and Beyond adventure in September 2014 was his fourth such fundraiser for the IMF. But his passion for cycling – and covering great distances doing it – goes back much further. He’s cycled across country twice, in 1968 and 1975. And his career has been that of an adventurer, including ownership of rafting and kayaking businesses that ran through the rivers of South America and Europe. On the move indeed.

“I am on the move... and ready for the next route.”

For Bicycle Mojave and Beyond, Andy times his stops to meet up with IMF support groups. When he wheels up, he immediately injects the group he’s visiting with energy, enthusiasm, and sense of empowerment.

His cycling trips create grass-roots awareness too. Throughout his bicycle trips, Andy Tweets (@Volcandy), posts on Facebook, and garners press through online and print journalism outlets, including a substantial piece during his 2014 ride featured on Recordnet.com. Supporters donate to his ride through the IMF’s web portal for member fundraisers.

This is now where we would typically report whether Andy is planning another cycling event. The answer is he’s already in the midst of it (timing this year’s ride with Myeloma Awareness Month). He knows how he’ll feel when he’s done, because it’s how he feels every year: “Tired, but satisfied, and elated that I can do it,” he says. “And ready for the next route.”
At the end of the day on March 7th, when it was all over and done, Sandi Hunsuckle looked at her husband Chip and said, “Damn, we just put on a fundraiser! I didn’t know we knew how to do that!”

The “that” was their Zumbathon for Multiple Myeloma, a two-hour Zumba–til-you-drop class overseen by six instructors who donated their time and talent, encouraging 55 dancers to get their hearts pumping and hips swaying. The event raised funds through the class entry fee ($15 in advance or $20 at the door, but free for kids 12 and under), as well as through a silent auction that took place during the Zumba action – bringing even more people into the fold. Still more who couldn’t be there for the dancing or the bidding showed their support by donating to the cause.

Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine, FL, where Sandi volunteers, generously donated a room for the Zumbathon. Sandi and Chip posted event flyers throughout the hospital, at gyms around town, and with other businesses that were happy to promote a good cause. And in a marketing coup, a new local radio station, Beach 105.5, offered Sandi a radio spot free-of-charge, through a connection she made at her local Rotary Club. “I thought it would air at midnight,” she says. “Ah, no. They brought me in and had me record the spot, which was a hoot, and it aired about 12 times a day for the whole week before the Zumbathon during their ‘What’s Going on Around Town’ slot. It got tons of attention.”

Sandi has been a Zumba aficionado herself for a year now. She’s bound to remain one for the foreseeable future, because plans for the next fundraiser are already on the horizon. As Sandi puts it, “It’s now the Annual Zumbathon for Multiple Myeloma!”
It was a perfect confluence of events, because Michele Sandifer had been planning to take an Art On the Gogh painting class anyway. “I was chatting with the instructor, Molly Loch, while I was making that plan, and she mentioned she does private parties and fundraisers as well,” Michele recalls. Michele knew from that moment that she wouldn’t just attend a class – she would host one, Art on the Gogh for the IMF, in honor of her sister-in-law Beth Harman.

Since Beth’s myeloma diagnosis, Michele had wanted to create a fundraiser. She knew that this art class, where the participants are inspired to recreate paintings of the masters, would make for a great event. “I knew it would be a fun way to raise money and awareness at the same time,” Michele says. She chose the Applebee’s in Virginia Beach, VA to host the event, because they were already used to accommodating Art On the Gogh’s monthly classes. The restaurant was also a perfect opportunity for people to order whatever food and drink they’d like, which helped create a fun and casual atmosphere.

Through Facebook, Michele and Beth invited their friends to join them. Art On the Gogh’s instructor, Molly, also shared the event on her business’ Facebook page. Frank Harman (Beth’s wife and Michele’s sister) set up their dedicated IMF fundraising website and wrote their marketing material.

On March 14th, 17 aspiring painters arrived to paint for the cause, each generously supporting it with a $30 donation in addition to the class fee. “It was such a wonderful surprise to see everyone’s inner artist come out,” Michele says. She, Beth, and Frank were also thrilled with their ability to support the IMF in this way. They raised nearly 10 times their target goal, and had a great time doing it.

An added bonus? “It was rainy outside,” Michele notes, “So it was a great day to paint.”

Editor’s Note: Are you interested in trying something similar in your neighborhood? Check out the art lessons, dance and exercise classes, and bike paths in your area – or be on the lookout for anything fun for your friends in your community!
Cheers to a RECORD-BREAKING 2014!

While 2015 barrels ahead (with great member fundraisers in the works) we’re here to take a breath and shout “Congratulations!” for the record-breaking year that was 2014. That’s right: Record-breaking. For the first time, IMF member fundraisers broke the half-million dollar mark – $501,000 to be exact!

A year like this on the books deserves a toast. Nancy Raible’s 2nd Annual A Visit to Virginia’s Wine Country provided one, as did Ilana Kenville’s Wine Tasting for a Cure. Ice cream is also a sweet reward, and came to us through Ruth Schimmel’s 2nd Annual A Day at Dairy Queen. Rounding out our love of food and drink, Kelly Bodiford organized an Uno Pizzeria & Grill fundraiser at multiple locations of the restaurant.

The IMFers who ran great distances for us in 2014 certainly earned a pizza! Ellen Grammel & Teresa Meier ran in their 3rd Annual Cincinnati Flying Pig Half Marathon, Jack Haynes ran the Santa Rosa Marathon, and Linda Davis ran the Green Turtle Half Marathon. IMFers also gathered large groups to run and walk on our behalf. Sheree and Ron Pask teamed with Gina Klemm for the 2nd Annual Miracles for Myeloma 5K and the Philadelphia Multiple Myeloma Networking Group oversaw their 6th Annual Miles for Myeloma 5K Run/Walk.

Janine Granit let the horses do the running at her 2nd Annual Monmouth Park Race to Beat Multiple Myeloma. Doug Kinkade’s Red Rock Canyon Bike Ride and Andy Sinsky’s Bicycle Mojave and Beyond put movement onto wheels. Doug Farrell traded land for water with his Captain Turner Ocean Swim.

Our supporters on the golf course surely did their best to avoid the water! This included Coach Rob’s 9th Annual Benefit Bash & Golf Tournament organized by Rob Bradford, the 7th Annual Carolyn Czerkies Memorial Golf Outing organized by the Czerkies Family, Bob Zins’ 15th Annual JC Golf Tournament, Gail & Andrew Bertram’s 5th Annual Wayne Hamby Memorial Golf Tournament, and the 9th Annual Meredith Fiacco Memorial Golf Tournament organized by Suzanne Fiacco and Melanie Nichols. Sharon and Scott Kowalczyk organized the first ChekFest Golf Tournament.

(Continues on page 12)
IMF MEMBER FUNDRAISERS

Once again, IMF member fundraisers are supporting critical myeloma research. For 2015, five IMF Brian D. Novis Research Grants were made possible due to IMFers running, golfing, swimming, and singing for the cause:

**A Song for Ireland and Captain Turner Ocean Swim funds**
Francesca Cottini, MD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute – Boston, MA
“Targeting the kinase STK4 to treat myeloma.”

**Coach Rob’s Benefit Bash & Golf Tournament funds**
Tarun K. Garg, PhD
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences – Little Rock, AR
“Myeloma cells modulate ICAM3 to evade natural killer cell-mediated lysis.”

**Miles for Myeloma 5K funds**
Patricia Maiso, PhD
Clinical University of Navarra – Spain
“Role of hypoxia in myeloma: new therapeutic approaches targeting minimal residual disease and drug resistance.”

**Miracles for Myeloma 5K funds**
Claire M. Edwards, PhD
University of Oxford – United Kingdom
“Caloric restrictions and bone marrow adiposity in myeloma.”

**Miracles for Myeloma 5K funds**
Amit Kumar Mitra, PhD
Regents of the University of Minnesota – Saint Paul, MN
“Identifying tumor response heterogeneity using single-cell transcriptomics.”

Sometimes support for our cause comes in the form of pure merriment, as Melissa Fox proved with her Holiday Merriment for Myeloma Awareness. Other celebrations included Julianne Stafford’s Red House Carnival, Frank Tramontano’s A Dance for a Cure, and Gayla Elsner’s Gayla’s Celebration. A good hand of cards is also cause for celebration. Just ask Carol Klein and Anne Girod’s 5th Annual Bridge Blasts Myeloma Ladies Game Day and Jack Aiello’s 10th Annual Texas Hold ‘Em Benefit Bash.

Last year also saw the celebration of artistic expression, including Charlie Eddins’ Heritage Singers, Slava Rubin’s 9th Annual Music Against Myeloma event, John Bianco’s 2nd Annual Modern Art against Myeloma, and Carol & Benson Klein’s ongoing Trooper Benson fundraiser, showcasing the comic strip artwork of Bill Rechin and Don Wilder. Lu Woodward gifted us with her Honeybeaders Bracelets, which also created an important awareness takeaway.

Myeloma awareness is an important aspect of all of our fundraisers, highlighted this year through the Stolper Family’s I Am Stolper Strong t-shirts and the Kiwanis Key Club myeloma awareness bracelets and bottle recycling fundraiser organized by Diann Colon.

Last but far from least, we cap our milestone year with a milestone celebration. In lieu of gifts for the couple, guests at Denise Arevalo & Thomas Tormey’s Wedding supported the IMF.

The year 2014 was truly remarkable! Breaking the half-million dollar mark is a testament to the fact that every fundraiser makes a difference – and that any idea you have for throwing one can lead to something wonderful. For more information and encouragement, please contact Suzanne Battaglia at SBattaglia@myeloma.org or (800) 452-2873.
In January, the IMF welcomed Stanley Baratta as its Executive Vice President of Development. Here he shares some thoughts exclusively for Making Miracles:

Two weeks after I happily began working at the IMF in my capacity of Executive Vice President of Development I had occasion to contact an old golfing buddy, Dennis Levine, to discuss a potential IMF Golf Tournament. Towards the end of our conversation I asked Dennis how his health was. I am not sure what prompted me to ask him this, but his reply was, “Stanley, I was just diagnosed with myeloma last week.”

“He praised the compassionate support and critically important information provided to him by the IMF”

He had not yet told anyone before this moment, and we were both stunned by the coincidence and kismet of my having joined the IMF within a week of his diagnosis. It served as a new reminder for me of how personal this disease can become for anyone, even when we least expect it.

Though I’m a new member of the IMF team, I was already very familiar with the IMF. My uncle, Richard Hannah, passed away five years ago after living with myeloma for five years. He praised the compassionate support and critically important information provided to him by the IMF.

I never forgot.

When I was offered the opportunity to help the IMF, I felt honored. I have spent over 30 years working on behalf of dozens of worthy organizations, including the Reagan Presidential Library, the Weingart Center, Sherman Oaks Hospital, and Grossman Burn Center, and others.

But I have never felt more kinship and sense of dedication than I have for the International Myeloma Foundation, and already I feel incredible gratitude for the many IMF members who create events that raise funds and foster awareness for this community. Thank you for having me, and I look forward to doing great things together.

The IMF Welcomes NEW DEVELOPMENT TEAM MEMBER

Joy Riznikove, Development Associate

Joy Riznikove joined the IMF in October 2014 to help in the preparations for the IMF’s 8th Annual Comedy Celebration. She is happy and honored to segue that experience into the role of the IMF’s newest Development Associate, which includes assistance with donor relations, direct mail, special event planning, and daily operations.

Joy graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a B.S. in Film Studies. She comes to the IMF after working in the entertainment industry, with a focus on office management. She is enthusiastic about her transition to the non-profit sector, and looks forward to doing as much as she can to make a difference in as many lives as possible.
by Ilana Kenville, IMF Development Associate

Last April, I organized my first fundraiser as the IMF’s Development Associate. Wine Tasting for a Cure was for a cause that runs deep for me, and, as it turns out, also quite literally affects those that live next door.

Though this was my first fundraiser as an IMF staffer, I actually threw my first event when I was in college. It was a great success, and I have periodically organized others throughout the years. But Wine Tasting for a Cure was different, because it wasn’t only in honor of my uncle, it was also in honor of you. Now that I’m part of a terrific IMF team encouraging you to embrace your fundraising ideas, I wanted to do that too.

I’m happy to report that my first wine tasting fundraiser was wonderful! I was able to get the food, party supplies, and raffle prizes donated, and I purchased the wine at cost. You can find generous benefactors for your food, drink, supplies, and prizes too. You’ll be touched how many people want to give, but you have to start by asking.

IMF fundraisers are also about creating awareness and support. Since I was having a house party, I invited my new neighbors, and it turned out that one of them had recently been diagnosed with myeloma. My event opened the door for him and his family to see that they were not alone. Now they have the IMF.

I’m so lucky I’m getting to help other people, by introducing the IMF and by guiding member fundraisers to life. My own next one might be a 5K, because I specialize in running them, and I’m excited to see so many other IMFers now organizing them as well. The IMF is here to help you plan the best fundraiser for you, whether it involves a wine glass, a pair of sneakers, or anything else. I’m honored to be part of the team.

Upcoming Member Events in 2015

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The IMF Shopping Mall

Shop with the leading merchants on the internet, receive the same price as anyone else visiting their sites, and support the IMF at the same time! Visit the merchants using the links at shop.myeloma.org and, if you make a purchase, a percentage goes to support the IMF. Please remember that the IMF receives a donation only if you use the links on the shop.myeloma.org page, so please bookmark this page to ensure that when you are shopping your purchases are properly credited. E-commerce vendors include Amazon, Macy’s, Walmart, iTunes, 1-800-Flowers, Hotwire, The Sharper Image, Omaha Steaks, Dollar and Thrifty Car Rental, and many others. Keep checking back as we regularly add new stores to our mall. Thanks for your support!

Amazon * Walmart * Macy’s * 1-800-Flowers * Hotwire * The Sharper Image * Omaha Steaks * Dollar and Thrifty Car Rental

SAVE THE DATE

INTERNATIONAL MYELOMA FOUNDATION

9th Annual Comedy Celebration
benefiting the Peter Boyle Research Fund and supporting the Black Swan Research Initiative®

Saturday, October 10, 2015
The Wilshire Ebell Theatre & Club in Los Angeles, California
comedy.myeloma.org

Chaired by Ray Romano
(additional performances to be announced)

Hope Society
Inspire HOPE, and contribute to the fight against myeloma

With small, easy steps, you can make a huge impact on the continuation of the IMF’s mission. Hope Society members make simple, secure, recurring contributions to maintain the level of quality that you expect from our programs and services.

From one of our members to you:
“The IMF gives me the InfoLine, the forums, Dr. Durie’s blog, Patient & Family Seminars, webcasts, videos from scientific meetings, and more. Best of all, the IMF supports research which may save my life. Surely, the least I can do is support them through the Hope Society.”
— Chip Shanley, monthly donor

Ways to join:
Visit hope.myeloma.org, email Sharon Chow at schow@myeloma.org, or call 818-487-7455.
Your contribution for these items will help us provide critical education, research and support, raise awareness and show support for myeloma patients worldwide, and help us in our mission to improve the quality of life of myeloma patients while working toward prevention and a cure.

**Imagining Moving Forward** is the theme of the IMF’s myeloma bracelet. Wear one in honor, celebration, or in memory of a loved one. When people ask you about it, you’ll have a perfect opportunity to spread the word about myeloma.

### IMF Products

- **Ribbon of Hope Holiday Ornament** ($10)
- **Ribbon of Hope Lapel Pin** ($5)
- **IMF Cap** ($15)
- **IMF T-Shirt** ($15)
- **IMF Polo Shirt** ($20)
- **Awareness Bracelet** (10-pack for $10)

All merchandise can be viewed and/or ordered on our website myeloma.org