

Our Quest



Celebrating 20 Years of Gabrielle's Angel Foundation
For Cancer Research

“If you wonder where your money’s going, it’s inside me. I am living proof that the work that these doctors do on a daily basis is saving lives of real people like me.”

~ Ethan Zohn ● Angel Ambassador ● Two-time lymphoma survivor

Our Inspiration

The Life of Gabrielle Rich Aouad
(1969 ~ 1996)

Gabrielle Rich Aouad grew up in Switzerland where she graduated from Aiglon School. She graduated with honors from Oxford University in England, earning her B.A. in philosophy and modern languages. Fluent in five languages, Gabrielle was a champion skier, an expert in horseback riding and a skilled rock mountain climber.

In the summer of 1991, she moved to New York and joined the NYU intensive film program where she met her future husband, Philip Aouad. At the tender age of 23, she was diagnosed with advanced stage Hodgkin’s disease. Her strength and feistiness never failed through months of painful treatment.

By 1993, Gabrielle was at last in remission. This period of renewal brought great vibrancy and activity to her life. She and Philip got married. She became one of the finalists in the worldwide search to replace Isabella Rossellini as the face of Lancôme. She studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Institute. Her drive brought her great success. In no time, Gabrielle had eight plays and seven movies to her credit. Her film roles included a newscaster

in “The Chase” starring Charlie Sheen and a seductress in “Savage Hearts” starring Richard Harris. In addition to her acting skills, Gabrielle was a gifted writer. She wrote a screenplay, “Surprise,” she dreamed would one day be produced.

In May of 1996, she was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). Once more, she was treated with chemotherapy. She lost her beautiful long hair, but fought with fearless determination throughout her difficult and painful treatment. After going into remission for the second time, she was due for a bone marrow transplant, so her mother, Denise donated her own bone marrow to save Gabrielle’s life. Upon receiving this gift Gabrielle said, “Mummy is giving me birth again.”

Gabrielle’s final wish was to create a leukemia foundation that would help spare others the suffering that she endured. One of its goals would be to invest in research for better treatments for leukemia, so people would not have to suffer from the side effects and damage of chemotherapy and radiation. Gabrielle Rich Aouad passed away in the fall of 1996 at the age of 27.

The work of Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation for Cancer Research continues in her honor and memory. Gabrielle’s strength and wisdom live on in her own words, “**Love defies all pain, even death.**”

Our Story

It was Gabrielle's last wish to create a Foundation that would fund the most promising scientific investigators in the nation with the hope that less toxic treatments, and ultimately a cure, might be discovered. Her mother Denise and sisters, Daniella and Ilona, believed the best way to honor Gabrielle's memory was to turn their extraordinary grief into a positive force for others. Her spirit lives on in the work of the organization created in her memory. Gabrielle's Angel Foundation funds only the best and brightest physician-scientists just starting their labs and has become one of the largest non-governmental sources of grant support to blood cancer research in the nation.

The Foundation's sister chapter, formed in 2012, provides support for similar research at Great Britain's leading institutions, bringing the Foundation's 20 year total giving to nearly \$28 million dollars worldwide.

In 2016, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation celebrates 20 years of transformations in cancer treatment and care. The Foundation honors Gabrielle's legacy by continuing to fund bold scientific ideas with the hope that these treatments will one day transfer from the bench, to the bedside, to a cure.



A Positive Force

Attending the Foundation's Annual Medical Symposium is truly an invaluable moment for me to re-inspire myself for my research in cancer.

Young Jik Kwon, PhD
University of California, Irvine

This award allows me to explore innovative ideas that would not readily be supported by typical NIH funding mechanisms.

Dorothy Sipkins, MD, PhD
Duke University

The work that you do is so important for young scientists—and the results will benefit us all.

Curt I. Civin, MD
Medical Advisory Board; University of Maryland School of Medicine

Your support allows us to take risks and ask the really important questions.

Ross L. Levine, MD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

My lab would be lost without the support of organizations like yours.

Andrea Ventura, MD, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

The excitement for the scientific progress was palpable in the room, and I believe we are heading into a very exciting era of cancer research and therapy.

Alex Y. C. Huang, MD, PhD
Case Western Reserve University

The Foundation has nurtured and supported such a great cadre of leukemia researchers over the years that the list of grantees looks like a Who's Who in leukemia.

David Frank, MD, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Of the first 9 patients treated, 5 had a response. This is highly unusual for early phase studies. We are definitely making progress.

Scott A. Armstrong, MD, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Our Events

Our main source of fundraising stems from our signature events which to date have enabled us to fund grants totaling nearly \$28 million in global giving.

Angel Ball

This star-studded black-tie gala remains one of New York's most anticipated fall charity events.

Gabrielle's Gala

This festive spring event attracts London's most charitable A-list crowd.

Millennial Ball

Hosted by New York's hippest young professionals, tech entrepreneurs and philanthropists, these events have raised nearly \$300,000.

For more event details, visit gabriellesangels.org

Our Sister Chapter

We created **Gabrielle's Angel Foundation UK** in 2012 to expand our mission abroad.

We have provided support to some of Great Britain's leading institutions, among them:

University of Oxford
Imperial College London
University of Cambridge
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
The Institute of Cancer Research
Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity
UCH Macmillan Cancer Centre

We are a registered UK Charity #1144860

Our Grants

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation funds the nation's best science in the fields of leukemia, lymphoma, and related cancers of the blood. The Foundation not only funds conventional scientific research, but also projects that combine integrative (complementary) therapies or botanical agents. We focus on projects for cancer prevention, detection and treatment that are most likely to be translated into clinical trials within a 3-5 year period. These Medical Research Awards, distributed on a yearly basis, each total \$225,000 and are given over a three-year period. The top research institutions in the nation are solicited by invitation-only and, in this highly competitive process, applications undergo rigorous peer review by the Foundation's distinguished Medical Advisory Board. This panel of experts, led by Stephen D. Nimer, MD, director of Miami's Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, selects only the crème de la crème for funding. In recent years, the Foundation has expanded its reach to include the funding of select pediatric oncology initiatives, music therapy programs, and international projects through its sister chapter, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation UK.

“There is nothing more gratifying than to witness the success of our 20 years of effort. The work of this foundation will last for generations and while we have made great progress, we still have so much more work to do. The future of cancer research has never looked brighter!”

~ Stephen D. Nimer, MD • Chairman, Medical Advisory Board • Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

Our Initiatives



Medical Symposium ~ For Our Grantees

This annual event provides a chance for our grantees to present their work, discuss the latest medical advances and form scientific collaborations with their peers.



Art & Music Therapy ~ For Patients & Their Families

Our creative programs offer patients an important opportunity to explore healing work with skilled professionals through art and music therapy sessions.



Panel Events ~ For Patients & Healthcare Providers

These intimate events feature an expert panel speaking to the specific needs of patients on a wide variety of topics including nutrition, survivorship, sexual health and fertility.

Medical Research Awards amount to **\$225,000** over a 3-year period.

Celebrating **20** years of funding the boldest scientific ideas in blood cancer research.

More than **200** grants totaling nearly **\$28** million in global giving.

On average, **85%** of every dollar raised directly funds cancer research.

Why Give to Gabrielle's Angel Foundation? ✨ We provide funding to only the **highest caliber** young investigators at an early stage in their careers, allowing them to pursue their most creative ideas. ✨ On average, **85 cents** of every dollar **directly funds** these future leaders of cancer research. ✨ We are recognized by both the Independent Charities of America and the Better Business Bureau for both **program and cost effectiveness**. ✨ We focus on **one specific area** of cancer research—blood cancers. ✨ We fund projects for **cancer prevention, detection and treatment** that are most likely to be translated into **clinical trials** within a 3 to 5 year period. ✨ We fund **traditional** scientific research, as well as research that combines integrative or complementary therapies or **botanical agents**. ❀

It is highly likely that the money you invest will directly lead to the dramatic acceleration of cures for cancer, preventions for cancer and the savings of other children's lives.

•
Bill Clinton
Former US President

I owe my life to Gabrielle's Angel Foundation and to the research that they do.

•
Suleika Jaouad
Angel Ambassador

The money that funds these drugs, these cures, these new treatments enable people like me to survive.

•
Erin Zammett Ruddy
Angel Ambassador

Denise is waving the flag and we're with her all the way.

•
Tommy Hilfiger
Fashion Designer



How You Can Help

Back #20for20

Help us fund 20 grants in our milestone 20th year either with a direct donation or by spearheading your own fundraising campaign.

Fund a Project

Many of our donors choose to support the nation's leading physician-scientists by underwriting a research grant. Through annual progress reports and lab visits, these 'angels' see the direct impact their giving makes.

Support an Event

Whether you purchase a table to our fundraising gala, provide sponsorship support for our symposium, or make an in-kind donation of products or services, your investment will impact the next generation of cancer research in a direct and meaningful way.

Spread the Word

Engage the power of social media. Help us build our audience of supporters by sharing the latest Foundation news with your followers:

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|  @CureCancerNow |  Instagram.com/gabriellesangels |
|  Facebook.com/gabriellesangels |  Vimeo.com/gabriellesangels |

Support our milestone campaign:

#20for20 

Every 4 minutes, someone is diagnosed with blood cancer.
Every 10 minutes, someone dies.

For 20 years, **Gabrielle's Angel Foundation** has funded cancer research, yet there are still patients for whom there is little hope.

Help us fund **20 cutting-edge research projects** in our milestone 20th year. Donate directly to our **#20for20** campaign or create your own.

Every drop counts.

For details, visit gabriellesangels.org/20for20

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Director & Chief Executive Officer

“The exciting thing is we’ve never been in a moment like this. This is the first year I can say that three leukemia drugs are likely to get approved by the FDA~we’ve had two drugs approved in twenty years. And why is that? Because Gabrielle’s Angels bet on the scientists who developed those drugs long before anybody else did.”

~ Ross L. Levine, MD • Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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