



— game, set, cure —



August 5 - 8, 2021

Founding Family

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Founding Sponsor



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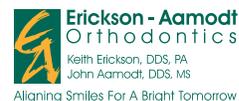
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Presenting Sponsors



**Polly & Kevin Hart**

Hosted by



Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund

Funds raised benefit cancer research programs at



# WELCOME!

The Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic (PTATC) is the premier mixed doubles tennis tournament in Minnesota and USTA Northern. Traditionally held the first weekend of August, the PTATC features more than 100 of the area’s top men’s and women’s tennis players. Funds raised benefit the pediatric oncology research program at Children’s Minnesota. Your generosity in supporting the PTATC helps provide vital information to cancer specialists around the world and supports the healing of a patient’s whole body when receiving treatment at Children’s Minnesota. Thank you for your support and enjoy the weekend!

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# 36th Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic

## August 5-8, 2021

### LifeTime White Bear Lake



— game, set, cure —

## Schedule of Events

### Thursday, August 5, 2021

4:00 p.m. - "First Serve" Happy Hour: Come have dinner and watch the matches.  
Enjoy a Brat/Hot Dog, Chips, Water/Soda, Apple Donut Meal for only \$5!!!!

4:00 p.m. - Masters Round of 16

6:30 p.m. - Masters Round of 16

### Friday, August 6, 2021

8:00 a.m. - Food Tent Opens

8:00 a.m. - Open Round of 32

10:00 a.m. - Open Round of 32

12 Noon - Open Round of 32

2:00 p.m. - Masters Quarterfinals

4:00 p.m. - Grand Masters Quarterfinals

6:00 p.m. - Second Serve Appreciation Party - Vadnais Heights Commons (*Invitation Only*)

### Saturday, August 7, 2021

11:00 a.m. - Food Tent Open

11:00 a.m. - Children's Craft Area Opens

11:00 a.m. - Open Round of 16

1:00 p.m. - Open Round of 16

3:00 p.m. - Masters & Grand Masters Semifinals

5:00 p.m. - Open Quarterfinals

### Sunday, August 8, 2021

10:00 a.m. - Food Tent Opens

10:00 a.m. - Children's Craft Area Opens

10:00 a.m. - Open Semifinals

11:45 a.m. - Program & Awards

12 Noon - Masters & Grand Masters Finals

2:00 p.m. - Open Finals

## How To Find Updated Tournament Schedules and Results

All tournament schedules and results are available via [www.ptacf.org](http://www.ptacf.org) or on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram) at Keyword: PTACForg

## A Message from the Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund Board



2021 Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund Board of Directors: Front Row (L to R): Norm Longsdorf, Director; Kevin Werwie, President; Matt Narr, Director; Back Row (L to R): Cheryl Yasis, Director; Nancy Jacobson, Treasurer; Dee Gaeddert, Secretary.

For each of the last 36 summers, the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic (PTATC) has been an August gathering you don't want to miss. A tennis event that started in 1986, has now raised over \$6 million supporting groundbreaking work by the doctors and researchers at Children's Minnesota and around the world as they discover treatments, and hopefully a cure, for childhood cancer. The PTATC's long tradition is a testament to the power of our Founding Family's idea, and the steadfast commitment of so many dedicated people. This year we are especially grateful for all you do.

Even in the midst of a pandemic in 2020, our re-imagined event exceeded our fundraising goal. While there were so many things we missed, the quality of the tennis was outstanding, and the generosity of our supporters did not waver. Thank you again for your adaptability and for all you did to make last year's event extraordinary in every way.

In 2021, we welcome you back to PTATC in a familiar format. We are thrilled that we can once again see all of you in our festive venue at Life Time White Bear Lake, enjoy competitive mixed doubles tennis featuring top athletes from our region, and delicious food provided by our friends at the Jacobson's Pine Tree Apple Orchard. This event would not be possible without the support of our many sponsors and donors including the Peterson Family (our Founding Family), the Jacobsons (our Founding sponsor), Life Time White Bear (our Site sponsor), our Event and Presenting sponsors, and all sponsors, donors, tennis players and volunteers. We continue to be amazed by the dedication of the research team of Children's Minnesota, whose work not only helps children survive, but also thrive during and after treatment.

## A Message from the Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund Board, continued

We would like to share with you some of the notable events of another impactful year:

- We announced the establishment of the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic Endowed Chair in Cancer and Blood Disorders Research and the announcement of Dr. Kris Ann Schultz as the inaugural chair. This is only the third endowed chair in Children's Minnesota history - an incredible accomplishment if you think about it!
- Even during a pandemic, your support remained steadfast as we raised over \$270,000 in 2020, and presented a check to Children's Minnesota in the amount of \$208,000!
- We welcomed Lisa Mushett as our Event Coordinator during a very challenging year as she stepped in and didn't miss a beat. We are grateful for her many skills and connections, and the way she seamlessly makes things happen. Thanks, Lisa!
- We launched a new website ([www.ptacf.org](http://www.ptacf.org)) and made an increased commitment to being in the social media space. If you do not already, please like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PineTreeAppleClassicFund> or on Instagram at ptacforg.
- Finally, we lost dear friend and board member Jason Albrecht, who was a tireless advocate, volunteer and supporter of PTATC. In recognition of his many contributions, Jason is being honored as our newest member of the PTATC Hall of Fame in 2021. We miss you Jason.

The Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund Board is enthusiastic about our mission to be a positive force in the health and well-being of kids with childhood diseases and their families. If you have an interest in joining this wonderful team of volunteers, please let us know. We need you!

### Game. Set. Cure!

2021 Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund Board

Kevin Werwie, President  
Nancy Jacobson, Treasurer  
Dee Gaeddert, Director  
Norm Longsdorf, Director  
Matt Narr, Director  
Cheryl Yasis, Director

## 2021 PTATC Committees

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we recognize and say THANK YOU to our 2021 committee leads and members. Most of these incredible people have been with the tournament in some capacity for a decade or more, and are the reason the tournament is celebrating its 36th Anniversary this year.

Throughout the weekend, please take a moment to say thank you for their passion and unwavering dedication (even through a pandemic) to not only the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic, but in supporting the pediatric cancer research initiatives at Children's Minnesota and around the world.

### THANK YOU!

#### **Children's Activities & Volunteers**

Carla Albrecht  
Oscar Vargo

#### **Event Coordinator**

Lisa Mushett

#### **Event Coordinator**

Karin Glick

#### **Food Tent**

Wendy Homyak  
Mary Ann Kidd  
Jerry Kidd  
Patty Paulson  
Willy Paulson  
Chris Peterson

#### **Logistics**

Barb Jacobson

#### **Facility Decorations**

Chanda Cook

#### **Friday Night Appreciation Party**

Nancy Ekvall

#### **Art Crawl**

Nancy Ekvall

#### **Party Food**

Betty Toy  
Boy Toy

#### **Honored Angel and Patient Stories**

Mike Brunner

#### **Photography/Videography/Television**

Mike Yates

#### **Player Liaison**

Bob Marolt  
Tricia Moorhead  
Jessa Richards  
Tobias Wernet  
Marla Zitelman

#### **Social Media**

Lisa Mushett

#### **Sponsorships**

Nancy Jacobson  
Denise Rutkowski  
Kevin Werwie

#### **Tournament (Lead)**

Tucker Combs

#### **Tournament Program**

Al Smith

#### **Floater Tournament Weekend**

Keri Pakonen

#### **General Tournament Promotion**

Bill Jacobson



## A Message from the Founding Family



Dear Friends of Pine Tree,

Since our founding of the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic in 1986, I feel incredibly grateful and proud of the ongoing support provided by the tournament in bringing the latest advancements in research and treatment options to children afflicted with cancer.

A parent should never have to worry about the lack of treatment options available to their child. When our daughter, Juliann, was diagnosed with leukemia at a very young age, there were many unknowns and it was apparent that more was needed to answer the questions we had concerning pediatric cancer. We were so grateful for all the doctors, nurses and other care providers at Children's Minnesota that we wanted to give back in a meaningful way.

Thanks to the Jacobson Family for believing in our fight to end pediatric cancer by contributing the seed

money to start the event - which raised \$15,000 in 1986 - and has since raised over \$6 million in supporting two main initiatives to improve outcomes for children with cancer - rare tumor research and activities to keep kids active and healthy during and after treatment.

The inception of the International PPB Registry in 1987 was a direct result of our vision and funding. The establishment of this global research program based here in Minnesota and now used in over 40 countries, directly resulted in the discovery of variants in the DICER1 gene as a cause of PPB - the most common lung cancer of children. Since this pivotal discovery in 2009, the mission and vision of Registry research has expanded and now includes study of ovarian, kidney, thyroid and brain tumors and has become a model for other registries to help identify best treatment outcomes. The spectrum of tumors under study has expanded even further within

## A Message from the Founding Family - continued

the past 2 years to include three other previously unrecognized tumors now known to be associated with DICER1.

These new discoveries have led to an expansion of the Registry name - now known as the International PPB/DICER1 Registry - and the founding of a parallel sister registry called the International Ovarian and Testicular Stromal Tumor Registry. The greater understanding of this spectrum of tumors has led to the creation and refinement of surveillance guidelines facilitating detection of these tumors in their earliest form. The lives of children and adults here in Minnesota and around the world have been saved by early detection made possible by these pivotal discoveries!

Unfortunately, not all tumors can be found early, so Children's Minnesota is studying new methods of tumor monitoring and novel therapies. They have learned they can detect circulating DICER1 tumor DNA in the blood from children with tumors and are now working to understand how accurate such a test would be in guiding therapy for children with PPB. For novel therapies, they have identified multiple potential targets expressed on DICER1 cancer cells that are not expressed in normal tissues. New findings in 2021 include information on the role of p53 (the Guardian of the Genome) in DICER1 cancers and an assessment of markers for immunotherapy response in PPB tumors.

Children's Minnesota is also developing an international prospective clinical trial to translate findings from the lab into clinical care. The goal is to translate new discoveries into less toxic and more effective therapies for childhood and adult cancers. Researchers at Children's are honored to work directly with families and physicians around the world, ensuring the latest research results are placed directly into the hands of those who need it most.

More recently, new therapies for children who have been compromised by cancer treatments have brought greater opportunities for improved physical outcomes and have been duplicated in many other children's hospitals. Children's Minnesota has developed a nationally-recognized model of rehabilitation for childhood cancer patients. This evidence-based model is being taught to cancer centers both nationally and internationally by recognized experts Lynn Tanner PT and Laura Gilchrist PT, PhD - both based in Minnesota.

Our support has also developed a measure of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy used in clinical trials both nationally and internationally to reduce the long-term consequences of cancer treatment.

But perhaps our greatest accomplishment occurred last year when we established the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic Endowed Chair in Cancer and Blood Disorders Research at Children's Minnesota and the appointment of Dr. Kris Ann Schultz as the inaugural holder of the position, marking only the third endowed chair position established in history at Children's Minnesota. Truly remarkable!

I want to thank all of the players and the tennis community for sharing our dream through your enthusiasm surrounding the event and your donations to care for our children. It's not necessarily how much you raise in dollars, but how you spend those dollars. All of you have contributed to something very special and our family is proud to continue our support of this event and be a part of this truly unique and worthwhile mission. Without all of you, we wouldn't have much.

Sincerely yours,

Ron Peterson

## A Message from the Founding Sponsor



Dear Supporters of the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic,

Nearly 36 years ago, Ron Peterson and Dan Aberg asked us to partner in their efforts to establish a tennis tournament as a means to raise money for research into childhood cancer by lending financial support. We readily agreed to provide the seed money they were looking for, and soon the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic was born.

As we now celebrate the 36th Anniversary of this amazing tournament in 2021, it is so reassuring to know that we continue helping these special children and their families affected by childhood cancer. It is not often in life one gets the opportunity to make such a difference.

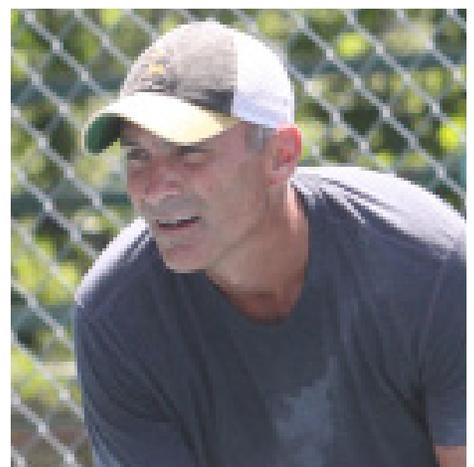
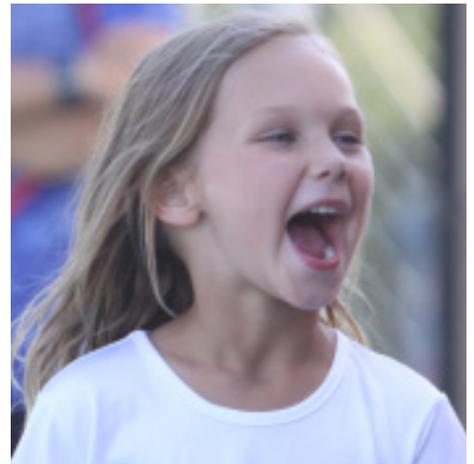
We are honored to continue as the founding sponsor of the event and thrilled at its continuing success. It has been such a rewarding experience for our family to work with the many volunteers who make this tournament possible, and be a part of the continuing enthusiasm they generate in the fight against this horrible disease. It still amazes us that our initial investment in 1986 has turned into more than \$6 million for the cancer research initiatives at Children's Minnesota and around the world.

We look forward to continuing our support in the future. Thank you for joining us in helping achieve our goal - to earn the last dollar ever in the fight against children's cancer.

**Game, Set, Cure!**

Sincerely,

The Jacobson Family Pine Tree Apple Orchard



## A Message from the Research Team

Dear Pine Tree Players, Sponsors, Volunteers, Supporters and Honored Guests -

You are amazing! Despite all the challenges of 2020 and 2021, your support has continued to make cancer research happen at Children's Minnesota, improving outcomes for kids and families here in Minnesota and around the world.

We're excited to tell you about the amazing progress that has happened since last year's Pine Tree event! The International PPB/DICER1 Registry has continued to work with children and families across the U.S. and around the world. We continue to collect medical data and tumor samples, and test conventional, novel and holistic medications against these tumors, searching for the most effective and least toxic therapies. Last year at this time, we were working with Children's Oncology Group, a cooperative group consisting of more than 200 institutions that treat childhood cancer, to lay the groundwork for a prospective treatment trial for children with Types I, II and III PPB based on the new information from the lab - the information you make possible. That work continues to advance, and now these collaborative effects include not only the U.S.-based collaborative group, but the European rare tumors groups as well.

We continue working to validate new ways of monitoring treatment response and to detect minimal amounts of residual disease. Our team is working

hard on this endeavor and has collected more than 696 samples from across the globe for this research. We hope this new blood test-based strategy will reduce the number of times a child must be sedated and exposed to radiation in order to understand their tumor's response to treatment.

We also are learning more each month about additional tumors linked to DICER1 - and this year in addition to PPB, we've focused especially on ovarian Sertoli-Leydig cell tumors and sarcomas, kidney tumors and new types of liver and chest tumors, recently found to be associated with DICER1.

One of our goals this year has been to ensure that despite the limitations of COVID, the findings from this research quickly reach the people who need it most - treating teams and families. We've given presentations at scientific meetings and Grand Rounds, published several manuscripts and abstracts, released a new website, fostered our social media platforms and hosted an international scientific symposium with scientists, treating physicians and researchers from around the world.

This year has also included establishment of the PPB/DICER1 Patient/Parent Advisory Board (PPPAB). Additionally, on August 5, deliberately in conjunction with the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic event that makes this work possible, we brought together patients and families for our 6th Registry family meeting.



Our goal continues to be to strengthen our collaborations so that we can spread the word about how to care for kids and adults with DICER1-related conditions - and also so that we can learn more - marking a true win-win for everyone. Along the way, we meet many families – families whose world has just been turned upside down by a cancer diagnosis. Like you, they look ahead, to see how their own journey could help someone else. For them, and for you, we are forever grateful.

Children who undergo treatment for cancer deserve to not only survive their disease, but also to thrive both during and after treatment. Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund funded research supports both of these critical goals. In the supportive care research arena, Lynn Tanner PT and Laura Gilchrist PT, PhD have teamed together to improve physical function in children both during and after cancer treatment. Work on measuring and treating chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy continues, with ongoing trials of bracing to improve outcomes and development of a measure for very young children. In collaboration with St. Catherine University, we are also striving to understand the long-term impacts of cancer and its treatments, including its influence on muscle fatigue and balance control. All of these efforts will help us reach our long-term goal of healthy and high-functioning childhood cancer survivors who have minimal long-term impact from their disease.

All of these discoveries were made possible through your hard work and generosity. Advances in childhood cancer research are being made, but there are miles

to go before we rest. More than 10,000 children under the age of 15 are diagnosed with cancer each year, and despite major treatment advances, 20% of children with cancer will not survive. Children with advanced solid tumors, especially rare tumors, still face poor prognoses and side effects of intensive therapies. More research is urgently needed to cure more children and improve quality of life for cancer survivors.

We believe all children deserve the same chance of survival and long-term happiness. Thank you for your support of this tournament which allows us to pursue this research. Generous support from PTACF is a significant part of the funding we rely upon to do this work. None of the tremendous advances in PPB/ DICER1 and chemotherapy-related neuropathy would have occurred without you. We value and appreciate the support you provide to children and families across the country and around the world.

As we reflect on our shared successes and challenges, we are grateful for the contributions of so many individuals who made this possible. At the same time, the beloved children who were diagnosed with late stage PPB or died, despite the best available care, teach us that we have a long way to go. We're grateful for the opportunity to continue this work in their honor and with your support.

With gratitude,

Kris Ann Schultz, MD

Yoav Messinger, MD

Laura Gilchrist PT, PhD

Lynn Tanner, MPT

Anne Harris, MPH

Paige Mallinger, MS

Nicole Frederickson, CRA

Anna Dybvik, CRA

Alexander Nelson, BS



## Honored Angel: Megan Santa Croce



**“She had a lot of faith, courage and determination to live each day to the fullest.”**

Most of us can recall a time when we happened upon a story or a “force of nature” so powerful and inspiring that we had to pause to fully digest and comprehend what we just witnessed.

For many of us, the life story of Megan is one of those times.

At the core of her story is an unrelenting battle with ovarian cancer that ultimately took her life in 2018 at the young age of 23. The bigger lesson for all is how she never, ever gave up. She battled fiercely, and always lived fully, seemingly with a non-stop smile on her face.

There are so many adjectives needed to accurately capture the “whole Megan.” For starters, she was inspirational, strong, passionate, bold, relentless, fun, giving and charismatic. She simply would not allow a life-threatening illness to steal her happiness or dull her natural caring for others.

At age 15, Megan was diagnosed with a life-threatening ovarian tumor called Sertoli Leydig. She and her family traveled to Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City to have the tumor removed, followed by several rounds of chemotherapy.

Despite health setbacks, Megan graduated from high school, traveled, and then graduated from Binghamton University in 2017 with a triple major in French, Linguistics, and International Studies. She did all this while being actively involved in a variety of campus musical, theater, and religious activities that were so important to her. Her future plans included teaching in Honduras with a Catholic outreach organization.

A month after graduating from college, she was diagnosed with another more aggressive cancerous tumor followed by another

surgery and more chemo, radiation, and immunotherapy. Five months later, Megan had to repeat the whole process again, but somehow she still applied for graduate school while lying in her hospital bed. She even did her admittance interview via Skype.

Through it all, Megan had an optimism and enthusiasm for life that was inspiring to many including her family.

“She was always filled with joy and an optimistic spirit,” said her mom, Molly. “She had a lot of faith, courage and determination to live each day to the fullest.”

Sadly, Megan passed away on November 14, 2018, with her parents and boyfriend, Adam, at her side.

After Megan’s death, her family formed the Live Like Megan Foundation ([www.livelikemegan.org](http://www.livelikemegan.org)), providing scholarships and funding to deserving organizations and individuals in her hometown of Binghamton, N.Y.

“Megan was a very special person who made an impression on all who had the pleasure of meeting her, even if for only a brief moment,” their website states. “She loved theater, travel, languages and teaching. She was fearless in trying new things. She had an enthusiasm for living and a smile that could brighten your day in an instant. She shared her light and energy freely with the world; with her friends, her family and with strangers.”

Anyone connected to the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic – participants, sponsors, spectators, organizers, workers – and our mission has endlessly given their time, treasure, or talents in supporting our cause. So too has Megan as her family has graciously allowed Megan’s medical records, tissue samples and tumor samples to be part of the International Ovarian and Testicular Stromal Tumor Registry and the ongoing research led by Dr. Kris Ann Schultz - the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic Endowed Chair of Cancer and Blood Disorders Research.

“I know Megan would want to do everything in her power to help others have better diagnosis and treatment options in the future,” said Molly.

“What an honor to learn from Megan, her amazing family and all that both have endured,” Dr. Schulz said. “Thanks to the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic, her legacy includes improving outcomes for future children, teenagers and young women.”

On behalf of future patients who will benefit from Megan’s incredible gift, we thank her parents, Roy and Molly, and her siblings Greg, Roy Jr., and Olivia. We are so grateful for your willingness to share Megan’s “never ever give up” attitude with the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic in 2021. In return, we promise to never stop funding critical research initiatives which will lead to new and more effective treatments and therapies.

Like all of our honored angels and patients, Megan is a gift to us and we will continue moving forward in their honor and memory. Thank you for sharing Megan’s story and reminding us to “Live Like Megan.”

## Honored Patient: Owen



### “This was a life-changing experience.”

Owen's cancer journey started a little over a year ago - June 29, 2020, to be exact. When everyone else was shuttered at home trying to figure out exactly what COVID-19 was and what effect the pandemic would have on them, Owen's family - from Lakeville, Minn. - was hit with an even harder reality when their oldest son (now 9) was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma Stage IIIBS. They quickly learned cancer never stops, not even for a pandemic.

Prior to his lymphoma diagnosis, Owen, his family, and his medical team traveled together on a long and winding medical path marked with plenty of mystery and uncertainty. It started when Owen was experiencing a high fever, extreme fatigue, drenching sweats at night and weight loss. He was initially diagnosed with mononucleosis in March 2020, and hospitalized a month later with Warm autoimmune hemolytic anemia (WAHA) in where autoantibodies attach to and destroy red blood cells at temperatures equal to or greater than normal body temperature. In hindsight, they believe this rare anemia was likely caused by his cancer.

Once finally diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma Stage IIIBS, an advanced treatment plan was put into place. Patience, persistence, medical proficiency, and strength of conviction by not only the Family, but everyone on the medical team, ultimately held serve over the cancer that had invaded Owen's body.

Soon, through Children's Minnesota, Owen's attending physician,

Dr. Nathan Gossai, was able to do a peer-to-peer review on a specific chemo treatment that was not normal protocol thanks to a critical research study of children with Hodgkin lymphoma that was completed about a year prior to his diagnosis. This treatment was determined to be the best path for Owen.

“It was important to minimize the long-term side effects from the treatments he received over the past year,” noted his mom, Jenny. “We are so grateful that Owen was given this “new” chemotherapy protocol for children because it will have less long-term effect on his lungs.”

Owen's journey is the perfect shining light for everything Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund continues to accomplish - including providing groundbreaking research followed by more effective treatments - through funds raised at the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic.

“This was a life-changing experience,” Owen's dad, Todd, said. “But having a wonderful team and being able to do life-changing research at their facility makes our experience more manageable. Jenny and I are both in the medical field. We can tell when professionals know what they are doing and are good at it. No one wants to go through this experience, but we are very glad we were able to go through it at Children's Minnesota. Everyone there is great at what they do.”

According to Todd and Jenny, Owen became a mini celebrity at Children's due to the difficulty of his case.

“Dr. Gossai and nurse Sara G. were his direct care team and were awesome,” Todd said. “Dr. Abdalgani from immunology was amazing trying to help Owen. Dr. Goubeaux was our diagnosing MD and was so caring.

“Lynn was our main PT therapist, and we cannot even begin to say how great she was for Owen. PT is not always a child's favorite thing to do, but she made it fun for him and kept his attention so that he could continue to get his body closer to a normal kid of his age. The entire Hematology/Oncology group that we worked with was wonderful. We could tell that everyone loved what they did. They made it look easy, which was pretty amazing because they work in a tough field.”

Now cancer free, the future is extremely bright for Owen. He is anxious to start fourth grade at Oak Hills Elementary School this fall. He is a gifted student and a great kid who is busy playing sports and spending time with his brother Evan (6). Owen loves to read, watch TV, and play video games. He is amazing at LEGO builds, and not just the kits you can buy, but ones he designs and builds himself.

“When Owen came home after his first round of chemotherapy, he could not walk up the two steps to get from the living room to the kitchen or get into his bed himself,” Todd said. “When people see him today, aside from his scars, they would never know he is a cancer survivor as he continues to get stronger and stronger each day.”

All of us associated with the Pine Tree Tennis Classic are thrilled for Owen and his entire support team. You inspire many, including us.

## Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund Establishes Endowed Chair; Dr. Kris Ann Schultz Named Inaugural Chair



In August 2020, Children’s Minnesota and Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund (PTACF) announced the establishment of the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic Endowed Chair in [Cancer and Blood Disorders Research](#) and the appointment of Dr. Kris Ann Schultz as the inaugural holder of the position. Children’s Minnesota has the largest pediatric cancer and blood disorders program in the Upper Midwest, caring for more than 58 percent of children diagnosed with cancer or blood disorders in Minnesota.

“Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund is proud to fund an Endowed Chair in Cancer and Blood Disorders Research at Children’s Minnesota and could not be more excited by the appointment of Dr. Schultz for the Chair position,” said Kevin Werwie, President of Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund. “Dr. Schultz is a talented clinician, researcher, collaborator and leader and so deserving of this honor. This Endowed Chair ensures the targeted research we have supported through our Pine Tree donor community over the past 35 years continues for many years to come.”

Dr. Schultz is the first Endowed Chair holder in the Cancer and Blood Disorders program of Children’s Minnesota. She is the Principal Investigator for the International Pleuropulmonary Blastoma DICER1 Registry and the Principal Investigator and founder of the International Ovarian and Testicular Stromal Tumor Registry. Both Registries are based at Children’s Minnesota. Pleuropulmonary blastoma (PPB) is a rare lung cancer that occurs in young children. Research from Children’s Minnesota and other collaborating institutions has shown that PPB is linked to changes in a gene called DICER1, which serves as a dimmer switch for cell proliferation. Dr. Schultz leads a global team to discover how to best treat the three main types of PPB and other DICER1-related cancers in children and adults with the goal of developing treatment plans tailored to the individual needs of patients. This work has also led to the development of surveillance guidelines with the ultimate goal of detecting DICER1-related cancers in their earliest and most curable form. Dr. Schultz is the principal investigator of an R01 grant funded

## Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund Establishes Endowed Chair; Dr. Kris Ann Schultz Named Inaugural Chair - continued

by the National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health focused on the role of circulating tumor DNA in management of PPB.

“Congratulations to Dr. Schultz on this distinguished honor which will provide consistent financial support for her research and transform the lives of our patients and patients around the world,” said Dr. Marc Gorelick, president and CEO of Children’s Minnesota. “We are grateful to Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund for their long-standing support. Their generosity helps accelerate Dr. Schultz’ research to pursue breakthrough treatments and care for patients.”

“This work has been a remarkable partnership between very inspiring kids with childhood cancer, their families who have so generously shared their journey and this amazing group of dedicated volunteers and donors,” said Dr. Schultz. “This partnership is the key to Pine Tree’s mission—to lessen the suffering caused by childhood cancer. I feel so honored and grateful to be a part of the amazing stories of these children and this remarkable organization. I also remain so inspired by this dedicated group of volunteers, tennis players and donors whose generosity and hard work has led to groundbreaking discoveries for children and adults with cancer including DICER1 related cancers. It’s exciting to think of the amazing advancements yet to come, thanks to this incredible partnership,” said Dr. Schultz.

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**#nothinglightsuparoomlikeasmile**

## Cancer Facts

Since 1986, the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic has raised more than \$6 million for cancer research at Children's Minnesota. Through these efforts, Children's Minnesota has become internationally recognized for rare cancer and supportive care research which benefits children in Minnesota and throughout the world.



Pine Tree Apple  
Classic Fund



In a given year, 40,000 children and adolescents are being treated for cancer.



Nearly two-thirds of childhood cancer survivors experience significant medical problems resulting from their original cancer treatment.



Early diagnosis of childhood cancers is difficult because symptoms are often similar to common ailments in kids.



The length of childhood cancer treatment ranges from 3 months to over 3 years.

Childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children and adolescents.

Source: Children's Minnesota

## Supported Research Programs

Funds raised by the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic (PTATC) are used primarily to support research areas where there is little or no national attention and can be broken out into three main categories: DICER1 Rare Tumor Research, Preventing Cancer Treatment Side Effects and Promoting Quality of Life.

### Rare Tumor Research

While advancements are being made for the most common childhood cancers, the same is not true for rare tumors. Pleuropulmonary blastoma (PPB) is a rare but aggressive lung tumor that occurs in very young children, usually children under age 7. In 1987, PTATC began supporting the International PPB Registry. In 2011, PTATC funding helped launch the opening of the International Ovarian and Testicular Stromal Tumor (OTST) Registry to study additional rare childhood tumors. Thanks to research funded by Pine Tree, the genetic link between these tumors and other cancers including kidney, thyroid and brain tumors has been found. This gene, called DICER1, is a critical regulator of cell growth. Thanks to this finding, we have expanded this research to include all DICER1 related tumors and have a new name, the International PPB/DICER1 Registry to reflecting this expanding work. Under the leadership of Dr. Kris Ann Schultz, the Registries seek to define optimal care for children with these rare diseases and develop more effective and less toxic therapies for children and adults throughout the world.

Combined, the Registries have enrolled more than 700 individuals from more than 49 countries and are now considered the model for other rare tumor registries.

This work has the potential to impact many, many people – including those without PPB or ovarian tumors – and may help oncologists around the world understand how to treat a wide variety of other tumors. Thanks to this research, new surveillance guidelines have been developed and are now in widespread use, allowing the diagnosis of many of these tumors in their earliest and most curable form. Our work continues to ensure early diagnosis whenever possible and to ensure that novel therapies are developed for those children and adults who still face the most aggressive types of these tumors.

## Supported Research Programs

### Preventing Cancer Treatment Side Effects

Going through cancer treatment is difficult at any age. But because kids' bodies are rapidly growing and developing while they undergo treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation, they are more susceptible to long-term side effects that can hinder physical, cognitive and emotional development. These impairments begin early in treatment and can cause physical limitations into adulthood.

Many children with the most common childhood cancers are surviving their diseases. In 1960, only 10% of children survived acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most common type of childhood cancer. Today, over 90% of children diagnosed with ALL are cured. With survival rates rising, emphasis in pediatric oncology research is being placed not only on the cure but also on improving the long-term function of pediatric cancer survivors.

Dr. Laura Gilchrist has held a PTATC-endowed research position focused on this cause since it was established in 2007. Dr. Gilchrist and her team at Children's Minnesota collaborate with staff at other hospitals to do research designed to improve physical functional outcomes. They investigate issues that may arise due to treatment—such as muscle weakness, balance impairment, ankle contractures and neuropathy — a weakness, numbness and/or pain in hands and feet caused by nerve damage, estimated to occur in 80 percent to 90 percent of pediatric patients with cancer.

One focus is determining which changes persist long-term and which are preventable. Many families accepted such deficits as “normal” during cancer treatment. However, Dr. Gilchrist and her team have uncovered a number of interventions, including embedding physical therapy activity into patients' treatment plans, to bring fun, engaging activities that help patients lead an active lifestyle with their peers. This unique physical therapy program begun at Children's Minnesota and has now been implemented at many children's hospitals around the world.

### Promoting Quality of Life

Childhood development is a dynamic process. If cancer and subsequent treatments occur during a critical point of development, the average development process may be interrupted. Many children with cancer are at risk for poor health-related quality of life and chronic health conditions. To address these issues and provide kids with the best opportunity to thrive during and after cancer treatment, care teams shared new research and approaches aimed at promoting resilience in childhood cancer patients and reducing illness and the stress of cancer and its treatment.

The doctors seek to improve pediatric cancer survivors' quality of life during and after treatment, relieving families of their perception on the fear of what their child could or should do during cancer treatment, which may limit movement and exercise. Published research has shown adolescent survivors who reported being more active had significantly higher quality of life scores, and exercise not only to be safe and feasible during pediatric cancer treatment but that it can improve physical functioning and various aspects of quality of life.

# 2021 Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic Sponsors

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Dr. Kris Ann Schultz & Chris Schultz  
Nancy Jacobson & Brad Bruette**



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## Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic Hall of Fame Award

Established in 1989, the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic (PTATC) Hall of Fame Award honors an individual or family that has made an outstanding and long-term contribution to the PTATC. Each recipient has shown significant dedication to the PTATC for more than three years. We are humbled by all those who have demonstrated such commitment and extend our sincere gratitude.

*Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund Board*

### **Past Year's Hall of Famers**

1989 – Patty Kurtz	2005 - Willy & Patty Paulson
1990 – Mary Patterson	2006 - Susie Hanson
1991 – Colleen Richard	2007 - Sam Mairs
1992 – Linda Brandt	2008 - Deb Meath
1993 – Nanc Westlund	2009 - Anne Zink
1994 – Jim & Ginny Anderson	2010 - The Jacobson Family
1995 – Mike & Kathy Fleming	2011 - Mary Cornell
1996 – Judith & Jeff Young	2012 – Debbie Daniels
1997 – Ric Yates	2013 – Kevin Werwie
1998 – Sandy Martin	2014 – Chris Combs
1999 – Paul Steinhauser	2015 – Kris Premo
2000 – Nancy Jacobson	2016 – Jerry and Mary Ann Kidd
2001 – Jack Priest	2017 – Dr. Yoav Messinger
2002 - Peg Brenden	2018 – Dan Shannon
2003 - Barb Jacobson	2019 – Denise Rutkowski
2004 - Bruce & Denise Humphrey	2020 – Keri Pakonen

## 2021 Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic Hall of Fame Award: Jason Albrecht



It's with a very heavy heart that we celebrate Jason Albrecht as our 2021 Hall of Fame Award winner. Sadly, Jason passed away on November 2, 2020.

As a 7-year old, Jason was the first person known to be diagnosed with the rare and aggressive children's cancer, Pleuropulmonary Blastoma (PPB). He endured years of major surgeries, chemo, and radiation at Children's Minnesota – all the while reaching out to other children and families struggling with difficult diagnoses and treatments and bonding with his caregivers. Those years shaped him indelibly to bring compassion, imagination, and innovation to patients, families, and medical professionals alike in his chosen career in the world of pediatric hospital healthcare. Sadly, enduring many lifesaving measures years ago also took a toll on his body that could ultimately not be surmounted.

With his close connection to the PPB registry and passion for making a difference, Jason was a long-time volunteer for the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic, taking on a variety of roles over the years. He and his wife, Carla, worked in the food tent, led the Volunteer Committee, and organized crafts and games for patient families over the tournament weekend. Jason was also a major contributor to the formation of the Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund, the 501(c)(3) that now runs the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic each year. Jason was Secretary on the Board up until his passing. He was passionate about our research efforts specific to PPB and DICER1 and spoke many times at the Player/Sponsor Appreciation Party about his personal experience and importance of this research.

Jason loved hunting, fishing, skiing, and camping. His love of wilderness was perhaps never so well engaged and expressed as it was when it also became the setting for his love of scouting, his passion for teaching the next generation survival skills and joyful respect for beautiful wild spaces.

Jason was a quiet, introspective, humble presence among his colleagues, but his insights and ideas had an oversized impact. And, at the center of all Jason's professional, wilderness, historical and other interests was the family he loved above all else. People in all the other circles in his life would see him light up again and again as he spoke spiritedly and often of Carla, and their three children Erika, Anneka, and Nicklas.

We thank Jason's family for their years of service to Pine Tree and unwavering support of Jason's involvement. His legacy will forever be associated with this great event and research. Jason will be dearly missed by our entire Pine Tree family.

## Sportsmanship Award



Each year since its inception in 2000, the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic (PTATC) Sportsmanship Award has been bestowed upon a player that exemplifies this spirit.

2000 – Kevin Werwie

2001 – Julia Mars

2002 – Mike Olson

2003 – Dan Shannon

2004 – Michelle Olson

2005 – Chris Combs

2006 – Mary Cornell

2007 – Marc Miller

2008 – Robin Coverdale

2009 – Craig Gordon

2010 – John Trondson

2011 – Justin Seim

2012 – Eric Donley

2013 – Imke Reimers

2014 – Bob Marolt

2015 – Katie Resch

2016 – Tobias Wernet

2017 – Julian Dehn

2018 – Marla Zitelman

2019 – Matt Narr

2020 – Meghan Kimber

# Tournament History



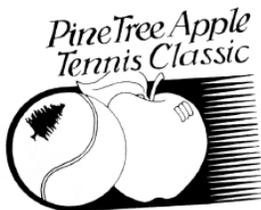
**1986**  
 Chairs: Ron & Mary Peterson  
 \$15,000 Raised  
 Artist: Doug Ellis  
 Tournament Winners:  
 Janet McCutcheon & Bill Sternard



**1987**  
 Chairs: Dan & Linda Aberg  
 \$33,000 Raised  
 Artist: Lisa Buck  
 Tournament Winners:  
 Jackie Moe & Mike Ach



**1988**  
 Chairs: Colleen & Ken Richard  
 \$44,000 Raised  
 Artist: Lisa Buck  
 Tournament Winners:  
 Janet McCutcheon & Bill Sternard



**1989**  
 Chair: Sue Wolsfeld  
 \$70,000 Raised  
 Artist: Tom Ashworth  
 Tournament Winners:  
 Andrea Holikova & Marc Miller



**1990**  
 Chairs: Mike & Kathy Fleming  
 \$118,000 Raised  
 Artist: Lisa Buck  
 Tournament Winners:  
 Andrea Holikova & Marc Miller



**1991**  
 Chairs: Ginny & Jim Anderson  
 \$120,000 Raised  
 Artist: Gail Speckmann  
 Tournament Winners:  
 Jacki Moe & Marc Miller



**1992**  
 Chairs: Dick Blackburn,  
 Ann Kochsiek, Linda Seierstad  
 \$120,000 Raised  
 Artist: Nanc Westlund,  
 Visual Expressions  
 Tournament Winners:  
 Steve Paulsen & Claudia Brisk



**1993**  
 Chairs: Laurie Blackwell,  
 Joanie Mellgren, Jeff Young,  
 Ric Yates  
 \$130,000 Raised  
 Artist: Kent Anderson, St.  
 Croix Screen Printing  
 Tournament Winners:  
 Kevin Werwie &  
 Cathy Birkeland



**1994**  
 Chairs: Sandy Espe-Sorenson,  
 Dave Sorenson,  
 Paul Steinhauser, Todd Zabel  
 \$148,000 Raised  
 Artist: Lisa Buck  
 Tournament Winners:  
 Ross Loel & Dana Peterson



**1995**  
 Chairs: Sandy Martin,  
 Ann Helgeson, Steve King  
 & Liz Jaeger  
 \$166,292 Raised  
 Artist: Troy Shilison  
 Open:  
 Kevin Werwie & Jackie Moe  
 Masters:  
 Ric Yates & Peg Brenden

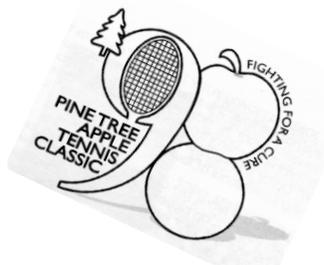
# Tournament History



**1996**  
 Chairs: Bruce & Denise Humphrey, Nancy Jacobson, Jamie Young  
 \$185,000 Raised  
 Artist: Pam Kurts  
 Open: Jackie Moe & Kevin Werwie  
 Masters: Peggy Brenden & Ric Yates



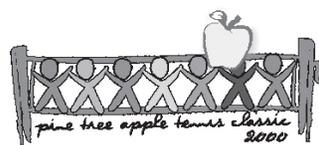
**1997**  
 Chairs: Jim & Gail Menne, Deb Meath, Dave Kahl, Mary Cornell  
 \$164,000 Raised  
 Artist: Chris Dummermuth  
 Open: Robin Coverdale & Marc Miller  
 Masters: David Nash & Pam Sommer



**1998**  
 Chairs: Peg Brenden, Dottie Hoel, Carol Whitaker  
 \$170,000 Raised  
 Artist: Dick Stuck  
 Open: Kirstin Sanderson & Mike Husebo  
 Masters: Peg Brenden & Ric Yates



**1999**  
 Chairs: Peg Kelly, Barbie Sheehan, Vicki Sperry, Deb Daniels  
 \$180,000 Raised  
 Artist: Joe Schroeder  
 Open: Alice Ransithienchai & Mike Husebo  
 Masters: Pam Sommer & David Nash



**2000**  
 Chairs: Bruce Vassar, Carol Danielson, Keith Erickson, Mike Greenbaum  
 \$170,000 Raised  
 Artist: Jennifer Vee  
 Open: Anne Gorde & Chris Combs  
 Masters: Pam Sommer & David Nash



**2001**  
 Chairs: Diane Pearson, Mary Patterson, Colby Carlson, Mike & Tonya Olson  
 \$212,000 Raised  
 Artist: Christopher Dow  
 Open: Chris Sheldon & Mickey Maule  
 Masters: Pam Sommer & Dave Nash



**2002**  
 Chairs: Jodi Brandtjen, Libby Brown, Sarah Kennedy, Brenda Werwie & Kevin Werwie  
 \$175,000 Raised  
 Artist: Joni Lantz  
 Open Division: Chris Sheldon & Mickey Maule  
 Masters Division: Fred Budde & Bernie McCann



**2003**  
 Chairs: Chris Combs, Sam Mairs, Deb Meath & Mary Patterson  
 \$223,000 Raised  
 Artist: Kent Anderson  
 Open: Chris Sheldon & Mickey Maule  
 Masters: Susan Rudd & Mark Brandenburg

## Tournament History



2004

Chairs: Vickie Baker,  
Kate Booth, Trisha Connors,  
Layne McCleary, Lori Nichols

\$233,000 Raised

Artist: Jeff Hagen

Open: Chris Sheldon &  
Mickey Maule

Masters: Susan Rudd &  
Mark Brandenburg



2005

Chairs: Vickie Baker,  
Kate Booth, Trisha Connors,  
Layne McCleary, Lori Nichols

\$209,500 Raised

Artist: Jeff Hagen

Open: Chris Sheldon &  
Mickey Maule

Masters: Greg Wicklund &  
Kathy Hayden

Grand Masters:  
Su Oertel & Ron York



2006

Chairs: Dean and Allison  
Hlushko, Layne McCleary,  
Denise Rutkowski

\$210,000 Raised

Artist: Kent Anderson

Open: Erik Donley &  
Meghan Donley Kimber

Masters: Marc Miller &  
Robin Coverdale

Masters 9.5:  
Ron York & Su Oertel



2007

Chairs: Jenna Hedquist,  
Dean and Allison Hlushko,  
Kris Premo, Denise Rutkowski,  
Debbie Shearen

\$220,000 Raised,

Artist: Kent Anderson

Open: Chris Sheldon &  
Mickey Maule

Masters: Felicia Tebon &  
Dan Shannon

Masters 9.5: Bernie McCann &  
Fred Budde



2008

Chairs: Joe Miller,  
Kris Premo, Denise Rutkowski,  
Debbie Shearen,

\$189,000 Raised,

Artist: Kent Anderson,  
St. Croix Screenprinting

Open: Chris Sheldon &  
Mickey Maule

Masters: Felicia Tebon &  
Dan Shannon

Masters 9.5: Bernie McCann  
& Fred Budde



2009

Chairs: Joe Miller,  
Kris and Jessica Premo,  
Keri Pakonen, Debbie Shearen

\$163,000 Raised,

Artist: Jeff Hagen, St. Croix  
Screenprinting

Open: Imke Reimers &  
Erik Donley

Masters: Janet Hoffmann &  
Bill Sternard

Grand Masters:  
Bernie McCann & Fred Budde



2010

Chairs: Joe Miller,  
Keri Pakonen, Jessica Premo,  
Kris Premo, Carly Schroeffer

\$192,000 raised

Artist: Nels Femrite

Open: Imke Reimers &  
Erik Donley

Masters: Robin Coverdale  
& Marc Miller

Grand Masters: Bernie McCann  
& Fred Budde



2011

Chairs: Joe Miller,  
Matt Narr, Keri Pakonen,

Carly Schroeffer

\$181,000 raised

Open: Lindsay Risebrough  
& Harsh Mankad

Masters: Tory Borovsky &  
Mehdi Benyebka

Grand Masters: Susan Rudd &  
Dan Shannon

# Tournament History



**2012**  
 Chairs: Joe Miller, Keri Pakonen, Matt Narr, Tricia Moorhead  
 \$170,000 raised  
 Open: Caitlin Burke & Ishay Hadash  
 Masters: Geoff & Dana Young  
 Grand Masters: Susan Rudd & Dan Shannon



**2016**  
 Chairs: Stephanie Davis, Anne Krmpotich, Bob Marlot  
 \$254,000 Raised  
 Open: Alexa Palen & Nick Crossley  
 Masters: Larissa Mavros & Kevin Werwie  
 Grand Masters: Felicia Raschiatore & Mike Olson



**2013**  
 Chairs: Charice Crockarell, Joe Miller, Jacquie Mudge, Matt Narr  
 \$166,000 raised  
 Open: Erik Donley & Imke Reimers  
 Masters: John Trondson & Betsy Cionca  
 Grand Masters: Dan Shannon & Susan Rudd



**2017**  
 Chairs: Kathy Bjornson, Stephanie Davis, Bob Marolt, Katie Resch, Susan Rudd  
 \$270,000 Raised  
 Open: Jessie Any & Jack Hamburg  
 Masters - Larissa Mavros & Kevin Werwie  
 Grand Masters: Susan Rudd & Dan Shannon



**2014**  
 Chairs: Charice Crockarell, Joe Miller, Jacquie Mudge, Matt Narr  
 \$199,000 raised  
 Open: Tony Larson & Imke Reimers  
 Masters: Tom Olmscheid & Amy Jamieson  
 Grand Masters: Dan Shannon & Susan Rudd



**2018**  
 \$310,257 Raised  
 Open: Diana Bukajeva & Andres Osorio  
 Masters: Meghan Kimber & Kevin Werwie  
 Grand Masters: Susan Rudd & Dan Shannon



**2019**  
 \$324,000 Raised  
 Open: Nitooli Wilkins & Julian Dehn  
 Masters: Meghan Kimber & Kevin Werwie  
 Grand Masters: Kathy Bjornson & Bob Marolt



**2015**  
 Chairs: Bruce & Denise Humphery, Bill Jacobson, Nancy Jacobson, Jamie Young  
 \$367,000 Raised  
 Open: Imke Reimers & Mathieu Froment  
 Masters: Tory Borovsky & Gordon Reid  
 Grand Masters: Felicia Raschiatore & Mike Olson



**2020**  
 \$270,000 Raised  
 Open: Lexi Nelson & Tobias Wernet  
 Masters: Meghan Kimber & Kevin Werwie  
 Grand Masters: Leslie Gale & Bryan Bieber

