

Remembering a Friend Becomes a Philanthropic Mission

When 23-year-old Christopher Steele passed away in April 2006 due to an inoperable brain tumor, his friends and family bonded through a commitment to find an effective treatment for the disease that claimed their loved one: a rare form of cancer called soft-tissue sarcoma.

assistant professors in the Division of Hematology/Oncology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine.

Dr. Evens cared for Chris while he was a patient at Northwestern Memorial, and Dr. Agulnik leads soft-tissue sarcoma research at Northwestern.



Members of the Christopher Steele Foundation at the Long Grove Heritage Run/Walk in September 2007

Grateful Patients

In August 2006, a few of Chris' friends planned to play a round of golf to celebrate his memory and his love of the sport. As word spread, this small golf outing transformed into a full-fledged fundraiser, marking the beginning of the Christopher Steele Foundation and the annual *Tee It Up Fore! A Cure* golf outing. More than 150 guests gathered to remember a friend, play golf and raise money to support research investigating improved soft-tissue sarcoma treatments.


"The connection between the Christopher Steele Foundation and Northwestern Memorial is extremely natural," says Tom Steele, Chris' father and a board member of the Christopher Steele Foundation. "Chris underwent treatment there for nearly two years and developed very close relationships with staff from reception, the infusion center, nursing and oncology as well as the teaching staff. The love that Chris felt for the people at

"Like many small foundations, we leveraged our first year momentum and had a great second year, more than doubling our ability to make donations in 2007," says Tom Steele. "We hope to continue to expand our efforts to make a difference for patients and their families."

"When dealing with a rare tumor such as Chris', resources become scarce. The generosity of the Christopher Steele Foundation provides valuable support to our active Sarcoma Program at Northwestern Memorial," says Dr. Agulnik. "With several ongoing clinical research protocols and the formation of a sarcoma-specific database, the funds provided by the foundation help develop these activities and are of utmost importance."

Chris is remembered as a wonderful athlete, student, son and friend who was fiercely loyal to those who were special to him. In his memory, the foundation raises funds to support research initiatives that will help make treatment easier and more comfortable for cancer patients.

To learn more about the Christopher Steele Foundation, please visit www.christophersteelefoundation.org.

To learn about philanthropic opportunities in the Cancer Program at Northwestern Memorial, please contact David Sack at 312-926-0436. 



From left: Stephen Falk, president, Northwestern Memorial Foundation; Ian Weissman, president/co-founder, Christopher Steele Foundation; Tom Steele; Andrew Evens, DO; Ellen Steele; Kevin Zakrzewski, director/co-founder of the Christopher Steele Foundation; David Sack, director, Northwestern Memorial Foundation

"The love that Chris felt for the people at Northwestern Memorial and the care that they provided to him inspires us to want to make our relationship with the hospital even stronger."

Tom Steele

With proceeds from the first annual *Tee It Up Fore! A Cure* golf outing, the Christopher Steele Foundation made a \$10,000 gift to Northwestern Memorial Foundation to support the work of Andrew Evens, DO, and Mark Agulnik, MD, hematology/oncology specialists on the medical staff at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and

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The Christopher Steele Foundation has expanded its fundraising efforts to include the Long Grove Heritage Run/Walk and an annual bowl-a-thon.