SLAYER NEWS

FROM THE NORTHWEST SARCOMA FOUNDATION

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SARCOMA
FOUNDATION
HOPE • EDUCATION • SUPPORT

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WEBSITE

DECEMBER 2025

A global Sarcoma patient advocacy group is working on planning for Sarcoma Awareness Month (July) 2026. Part of that planning was a survey with the question: “what are the challenges of Sarcoma, as you see them?”

Here is my answer:

Sarcoma brings challenges at every stage. For many patients, the journey begins even before diagnosis, during the long and frustrating search for answers about why they do not feel well. Once the diagnosis is confirmed, the challenges multiply.

Connecting with others who understand can be difficult. Even though many organizations work hard to build community, that sense of connection often becomes fragmented, narrowed by specific diagnosis, geography, treatment plans, complications, and more.

Layered on top of this is the overwhelming financial toxicity that comes with treatment. Many patients are already living below the poverty line, and even those who are not often find their financial stability wiped out by the cost of care. Treatment options remain limited, and every available option brings significant, often debilitating side effects.

And through it all, research lags far behind other cancers. We all continue to push, support, and advocate for progress, even though it can feel discouraging and disheartening to see how underfunded and neglected Sarcoma research has been.

Think for a moment: how would you answer this question? When you consider the challenges facing Sarcoma patients, what role can you play in helping create change?

Maybe it’s donating to our financial assistance grants, ensuring patients have support during the most difficult moments of their lives.

Maybe it’s contributing to research, helping move desperately needed advancements forward.

Maybe it’s volunteering at events, building the connections and community that patients so often struggle to find.

Or maybe you have another idea—another way to help make an impact.

Whatever your answer may be, and however you choose to support this mission, we are deeply grateful for your commitment over the past year.

As we look ahead to 2026, our 30th year, we are reminded that we are the oldest Sarcoma organization in the world. We’ve been at this a long time. We’ve witnessed incredible progress. And still, there is so much more to do.

Thank you for standing with us as we continue the work of providing hope, education, and support to everyone affected by Sarcoma.

DONATE

Volunteer with us!

Upcoming Committee meetings

Development Committee 12.9.2025, 6 p.m. PT
Programs Committee TBD - 2026, 11 a.m. PT
Events Committee 12.11.2025, 6:30 p.m. PT
Marketing-Communications Committee 1.8.2026, 9 a.m. PT

VOLUNTEER

DARE TO CARE ABOUT THE RARE • NORTHWEST SARCOMA FOUNDATION
Compassion • Advocacy
CARE
Responsibility • Education

Preorder Your One-of-a-Kind Sarcoma Holiday Ornament

We're excited to offer a limited-edition Sarcoma holiday ornament, hand-crafted by Washington State glass artist Minhi England. Minhi is a survivor of a Sarcoma angel, Jesse and second runner-up on Season 3 of the reality glassblowing competition Blown Away, is generously sharing her talents to support our mission of providing hope, education, support, and research for the Sarcoma community.

Order Deadline: December 10, 2025

In-Person Pickup: Date TBD, approximately December 15, 2025, in the South Seattle area.

Shipping Option: If you would like your ornament(s) mailed, please select the shipping-included option priced at $53. All shipped items will be mailed by December 15.

Order Today

HOPE IN ACTION - RAFAEL'S STORY

My name is Rafael Alfaro, and I'm 61 years old. I live in Bonney Lake, Washington. In 2020, my life changed in a way I never expected when I was diagnosed with Sacrum chordoma, a rare type of bone cancer. I had never heard of chordoma before, and like many people who face a serious diagnosis, I didn't know what to think or how to feel. I only knew that my life would never be quite the same again.

My journey began with confusion. For a long time, the doctors couldn't figure out exactly what was wrong because the chordoma didn't appear on X-rays. I knew something wasn't right, but without answers, all I could do was wait and pray. That period of uncertainty was one of the hardest parts - not knowing what I was facing or how serious it might be. When the diagnosis finally came, I felt fear. Learning that it was a rare cancer brought a new kind of challenge.

Full Story

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Casual Chats are free events, register once, the same Zoom link each time.

Adult patients & survivors: Second Wednesday of every month. Next meeting, 12/10/2025 6 - 7 p.m.

Led by either Jo McNeal, Chelsea Winn, or volunteer peer-led by Aaron Couch.

Portland 5/7/2026
Seattle 5/14/2026

Portland 9/12/2026
Seattle 9/19/2026

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NOVEMBER'S SOCIAL MEDIA BESTS

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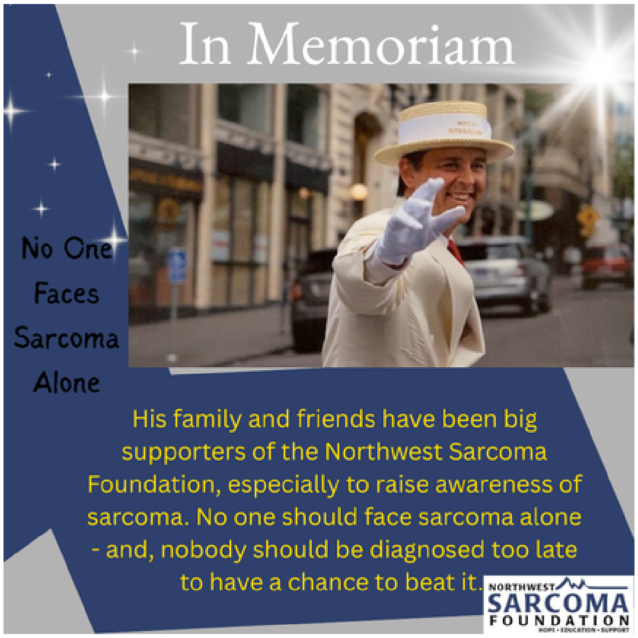

In Memoriam

No One Faces Sarcoma Alone

His family and friends have been big supporters of the Northwest Sarcoma Foundation, especially to raise awareness of sarcoma. No one should face sarcoma alone - and, nobody should be diagnosed too late to have a chance to beat it.

Go check out our Tribute Fund page https://www.nwsarcoma.org/tribute-memorial-celebration #sarcoma, #nwsarcoma, #dragonslayrsunite

This Fall, tell us about your experience with #NED. #DragonslayersUnite #Sarcoma

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