

SLAYER NEWS

FROM THE NORTHWEST SARCOMA FOUNDATION



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FEBRUARY 2026



We continually hear from patients about the challenges they face in receiving an official sarcoma diagnosis. Sarcoma is complex—there are more than 100 distinct subtypes—and that complexity often leads to delays in diagnosis and treatment.

We frequently share statistics that underscore this concern. One of the most telling: 57% of patients first see a general physician for their initial symptoms, yet only 7.7% of general physicians are the first to suspect sarcoma. This gap makes it clear that more education is urgently needed—not only for general physicians, but also for oncologists and other specialists who may encounter sarcoma patients early in their journey.

So how are we addressing this?

We are developing a one-day sarcoma symposium designed for general physicians, oncologists, pathologists, radiologists, and other healthcare professionals. This program will focus on the complexities of sarcoma, reinforce the importance of thinking sarcoma first, and emphasize early referral to sarcoma specialists. While the event is still in development, it represents one of the most significant undertakings our organization has pursued in the past five years.

As we celebrate our 30th anniversary—and our role as the oldest sarcoma organization in the world—we are committed to shouting from the rooftops about sarcoma. Awareness saves time.

Time saves lives.

When the time is right, we hope you will help us amplify this message and share more about sarcoma—so that 7.7% grows into something far greater.

Volunteer with us!

Inquire about the 2026 meeting schedule - email: info@nwsarcoma.org

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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, 2/1/2026 6 - 7 p.m.

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



2026 EVENTS



Register Today

JANUARY

TBD Patient Education Night
Topic: Kids and Cancer

FEBRUARY

25 Researchers Update Night
Topic: Ewing Sarcoma

APRIL

10 Celebrating 30 years with a Lab Tour
Seattle, WA

MAY

7 Hope Grows Here
Portland, OR
14 Hope Grows Here
Seattle, WA



JUNE

23 Researchers Update Night
Topic: TGCT

JULY

Sarcoma Awareness Month



SEPTEMBER

12 Dragonslayer Fantasy Dash/Strut
Portland, OR
19 Dragonslayer Fantasy Dash/Strut
Seattle, WA



OCTOBER

TBD CME PCP/General Onc. Sarcoma Symposium
Seattle, WA

NOVEMBER

10 Patient Education Night
Topic: Wills, Trust, & POA

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS



5/7/2026 @ 6 p.m. Imperial Bottle Shop | Portland, OR
Tickets: \$50.00

[PDX TICKETS](#)

5/14/2026 @ 6:30 p.m. Lakeside North Room | Seattle, WA
Tickets: \$75.00

[SEA TICKETS](#)



9/12/2026 @ 9 a.m. Gabriel Park | Portland, OR
Registration: \$30.00 - til 7/31/2026, then prices increase.

[PDX REGISTRATION](#)

9/19/2026 @ 9 a.m. Magnuson Park | Seattle, WA
Registration: \$30.00 - til 7/31/2026, then prices increase.

[SEA REGISTRATION](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Each year the NWSF partners with Costume Character for Causes at Emerald City Comic Con to help promote the Dragonslayer Fantasy Dash & Strut, encourage attendees to take photos, sell raffle tickets, etc. We need your help Friday, March 6 - Sunday, March 8; costumes required, fun will be had. To learn more or volunteer, please contact Jo McNeal - jomcneal@nwsarcoma.org



HOPE IN ACTION - STEVE'S STORY

On December 10, 2011—just six days before my 60th birthday—I underwent emergency surgery. Later that day, I was told a tumor had been removed. The next day, I heard the words that would change my life forever: GIST—gastrointestinal stromal tumor. In a matter of hours, I went from feeling healthy and strong to facing the greatest challenge of my life.

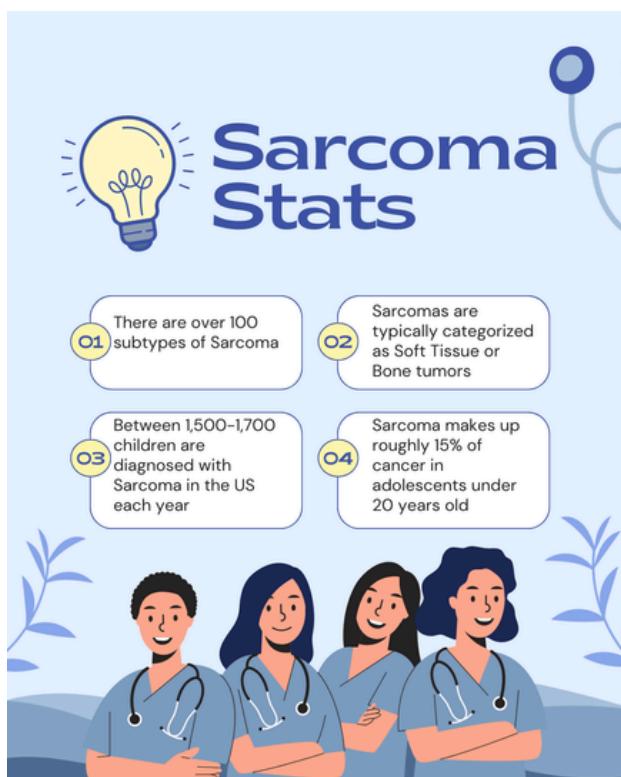
“It’s about hope, perseverance, and the power of faith.”

Over the next seven years, I endured two more major surgeries and tried several different medications. Those years were heavy and exhausting. My days were often filled with anger, anxiety, and depression, and there were moments when I truly didn’t know how I could keep going. I knew something had to change.

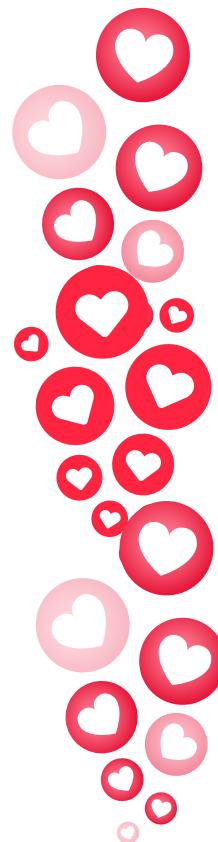
That change began when I leaned fully into my faith, my family, and my friends. I learned—sometimes painfully—how to let go and let God. Little by little, my anger softened, my anxiety loosened its grip, and the darkness of depression began to lift. I still lived with GIST, but it was stable, and life felt good again. Until one day, it wasn’t.

[Full Story](#)

JANUARY'S SOCIAL MEDIA BESTS



Stay up to date with Sarcoma stats and check out these recent findings
#nwsarcoma



Check out all our personal stories on our website. You can help in their fight to slay the dragon.



Check out our personal stories @
<https://www.nwsarcoma.org/personal-stories>
#dragonslayersunite, #nwsarcoma, #sarcoma

How to support us further and it's FREE



Thank you **2026** Corporate Partners



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