

SURVIVING CANCER: A MESSAGE OF HOPE

“A friend in need is a friend indeed” might be a tired, old cliché but it got so worn for a good reason, as cancer survivors Katrin Sosnick and Meg Berté discovered. The two women, wonders in their own right, were brought together when Katrin was diagnosed with cancer in the year 2000. Katrin, then a prominent force on Wall Street and now the founder and president of the Rondeel Research Group, was at the height of her career and social life. With her status as an amazing success in her field and a new bride, the world seemed to be hers for the taking. Then the diagnosis of Hodgkin’s disease came and suddenly it all seemed like it was crashing down.

While undergoing an aggressive treatment protocol, called Stanford 5, at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Kat was going through a rough period both physically and emotionally and asked the hospital social worker if she could speak with a patient volunteer. She was given the names and numbers of 3 women her age that had been through similar ordeals. She called all three and one called back right away: Meg Berté. The two became fast friends, initially connecting over the fact that they both had demanding Wall Street careers when they were diagnosed with cancer. Meg spent hours on the phone with Kat to help her cope with the rigors of her treatment. Whenever Kat called Meg, Meg made herself available and never failed to offer support in Kat’s times of need. The two talked constantly but didn’t meet face to face until several months after Kat’s treatments ended. To this day, Kat believes that she wouldn’t have gotten through the second half of her treatments without Meg’s support. **Kat has always said that she owes her physical survival to MSKCC, and her emotional survival to Meg Berté.**

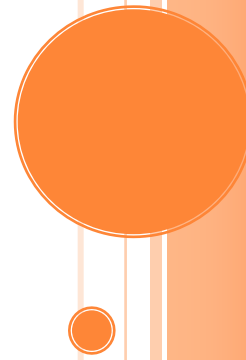
Today their friendship has grown far beyond the initial bond of cancer. The two women, who come from different backgrounds—Kat grew up in Germany while Meg was raised in Connecticut—admit that their friendship has connected them in ways more powerful than background or ethnicity.

In 2005, Meg was selected from 1,500 applicants to be a member of the Tour of Hope team, a group of 25 representatives of the cancer community (made up of oncologists, cancer researchers, cancer survivors and caregivers) who rode across the United States with well-known cancer survivor and Tour de France winner, Lance Armstrong. They aimed to raise awareness about the importance of cancer research in finding a cure for the disease. Kat was one of Meg’s biggest supporters and planned a huge send-off party for her the night before Meg left to begin her ride. Needless to say, Kat was also in Washington D.C. for Meg at the Tour of Hope finish line, cheering her on and showing her solidarity. Kat and Meg have helped and continue to help each other through life’s trials and tribulations. They get together regularly, travel together and support each other unconditionally in all elements of each other’s lives.

The two attribute their bond to a unique perspective on life: an understanding that the fears of a cancer survivor may lessen over time but never fully go away. When Kat had an abnormality on her CT scan a few years ago, she immediately called Meg who calmed her down with her own experience of a similar scare that had ended up being something benign. Thankfully, the same result was found in Kat’s case as well. Meg also talks to Kat about concerns over irregularities on exams, as well as general fears, and the two women act as pillars of strength for each other to lean on.

Cancer survivors, they say, see the world through different eyes. Through their friendship, Kat and Meg are better able to navigate difficult life experiences that are unique given their histories with the life-changing disease. Both women now serve on the Board for Sloan-Kettering’s Survivorship Program and recently helped found Cancer Chicks, an organization aimed at assisting and supporting women who are also facing cancer. Through their work with numerous cancer charities, Kat and Meg are living inspirations to others about what’s possible when facing adversity. Their friendship keeps them anchored, their friendship keeps them going.

“The real meaning in all of our lives comes not so much from the accomplishments that we list on our resumes but from the deep connections we make with other people. People who share themselves authentically with us, their yearnings, their failures, their courage, and their love.” - Maria Shriver



Meg Berté

Meg Berté is a two time Hodgkin's disease survivor. In 1995 Meg was diagnosed with Stage IIB Hodgkin's disease at the age of 23. Less than six months after completing a treatment regimen which included chemotherapy and radiation, Meg's cancer returned. Given a very poor prognosis from a number of leading cancer hospitals, Meg became patient #52 in a clinical trial at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center that included a stem cell transplant. Meg has been cancer free ever since. In 2005 Meg was chosen as a member of the National Tour of Hope team that cycled across the country (from San Diego to Washington D.C.) over a nine day period in September 2005, delivering a message of hope and inspiration to people touched by cancer.

Meg graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard College in 1994 where she co-captained the women's varsity soccer team and majored in Biological Anthropology. Meg was diagnosed with cancer a year after graduating from Harvard, while working as a media/telecom analyst at investment bank, Credit Suisse First Boston. Meg returned to Harvard shortly after finishing her treatment, and received a degree from Harvard Business School in 2000. After graduation, Meg resumed her career on Wall Street, first at Goldman Sachs, then moving to the buy side. Meg currently works in an investor relations role at Moore Capital, a hedge fund in New York City.

Meg has been an active cancer advocate since finishing her treatment in 1997. She is a patient-to-patient volunteer at Sloan-Kettering, frequently talking to and meeting with patients who are undergoing stem cell transplants. Meg is also a member of the newly formed Board for Sloan-Kettering's Survivorship Program, which recently received a large grant from the Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF). Over the last few years, Meg has raised over \$100,000 for cancer research for both the LAF and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Meg recently married Wes Owen who she met at Harvard Business School and they reside on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Katrin Yaghoubi Sosnick

Katrin Yaghoubi Sosnick is the Founder and President of Rondeel Research Group, an independent research firm providing hedge funds with industry and company due diligence.

Katrin brings to the business over 15 years of experience as an equity analyst and portfolio manager to some of the world's leading hedge funds.

Previously, Katrin spent three years at Perry Capital as a portfolio manager where she was instrumental in establishing the firm's retail/consumer team. Prior to this, Katrin was a partner at Pequot Capital Management, and its predecessor entity, Dawson-Samberg, running the firm's \$1 billion retail and consumer portfolio. Katrin started her career in finance as an equity analyst at Tiger Management. She also spent three years as a research analyst for the consulting firm McKinsey & Company.

Katrin holds a B.S. from the London School of Economics and an MBA from Columbia University, where she guest lectures on research and investment strategy.

Katrin's stock recommendations have been featured in Barron's, CNBC and Business Week.

Katrin serves on the Survivorship Board at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She is actively involved with the NY Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and various other cancer causes.

She also acts as chairperson and board member of ISEF Young Leadership and the NY Chapter of Facing History and Ourselves. She is co-chair of the Portfolio Manager/Trader Peer Advisory Council of 100 Women in Hedge Funds. She is a founding member of Citibabes, a private club for families based in Soho.

She lives in SoHo, NYC, with her husband and 4-year old twin sons.