

THE JOSH GOTTHEIL MEMORIAL RESILIENCY SYMPOSIUM

Our Deepest Gratitude

Thank you to the Josh Gottheil Memorial Fund for Lymphoma Research for its generosity in creating the Josh Gottheil Memorial Endowment for the Promotion of Resiliency at the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center in 2018. The Josh Gottheil Memorial Endowment for the Promotion of Resiliency supports symposia and other Siteman programs to teach nurses scientifically proven methods for maintaining sound mental and emotional health so they may continue caring for patients with empathy and understanding.

Joshua David Gottheil was a young man with special charm and a big heart. At a very young age, he accomplished a large part of his dream: to support musicians and to bring the music he loved to others. Born in 1969, Josh played drums in rock bands while in junior high and high school. During that time, he learned the business of promoting rock shows and soon was bringing bands from around the world to perform in his hometown of Champaign-Urbana (C-U).

Josh formed his own music-production company and, after graduating from high school in 1987, decided to attend community college while remaining active in his business. A few months into his first semester, however, he was diagnosed with lymphoma, a type of blood cancer. Josh began chemotherapy treatments, which made it impossible for him to continue his studies.

During his months in treatment, Josh was able to continue his involvement in bringing bands to the community—many of which went on to become top names in the rock music world. By the late spring of 1988, his chemo treatments were successful and Josh was ready to begin a new phase of his life by moving to Chicago and forming a new production company. However, for Josh it wasn't to be. The lymphoma recurred and his doctor said his only chance of beating it was a bone marrow transplant.

Josh was treated at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. The love and support he received from family and friends, the C-U music community and musicians across the country amazed him. Although struggling with his health issues, he was encouraged by a steady stream of messages expressing good wishes for his recovery. Throughout this time he and his family developed the highest respect and gratitude for the oncology nurses who cared for Josh and his fellow cancer patients. These nurses exemplified the ideals of their profession. They never wavered in their remarkable dedication while working toward Josh's recovery. Their significant experience and expertise were always evident.

Despite undergoing the procedure, however, Josh was never able to return home. After a heroic fight he died at Barnes Hospital on April 4, 1989, at age 19. Following this loss, Josh's parents Diane and Fred and sister Lisa established the Josh Gottheil Memorial Fund in 1994 to support and honor the nurses who gave their all to caring for Josh. Working with the Oncology Nursing Society, over one hundred bone marrow transplant nurses around the country and abroad have received education grants from Josh's Fund. The newly established Endowment for the Promotion of Resiliency at Siteman expands the fund's statement of gratitude for the vital work of oncology nurses.

