



Prepared by: Swim Across America Greenwich-Stamford

For Immediate Release

swimacrossamerica.org/greenwich

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Swim Across America Greenwich-Stamford Made Waves in the Fight Against Cancer

12th Annual Swim Raised \$385,000 for Crucial Cancer Research

STAMFORD, Conn., June 26, 2018 — On **Saturday, June 23, 2018**, more than 300 swimmers and 100 land volunteers, boaters and kayakers made waves in the fight against cancer in the **12th annual Swim Across America Greenwich-Stamford Swim** and raised \$385,000 for crucial cancer gene therapy research. All of the proceeds from the Swim are donated to the Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy (ACGT), the nation's only non-profit dedicated to cancer gene therapy.

In the past 12 years, the Swim Across America Greenwich-Stamford event has raised more than \$3.7 million for crucial support of the Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy. The Swim has supported nine different scientists over the past 11 years. This year's Swim supported four ACGT grants with scientists working on immunotherapy treatments for osteosarcoma, novel new immunotherapy treatments for blood cancers, immune-based therapy and vaccines for melanoma and virotherapy for brain cancer.

Co-chairs of the annual Swim Across America Greenwich-Stamford swim are **Michele Graham** of Old Greenwich, whose 21 year-old daughter Nicole is currently undergoing treatment for relapsed leukemia, of which she was diagnosed when she was 16; and **Lorrie Lorenz** of Riverside, Connecticut, whose daughter Brooke has been close to seven years cancer-free from lymphoma. Both Nicole and Brooke are Greenwich High School graduates.

Co-chairs Michele Graham and Lorrie Lorenz noted that Swim Across America is more than a swim, it's a cause. As confirmed by volunteer Nancy Carr.

"I've known about Swim Across America Greenwich-Stamford for quite a while," noted swim committee member Nancy Carr, who was responsible for putting together special events with local retailers, restaurants and organizations. "I always thought of the event as just a 'swim' and never thought of volunteering as I am not a strong swimmer. But two years ago, I heard there was a need for land volunteers and learned that while everyone involved is united in their commitment to fight cancer, you don't have to swim to make an impact. In fact Swim Across America is more than a swim, it is a cause. This year I helped organize a 'Make Waves to Fight Cancer Day' with area retailers leading up to the Swim that allows non-swimmers to still shop for a cause and helps showcase even more what an incredible non-profit organization Swim Across America is."

Swim Across America is a national organization and offers numerous open water swims across the country from Boston Harbor to under the Golden Gate Bridge. Founded by Darien Connecticut, resident Matt Vossler and his college roommate Jeff Keith in 1987, its roots are firmly anchored in Connecticut and along the shores of Long Island Sound. Additional events throughout the summer and fall are scheduled to support Swim Across America Greenwich-Stamford, with an inner tube water polo match at the Rocky Point Club in Old Greenwich on July 15 and a Greenwich Crew rowing event on September 16. To learn more, visit swimacrossamerica.org/greenwich.

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