



Bite Me Cancer Foundation
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PRESS RELEASE

First Major Milestone Reached

BITE ME CANCER RAISES \$50,000 FOR THYROID CANCER RESEARCH

CHANTILLY, VA, - May 2, 2013--The Bite Me Cancer Foundation (BMC) is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$15,000 donation from Sara and Ben Barokas to reach its first major thyroid cancer research goal of \$50,000. Thyroid cancer is the fastest growing cancer in the United States for both men and women.

Bite Me Cancer, founded in 2010 by then-teen Nikki Ferraro (who was diagnosed with a rare form of thyroid cancer), supports and inspires teenagers facing cancer and raises funds for thyroid cancer research. One of the first goals for BMC was to raise funds to support a 2-year \$50,000 research grant to help advance the fight against thyroid cancer. When the campaign kicked off in 2012, BMC adopted as its theme for the effort "**\$50K for 50K!**" in honor of the more than 50,000 people who were to be diagnosed in 2012 with thyroid cancer.

By April 2013, BMC needed \$15,000 more to meet its first research goal. Sara Barokas, a member of the Bite Me Cancer Advisory Council and thyroid cancer survivor, stepped up to make the \$15,000 donation.

"As a thyroid cancer survivor, I am committed to supporting Bite Me Cancer's thyroid research grant mission. Thyroid cancer is a serious disease that affects more people every year. Three surgeries, treatment with radioactive iodine, and several new tumors later have taught me first hand just how critical finding more solutions for the treatment of this disease is. Bite Me Cancer and the people behind the foundation have been a tremendous support to me since my diagnosis. I am deeply appreciative of the work they have done and continue to do, and I wished to mark the three year anniversary of the diagnosis of its founder, Nikki Ferraro, and her ongoing victory over thyroid cancer," Barokas said.

"This generous donation from Sara and her husband is a wonderful example of making a difference as well as recognizing others for the good they have done", said Stephanie Eberhart, a member of the BMC Advisory Council. "Ms. Barokas wished to recognize and celebrate Nikki's accomplishments and milestones and to honor all of those with thyroid cancer. This is a celebration of them and their strength and courage" Eberhart added.

For 2013, the prediction is for more than 60,000 people to be diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Bite Me Cancer will continue to raise research funds to meet its next goal of supporting a second thyroid cancer research grant. Founder, Nikki Ferraro, also added "We are so excited and grateful for Sara and Ben's donation. We can make an even bigger difference as we now try to sponsor a second thyroid cancer research grant!"

About the Bite Me Cancer Foundation

Bite Me Cancer was founded by Nikki Ferraro, who at age 17, was diagnosed with a rare form of thyroid cancer. Throughout her diagnosis, surgery and ongoing cancer treatment, she discovered that while programs existed to support children and adult cancer patients, there was little geared specifically towards teenagers. She decided to change that. Since its founding in September 2010, BMC has provided teen cancer patient support bags and provides ongoing support to both teens and caregivers through its private online forum: Bite Me Cancer Cares and Bite Me Cancer Caregivers. BMC has also developed a video ("Thyroid cancer, it's NOT the good cancer") which has more than 4,200 views to date.

BMC's 2nd annual fundraiser called "Take a Swing at Cancer" will take place Sunday, June 9, 2013, 5:30pm to 8:30 p.m., at the Dulles Golf Center and Sports Park. More information and ticket/sponsorship purchases can be found at www.bitemecancer.org/take-a-swing-at-cancer.asp.

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Fighting cancer through research, education and inspiration.