

HONORABLE MENSCHEN

Honorable Menschen highlights the efforts of Kol Dorot community members who are engaged in the mitzvah of tikkun olam in the hope that their stories will inspire all of us to become active in efforts to repair our world. "It is not incumbent upon you to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it." (Mishna, Pirkei Avot, 2:21)



Danielle Manis

Having actively volunteered in her community for over 40 years, long-time TBO member Danielle Manis understands the value of both giving back and paying it forward. Danielle believes that the spirit of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) begins at home, and so she, along with her husband Len, worked to build a culture of volunteerism within their own family. While engaging in social action efforts had its own rewards, it also served as a model for their two children who they were raising in Paramus. Now, with their children fully grown and living in neighboring towns, Danielle's efforts have, in a sense, become even more personal.

For the past 10 years, Danielle has poured her energies into Relay For Life of Paramus, one of more than 5,200 community-based Relays for Life that together comprise the signature fundraiser cancer walk for the American Cancer Society. As the Survivor and Caregiver Lead, Danielle works year-round in preparation for the annual walk at Paramus High School. With local sponsors and tents set up around the high school track, a carnival atmosphere and high spirits spur on the participants who, organized in teams, circle the track for 12 hours in support of their neighbors, friends and community members who have dealt with the scourge of cancer. Last year, more than 80 cancer survivors walked the first lap, followed by their caregivers who walked the second lap, and then the teams of participants who circled the track from 6pm to 6am, raising upwards of \$150,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Danielle first became aware of Relay For Life when her younger child, then a senior at Paramus High School, was diagnosed with cancer. Event sponsors approached Danielle with the idea of putting a picture of her son – a cross country runner, an aspiring college matriculant, and a teenager like any other -- on t-shirts to rally support for that year's walk and for the Manis family. Now Danielle is paying it forward.

With a number of survivors in her family, Danielle knows that cancer attacks indiscriminately and that community support is a powerful force in fighting it. She also knows that for survivors and their families, the scars never fully heal and the emotional pain and fears persist, often buried but always close to the surface. While fundraising is critical for the research and services undertaken by the American Cancer Society, perhaps most important to Danielle is the opportunity Relay For Life affords to honor survivors and let them know that they are not forgotten. Danielle's hope, like everyone's, is that the ranks of survivors will continue to grow with increased research, more effective treatments and better outcomes.

This year's Relay For Life will take place at Paramus High School from 6pm on June 14, 2019 to 6am on June 15, 2019. (Cancer never sleeps, and neither can we rest from our efforts to combat it.) For more information, go to www.relayforlife.org/paramusnj, or to find a relay in your community, go to www.relayforlife.org and enter your zip code under "Relay Events Near You."

To nominate a Kol Dorot community member for Honorable Menschen, please e-mail either Rachel Bock (rachelbock@gmail.com) or Jamie Steinberg (JamieTerp@aol.com).