

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**The EndBrainCancer Initiative Honors Ken Kirkpatrick, Seattle Business and Nonprofit Icon and Long-Term Brain Cancer Survivor, at its 2019 Annual May “Brains Matter” ACTION Dinner**

**Seattle, WA - May 24, 2019 -** The [EndBrainCancer Initiative](#) (EBCI) honored Ken Kirkpatrick, Seattle business and Nonprofit Icon and Long-Term Brain Cancer Survivor, with its “President’s Award” at its 8th annual “Brains Matter” Education, Awareness, and ACTION Dinner, held at the Bellevue Club on May 16th, 2020. This annual award honors a person who has made a significant contribution to survivorship and quality of life for brain cancer patients. In the case of Ken Kirkpatrick, the choice was easy; Ken motivates, provides guidance and inspires brain cancer patients every single day while embodying what it means to live a full and productive life following a life-changing diagnosis.

Ken was diagnosed with a Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM) brain tumor in June 2011 and is now almost 8 years out from a diagnosis where typical survival is less than 2 years. Now retired as Washington State President of US Bank, Ken and SaSa, his wife of 44 years, view these 8 years as a miracle and a blessing, as well as providing them with a rare opportunity to continue giving back to the community in a meaningful way.

He credits the late Dr. Greg Foltz, former Director of the Ben and Catherine Ivy Center for Advanced Brain Tumor Treatment at Swedish Neuroscience Institute for his recovery and his continued rich and full life. While many things have remained the same - a love of food, travel, friends, and helping others - many are very different. Both Ken and SaSa celebrate the extra time they’ve been given.

To Dellann Elliott Mydland, President & Co-founder of EBCI, Ken exemplifies how to live life with brain cancer, *which is to live his life as if he does not have brain cancer*. Though now officially “retired”, Ken serves as an active member of several corporate and nonprofit boards, remains involved and engaged within the business community, personally mentors others working in business and nonprofit organizations, mentors those facing a brain cancer diagnosis, spends quality time with his family and friends, and, along with his wife SaSa, personally gives back to the community.

Commented Mydland of this year’s President’s Award recipient: “I chose Ken Kirkpatrick to receive this year’s President’s Award and it was truly an honor for me to personally present him with the 2019 award. Brain cancer patients need to experience Ken’s positive attitude and they need to see Ken carrying on, and excelling in, his daily life. They need to see someone with a brain cancer diagnosis who continues to make a positive impact in the community through his ongoing business activities and through his advocacy work on behalf of brain cancer patients. They need to see him enjoying life with his family, friends and business associates.”



An EBCI “Mission Moment” with Ken Kirkpatrick, Long-Term GBM Survivor



Ken Kirkpatrick receiving the “President’s Award from EBCI Founder & President Dellann Elliott Mydland

“I also wanted to present Ken with our annual President’s Award because I am particularly grateful that he and his wife, SaSa, make themselves available to brain cancer patients and their caregivers and families and spend countless hours with them to share their own personal story and to simply listen to their needs and questions, and then guide them to specialists. This has resulted in their sending many brain cancer patients to EBCI for our Educational/Awareness/Outreach Program with many participating in our “Direct Connect” Services Program to ensure they are working with a specialist in neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, or other brain cancer specialty, have their brain tumor tissue saved as well as next generation sequencing (NGS) performed in order to inform personalized treatment decisions and to provide access to centers offering personalized medicine/treatment options beyond Standard of Care, including clinical trials.”



Left to Right: Dellann Elliott Mydland, Ken Kirkpatrick, SaSa Kirkpatrick

“A personal THANK YOU Ken for providing HOPE to so many in their fight against this disease! You are truly a real-life embodiment of what this award represents. I look forward to continuing to make much IMPACT on behalf of brain cancer patients with you.”

### **About the President’s Award**

The EndBrainCancer Initiative President’s Award was created by President & CEO, Dellann Elliott Mydland, for the purpose of acknowledging those individuals who have profoundly impacted her personally as well as others within the brain tumor community. Each recipient is selected by Dellann herself as the person she believes has made a significant contribution in key areas that directly IMPACT survivorship and quality of life for patients, caregivers, and their families. These include:

- Immediate access to specialists, advanced treatments and to clinical trials
- Support and mentoring of other patients and their families facing a brain cancer diagnosis
- Lending personal and financial support to the medical and research communities within the Seattle Metro area to advance science and offer more treatment options and clinical trials, and in making Puget Sound a major brain cancer research and treatment hub for the U.S. and globally
- Igniting HOPE in others in their fight against brain cancer by their own personal example

### **About the “Brains Matter” Dinner**

The “Brains Matter” Education, Awareness, and ACTION Dinner benefits the national programs, services and advocacy work of the EndBrainCancer Initiative (EBCI). This year, the EBCI team is celebrating 17 years of national programs and services to the brain tumor industry. EBCI works with patients regionally and nationwide to directly connect them to Centers of Excellence, specialists, advanced treatments, and clinical trials. The event also includes a champagne reception, Awards Presentation, Live Auction and Raise the Paddle fundraiser.

The 2019 “Brains Matter” Dinner was sponsored by: Presenting Sponsor, [AbbVie](#); Media Sponsor, [Comcast Spotlight](#); National HOPE Award Sponsor, [Novocure](#); [JMS Construction](#); [University of Florida Health](#); [The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke](#); Corporate Partner, [Store My Tumor](#).

### **About the EndBrainCancer Initiative**

The [EndBrainCancer Initiative](#) (EBCI, formerly the Chris Elliott Fund) is a national brain cancer and brain tumor patient advocacy and services organization and 501(c) 3 social enterprise with offices in Redmond, Washington. Established in 2002 and now celebrating 17 years of service, EBCI is committed to finding a cure for brain cancer and bringing HOPE to the lives of patients and their families through its programs:

- “Direct Connect” Patient Support and Services Program
- Brain Tumor Disease Education, Awareness, and Outreach Program
- Brain Tumor Patient Advocacy and Access
- [First Step Initiative](#)
- [Team Up Initiative](#)

Since its founding, EBCI has helped thousands of patients, caregivers, and their families and has become a credible and trusted resource at all levels in the brain cancer treatment community from patients to research institutions to pharmaceutical and regulatory entities advocating on the National and State level for the approval and reimbursement of new therapies for cancer patients. EBCI also participates as the “Patient Voice” in clinical trial design, an example can be seen in *CNS Oncology* ([Link to Article](#)).

The EndBrainCancer Initiative (EBCI) also participates in a program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), Center for Cancer Research (CCR), Neuro-Oncology Branch (NOB) called [NCI-CONNECT](#) (Comprehensive Oncology Network Evaluating Rare CNS Tumors). The program aims to advance the understanding of rare adult central nervous system (CNS) cancers by establishing and fostering patient-advocacy-provider partnerships and networks to improve approaches to care and treatment.

EBCI supports about 900+ patients, caregivers and families, free of charge annually through its “Direct Connect” Program and provides Education/Awareness/Outreach to over 8.7 million annually, including members of the Brain Tumor Community. EBCI is a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO), American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, American Association for Cancer Research, and Life Sciences Washington, among other organizations.

If we can help, please contact us at [WeCare@EndBrainCancer.org](mailto:WeCare@EndBrainCancer.org) or 425.444.2215. To support EBCI’s efforts, programs, and free services, provide a gift today at [www.endbraincancer.org](http://www.endbraincancer.org)

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